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Melanoma**

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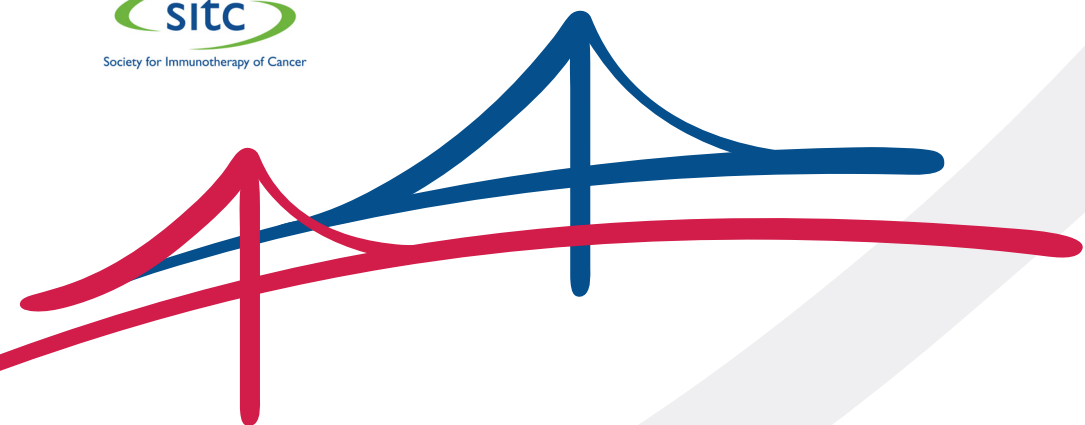


Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer

Under the auspices of



ISTITUTO NAZIONALE TUMORI
IRCCS - Fondazione Pascale



MELANOMA ²⁰²⁶ BRIDGE

Naples (Italy)

December 1st-3rd, 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

Recent insights into the genetic and somatic aberrations have initiated a new era of rapidly evolving treatments for melanoma.

The possibility to use targeted and immune-based drugs alone, in combination or in sequence, able to improve responses to overcome the resistance, to potentiate the action of immune system with the new immunomodulating antibodies, and identification of biomarkers that can predict the response to a particular therapy, represent actual concepts and approaches in the clinical management of melanoma.

Melanoma treatment landscape changed with the approval of the first anti-cytotoxic T-lymphocyte-associated protein (CTLA)-4 checkpoint inhibitor and of the first BRAF-targeted monoclonal antibody, both of which significantly improved overall survival.

Since then, improved understanding of the tumor microenvironment and tumor immune-evasion strategies has resulted in different approaches to target and harness the immune response.

Approval of new immune and target therapies has further improved outcomes for patients with advanced melanoma.

The therapies offer the opportunity for various approaches with distinct modes of action being used in combination with one another, as well as combined with other treatment modalities.

This year latest findings in melanoma research and advances on topics of paramount importance for melanoma prevention, diagnosis and treatment, will be discussed in the dedicated sessions, focused on the progresses of melanoma research on biomarkers/precision medicine and on combination strategies.

Then, the "Great Debate" sessions, where counterpoint views from leading experts on specific and very actual controversial clinical issues will be presented and discussed from different points of view.

Scientific Program

DAY 1 **Tuesday, Dec 1st**

OPENING CEREMONY**

Chairpersons: **Paolo A. Ascierto, Francesco Marincola**

6.00 pm Update in Neoadjuvant research

Elizabeth M. Burton

6.20 pm Update in Pathology

Carlo Bifulco

6.40 pm Next breakthrough therapies in uveal melanoma, and clinical challenges

Kevin O'Neill

7.00 pm MRA funding opportunities and initiatives to accelerate research for cutaneous and rare melanoma subtypes

Joan Levy

7.10 pm Patient Advocacy

Samantha Guild, Claudia Piazza Cidonio

Scientific Program

DAY 2 **Wednesday, Dec 2nd**

9.15 am Introduction and objectives
Paolo A. Ascierto

SESSION 1 - MORE TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH IN MELANOMA

Chairpersons: **Christian Blank, Lisa Villabona**

9.20 am Translational data from personalized cancer vaccination trials
Ryan Sullivan

9.35 am Metabolism
Bradley Isaac Reinfeld

9.50 am Harnessing CD26hi T cells to mediate potent activity against melanoma
Chrystal M. Paulos

