

Organized by



**Fondazione
Melanoma**

In collaboration with



Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer

Under the auspices of



ISTITUTO NAZIONALE TUMORI
IRCCS - Fondazione Pascale



IMMUNOTHERAPY ²⁰²⁶ BRIDGE

Naples (Italy)

November 30th-December 1st, 2026

Royal Continental Hotel

Via Partenope 38-42

www.melanomabridge.org - info@melanomabridge.org

General Information

Congress venue

Royal Continental Hotel

Via Partenope 38-42, 80121 Naples



Registration

Registration fee: €880,00 + VAT 22%

Reduced registration fee for AIOM Members: €600,00 + VAT 22%

For information, registration and payments, please contact:

registration@melanomabridge.org

Confirmation of registration will be sent by the Organizing Secretariat.

Only registered participants will be admitted to the event.

» The registration fee includes:

- Participation in scientific sessions
- Congress kit (badge, notepad, pen)
- Coffee breaks and lunches

Official language

The official language is English.

Scientific Rationale

Over the last years, an extensive research has improved our understanding of tumor immunology and enabled the development of novel treatments that can harness the patient's immune system and prevent immune escape.

Through numerous clinical trials and real-world experience, a large amount of evidence of the potential for long-term survival with immunotherapy agents has been accumulated in various types of malignancy, starting from melanoma to extend to other tumors.

The results of these studies have also highlighted a number of recurring observations with immuno-oncology agents, including their potential for clinical application across a broad patient population and for both conventional and unconventional response patterns.

The clinical success of immune checkpoint blockade with anti-cytotoxic T-lymphocyte-associated antigen (CTLA)-4 and anti-programmed death (PD)-1/PD-ligand (L)1 inhibitor in melanoma and other cancers has encouraged increasing development of other immunotherapies, particularly monoclonal antibodies with other immune targets, adoptive cell transfer and vaccines. It has been estimated that there are over 3000 immuno-oncology trials ongoing, targeting hundreds of disease and immune pathways. Study results have highlighted a number of recurring observations, including the immunotherapy potential for clinical application across a broad patient population and for both conventional and unconventional response patterns.

The successes of the immune-oncology is strongly correlated with the immune system ability of "memory" and adaptability, to improve the time of survival and without selecting resistant form of tumoral cells. Another advantage is that the efficacy of immunotherapy drugs does not seem to be particularly influenced by histology and mutations.

The Immunotherapy Bridge will start with a Session jointly organized with SITC on modulator of Tumor Immunity and Immunotherapy.

Hence, we will discuss the state of the art of immunotherapy, novel drug development and novel approaches to cancer therapy, the last update on cancer vaccines and AI and then the organ specific immune response to share what different cancers teach about the general understanding of malignancies.

The final session will be focused on neoadjuvant therapies across cancers.

Immunotherapy Bridge will end with the Great Debate Sessions, in which the most important issues from clinical practice and research will be shown and exhaustively discussed from two different points of view.

Scientific Program

DAY 1 Monday, Nov 30th

10.00 am Introduction and Objectives
Paolo A. Ascierto

SITC SESSION - MODULATOR OF TUMOR IMMUNITY AND IMMUNOTHERAPY

Chairpersons: **James L. Gulley, Michael T. Lotze**

10.10 am Barriers to CAR T cells effectiveness
Marco Ruella

10.25 am Q&A

10.30 am Microbiome update
Luigi Nezi

10.45 am Q&A

10.50 am Systemic vs Local Metabolism
Greg Delgoffe

11.05 am Q&A

11.10 am Effects of aging and Immunity
Leisha A. Emens

11.25 am Q&A

11.30 am Nerves and Immune Cells
Christine Moussion

11.45 am Q&A

11.50 am The best of SITC 2026
Paolo A. Ascierto

12.10 am Q&A

GREAT DEBATE

Chairpersons: **Paolo A. Ascierto, Bernard A. Fox, James L. Gulley, Igor Puzanov**

12.15 pm Fecal Transfer VS Diet
Luigi Nezi vs Jennifer McQuade

12.40 pm GLP1 is just weight loss: YES or NO
Jennifer McQuade vs Janis M. Taube

1.05 pm **LECTURE**
The synergy medical nutrition drugs to improve therapy outcomes in oncology patients
Speaker: **Maurizio Muscaritoli**

