**Zuzana Sumbalová Koledová**

**Anotácia**

**Squeeze me if you can: Epithelial morphogenesis by fibroblasts**

Epithelial branching morphogenesis is an essential process in living organisms, through which organ-specific epithelial shapes are created. Interactions between epithelial cells and their stromal microenvironment instruct branching morphogenesis but remain incompletely understood. We are particularly interested in the role of fibroblasts in mammary epithelial morphogenesis. Using single-cell RNA sequencing and spatial mapping, we discovered a yet undescribed fibroblast subpopulation specific to the microenvironment of actively growing and branching epithelium. I will present our insights into regulation and function of this specific subpopulation, which in some aspects resembles cancer-associated fibroblasts.