1.25 pm **Lunch****

Scientific Program

DAY 1 Monday, Nov 30th

SESSION 2 - NOVEL DRUG DEVELOPMENT AND NOVEL APPROACHES TO CANCER THERAPY

Chairpersons: **Alfredo Budillon, Luigi Buonaguro**

- 2.15 pm Bispecific Antibodies
James L. Gulley
- 2.30 pm ADCs: Novel targets and novel payloads
Leisha A. Emens
- 2.45 pm NK Cells
Andreas Lundqvist
- 3.00 pm Radio Ligands
Martina Benešová-Schäfer*
- 3.15 pm Cytokines
Howard Kaufman
- 3.30 pm Radiation as immunomodulating modality
Sandra Demaria
- 3.45 pm Discussion
- 4.15 pm ***Coffee Break*****

SESSION 3 - CANCER VACCINES AND AI

Chairpersons: **Bernard A. Fox, Catherine Wu**

- 4.30 pm The Dark Matter
Bernard A. Fox
- 4.45 pm mRNA Vaccines
Paolo A. Ascierto
- 5.00 pm Peptide Vaccines
Catherine Wu
- 5.15 pm US NCI national roadmap for cancer vaccines
Stacey J. Adam
- 5.30 pm Shared Antigens
Craig Slingluff Jr.
- 5.45 pm AI
Carlo Bifulco
- 6.00 pm Discussion

Scientific Program

DAY 2 Tuesday, Dec 1st

SESSION 4 - ORGAN SPECIFIC IMMUNE RESPONSE

Chairpersons: **Omid Hamid, Samir N. Khleif**

- 9.15 am Pancreatic Cancer
Gregory Lesinski
- 9.30 am Colon Cancer
Myriam Chalabi*
- 9.45 am RCC
Toni K. Choueiri
- 10.00 am Bladder
Bradley McGregor
- 10.15 am Brain
Hussein A. Tawbi
- 10.30 am Ovarian
Kunle Odunsi
- 10.45 am Prostate
Matthew Dallos
- 11.00 am Discussion
- 11.15 am **Coffee Break****

GREAT DEBATE

Chairpersons: **Paolo A. Ascierto, Bernard A. Fox, James L. Gulley, Igor Puzanov**

- 11.30 am Models: pro/cons of animal VS human
Chrystal M. Paulos vs Bernard A. Fox
- 11.55 pm CD4 VS CD8 Effector Cells
Chrystal M. Paulos vs Pedro Romero
- 12.20 pm Macrophages VS CAF
Ruben Bill* vs Fatima Mechta-Grigoriu

- 12.45 pm **LECTURE**
Immunotherapy in the early stages: perioperative management across cancers
Head&Neck, **Paolo Bossi**
Lung, **Tina Cascone**

- 1.15 pm **Lunch****

Scientific Program

DAY 2 Tuesday, Dec 1st

2.10 pm **SYMPOSIUM**
Non-Melanoma Skin Cancers
The treatment of CSCC and BCC: an update
Chair: **Paolo A. Ascierto**
Speakers: **Paolo A. Ascierto, Dirk Schadendorf**

SESSION 5 - NEOADJUVANT THERAPY ACROSS CANCERS

Chairpersons: **Paolo A. Ascierto, Elizabeth M. Burton**

3.00 pm **INNOVATE summary**
Paolo A. Ascierto

3.15 pm **Breast**
Marleen Kok

3.30 pm **Lung**
Tina Cascone

3.45 pm **Melanoma**
Christian Blank

4.00 pm **Non-Melanoma Skin Cancers, BCC and CSCC**
Neil D. Gross

4.15 pm **Histology agnostic neoadjuvant trials**
Myriam Chalabi*

4.30 pm **Pan-tumor path response assessment**
Julie Stein Deutsch

4.45 pm **Discussion**

5.15 pm **Conclusion**
Paolo A. Ascierto, Bernard A. Fox, James L. Gulley, Igor Puzanov

Presidency



Paolo A. Ascierto

Full Professor, University of Naples Federico II; Director of Melanoma, Cancer Immunotherapy and Development Therapeutics Unit, National Cancer Institute IRCCS Fondazione "G. Pascale", Naples, Italy



Bernard A. Fox

Chief of Molecular and Tumor Immunology Laboratory, Robert W. Franz Cancer Center Earle A. Chiles Research Institute, Providence Cancer Institute, Portland, OR, US



James L. Gulley

Co-Director of the Center for Immuno-Oncology, Center for Cancer Research (CCR), the National Cancer Institute (NCI), Bethesda, MD, US; President of Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC)



Igor Puzanov

Judith and Stanford Lipsey Chair in Clinical Cancer Research; Senior Vice President, Clinical Investigation Chief, Division of Melanoma, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, Buffalo, NY, US

Scientific Board

Paolo A. Ascierto

Full Professor, University of Naples Federico II; Director of Melanoma, Cancer Immunotherapy and Development Therapeutics Unit, National Cancer Institute IRCCS Fondazione "G. Pascale", Naples, Italy

Carlo Bifulco

Chief Medical Officer, Providence Genomics, Director of Translational Molecular Pathology, Earle A. Chiles Research Institute, Providence Cancer Institute, Portland, OR, US

Christian Blank

Medical Oncology and Research Group Leader Tumor Immunology, Netherlands Cancer Institute, Amsterdam, The Netherlands; Director of Melanoma and Sarcoma Program, European Institute of Oncology (IEO), Milan, Italy

Scientific Board

Elizabeth M. Burton

Executive Director, Translational Research Initiative Development, Genomic Medicine, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX, US

Lisa H. Butterfield

Ph.D., Distinguished Scientist Discovery Oncology, Merck Research Labs, South San Francisco, CA, US

Corrado Caracò

Director of Melanoma and Skin Tumor Surgery, National Cancer Institute IRCCS Fondazione "G. Pascale", Naples, Italy

Tony K. Choueiri

Director of the Lank Center for Genitourinary (GU) Oncology and Medical Director of Strategic International Initiatives at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, MA, US

Mary Dean

Executive Director, Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC), Milwaukee, WI, US

Sandra Demaria

Professor of Radiation Oncology, Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Weill Cornell Medicine, New York, NY, US

Reinhard Dummer

Professor at University Zürich, co-lead skin cancer center Aarau; Skin Cancer expert, highly cited skin cancer researcher; Co-Director of the University Research Priority Program Translational Cancer Research; Steering committee member of the BioMed PhD Program Co-Director of SKINTEGRITY.CH; CCCZ Clinical Trial and Head of the Skin Cancer center, Zurich, Switzerland

Alexander M.M. Eggermont

Professor of Immunotherapy, University Medical Center Utrecht & Prinses Maxima Centrum, Utrecht, Netherlands; Chair Board Comprehensive Cancer Center Munich, Technical University Munich and the Ludwig Maximilians University, Munich, Germany

Leisha A. Emens

Senior Vice President Translational Research, Ankyra Therapeutics, Incorporated, Boston, MA, US; Past President of Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC)

Bernard A. Fox

Chief of Molecular and Tumor Immunology Laboratory, Robert W. Franz Cancer Center Earle A. Chiles Research Institute, Providence Cancer Institute, Portland, OR, US

Scientific Board

Jerome Galon

Research Director, National Institute of Health and Medical Research (INSERM), Director, Integrative Cancer Immunology Team, Cordeliers Research Center, Paris, France

Jeffrey E. Gershenwald

Dr. John M. Skibber Endowed Professor of Surgery, Department of Surgical Oncology, Medical Director, Melanoma and Skin Center, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Distinguished Senior Lecturer, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center UTHealth Houston Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, Houston, TX, US

James L. Gulley

Co-Director of the Center for Immuno-Oncology, Center for Cancer Research (CCR), the National Cancer Institute (NCI), Bethesda, MD, US; President of Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC)

Omid Hamid

Chief of Research/ Immuno-Oncology, Co-Director, Cutaneous Malignancy Program, The Angeles Clinic and Research Institute, a Cedars Sinai Affiliate, Los Angeles, CA, US

Samir N. Khleif

Director of Center for Immunology and Immunotherapy, Director of The Loop Immuno-Oncology Laboratory, Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center, Georgetown University Medical School, Washington, DC, US

Giuseppe Masucci

Associate Professor, Department of Oncology-Pathology and KcRN, Karolinska Institutet, Cancer Centrum Karolinska (CCK), Karolinska University Hospital, Stockholm, Sweden

Olivier Michielin

Full Professor, Chair of Oncology Department and Precision Oncology Service, Geneva University Hospital, Geneva; Co-Director of the Swiss Cancer Center Léman, Agora - Lausanne, Switzerland

Iman Osman

Rudolf Baer Professor of Dermatology, Departments of Medicine (Oncology) and Urology Director, NYU Melanoma SPORE Associate Dean for Clinical Research Strategy NYU Grossman School of Medicine, New York, NY, US

Giuseppe Palmieri

Full Professor of Medical Oncology, University of Sassari; Immuno-Oncology & Targeted Cancer Biotherapies, Sassari University Hospital; Associate Researcher, Head of Unit of Cancer Genetics, National Research Council (CNR); Head, Institute of Genetic & Biomedical Research (IRGB), Sassari, Italy

Scientific Board

Michael A. Postow

Chief Melanoma Service, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY, US

Igor Puzanov

Judith and Stanford Lipsey Chair in Clinical Cancer Research; Senior Vice President, Clinical Investigation Chief, Division of Melanoma, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, Buffalo, NY, US

Dirk Schadendorf

Director of the Department of Dermatology, University Hospital Essen, Essen, Germany

Magdalena Thurin

Program Director, Cancer Diagnosis Program, Division of Cancer Treatment and Diagnosis, National Cancer Institute (NCI), National Institutes of Health (NIH), Bethesda, MD, US

Tara Withington

Executive Director Emeritus, Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC), Milwaukee, WI, US

Faculty

Paolo A. Ascierto	Naples, Italy
Stacey Adam	Bethesda, MD, US
Benešová-Schäfer Martina	Heidelberg, Germany
Carlo Bifulco	Portland, OR, US
Christian Blank	Amsterdam, The Netherlands; Milan, Italy
Paolo Bossi	Milan, Italy
Alfredo Budillon	Naples, Italy
Luigi Buonaguro	Naples, Italy
Elizabeth M. Burton	Houston, TX, US
Tina Cascone	Houston, TX, US
Myriam Chalabi	Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Toni K. Choueiri	Boston, MA, US
Matthew Dallos	New York, NY, US
Gregory Delgoffe	Pittsburgh, PA, US
Sandra Demaria	New York, NY, US
Julie S. Deutch	Baltimore, MD, US
Leisha A. Emens	Boston, MA, US
Bernard A. Fox	Portland, OR, US
Neil D. Gross	Houston, TX, US
James L. Gulley	Bethesda, MD, US
Omid Hamid	Los Angeles, CA, US
Howard L. Kaufman	Boston, MA, US
Samir N. Khleif	Washington DC, US
Gregory B. Lesinski	Atlanta, GA, US
Michael T. Lotze	Pittsburgh, PA, US
Andreas Lundqvist	Stockholm, Sweden
Bradley McGregor	Boston, MA, US
Jennifer L. McQuade	Houston, TX, US

Faculty

Fatima Mechta-Grigoriou

Paris, France

Christine Moussion

San Francisco, CA, US

Maurizio Muscaritoli

Rome, Italy

Luigi Nezi

Milan, Italy

Kunle Odunsi

Chiacgo, IL, US

Chrystal M. Paulos

Atlanta, GA, US

Igor Puzanov

Buffalo, NY, US

Pedro Romero

Lausanne, Suisse

Marco Ruella

Pittsburgh, PA, US

Dirk Schadendorf

Essen, Germany

Craig Slingluff Jr.

Charlottesville, VA, US

Janis M. Taube

Baltimore, MD, US

Hussein A. Tawbi

Houston, TX, US

Catherine Wu

Boston, MA, US

Continuing Medical Education

CME Credits

CME Code: 596-498252 Ed.1

The course has been accredited with 4.2 CME credits.

To obtain CME credits, participants must attend at least 90% of the total course duration and complete the event evaluation.

National Objective:

Technical and professional content (knowledge and skills) specific to each profession, specialization, and ultra specialized activity, including rare diseases and gender medicine.

Target Audience:

This course is intended at 201 participants among the following professions:

- Pharmacists
- Medical Doctors specializing in:
Allergology and Clinical Immunology, Dermatology and Venereology, Hematology, Gastroenterology, Respiratory diseases, Internal Medicine, Nephrology, Neurology, Oncology, Radiotherapy, General Surgery, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Gynecology and Obstetrics, Urology, Pathological Anatomy, Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology, Medical Genetics Laboratory, Nuclear Medicine, Clinical Pathology (Chemical-Clinical Laboratory and Microbiology), Radio diagnostics, Hygiene, Epidemiology, and Public Health General Medicine (General Practitioners), Nutrition Science and Dietetics, Palliative Care

CME Provider

OPT S.p.A.

Via Mauro Macchi 38, 20124 Milan, Italy

www.optsalute.it



Organizing Secretariat

Vivenko Srl Società Benefit

Via De Amicis 42, 20123 Milan, Italy

www.vivenko.net

eventi@vivenko.net

info@melanomabridge.org