10.05 am Harnessing macrophages for anti-cancer therapy
Jennifer Guerriero

10.20 am TME
Samra Turajlic

10.35 am Spatial Trans-Criptomics
Florian Rambow

10.50 am Genomic approaches
Tomas Kirchhoff

11.05 am Discussion

11.30 am **Coffee Break****

11.45 am **SYMPOSIUM**
The key role of adjuvant therapy in Melanoma
Chair: **Paolo A. Ascierto**
Speakers: **Paolo A. Ascierto, Sapna Patel**

GREAT DEBATE

Chairpersons: **Paolo A. Ascierto, Corrado Caracò, Igor Puzanov**

12.35 pm Prediction of therapy outcome: biological markers VS AI predictive algorithm
Christian Blank vs Georgina V. Long

1.00 pm Use of ctDNA monitoring to guide clinical decisions, ready for primetime now:
YES or NO
Reinhard Dummer vs Dirk Schadendorf

Scientific Program

DAY 2 Wednesday, Dec 2nd

1.25 pm **Lunch****

SESSION 2 - WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED FROM...

Chairpersons: **Corrado Caracò, Igor Puzanov**

2.15 pm ...failed studies?

Jeffrey Sosman

2.30 pm ...studies ongoing that haven't read out?

Olivier Michielin

2.45 pm ...clinical gaps in Melanoma?

Omid Hamid

3.00 pm What are we learning with PD-L1/IDO vaccination?

James Smithy

3.15 pm ...using a common control arm: opportunities and challenges

Ryan Sullivan

3.30 pm Discussion

3.50 pm **SYMPOSIUM**

Target Therapy in Metastatic Melanoma

Chair: **Paolo A. Ascierto**

Speakers: **Paolo A. Ascierto, Reinhard Dummer**

4.40 pm **SYMPOSIUM**

Bridging evidence and experience in Metastatic Uveal Melanoma

Chair: **Paolo A. Ascierto**

Five-year survival with tebentafusp in previously untreated metastatic uveal melanoma in a phase III trial

Paul Nathan

Translating evidence into practice: international experience with tebentafusp in metastatic uveal melanoma

Ester Simeone

GREAT DEBATE

Chairpersons: **Paolo A. Ascierto, Corrado Caracò, Igor Puzanov, Alessandro Testori**

5.30 pm TIL: frontline VS second line

Allison Betof vs Igor Puzanov

5.55 pm Reality check of benefits: all stages VS advanced stages

Alexander M.M. Eggermont vs Michael A. Postow

Scientific Program

DAY 3 Thursday, Dec 3rd

SESSION 3 - EMERGENT STRATEGIES

Chairpersons: **Paolo Marchetti***, **Giuseppe Palmieri**

9.15 am Brain Metastases
Hussein A. Tawbi

9.30 am Acral Melanoma
Mitch Levesque

9.45 am Mucosal Melanoma
Alexander N. Shoushtari

10.00 am Neoadjuvant Study: IPI-NIVO vs NIVO-RELA
Janice Mehnert

10.15 am Toxicities management
Douglas B. Johnson

10.30 am Engineered TILs
Olivier Michielin

10.45 am Discussion

11.00 am **Coffee Break****

11.15 am Novel MAPK Inhibitor
Roger Lo

11.30 am Do we need new staging?
Jeffrey E. Gershenwald

11.45 am Not all Immune Checkpoints are created equal: an update on IDO
Marc S. Ernstoff

12.00 pm Injectable Therapies
Danielle Bello

12.15 pm Discussion

12.30 pm **LECTURE**
Advancing Cancer Treatment with mRNA: The Evolving Role of Immune Modulation
Speakers: **Allison Betof**, **Hussein Tawbi**

Scientific Program

DAY 3 **Thursday, Dec 3rd**

GREAT DEBATE

Chairpersons: **Paolo A. Ascierto, Corrado Caracò, Igor Puzanov**

- 1.00 pm Spatial Biology: YES or NO
Carlo Bifulco vs Jerome Galon
- 1.25 pm Quality of Life VS Efficacy
Omid Hamid vs Paul Nathan
- 1.50 pm Putting it all together: practical considerations for Monday Clinic
Igor Puzanov
- 2.05 pm Conclusion

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



Corrado Caracò

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



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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

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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

Elizabeth M. Burton

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

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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

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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)

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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

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Faculty

Paolo A. Ascierto	Naples, Italy
Danielle Bello	New York, NY, US
Allison Betof	Standford, CA, US
Carlo Bifulco	Providence, OR, US
Christian Blank	Milan, Italy; Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Elizabeth M. Burton	Houston, TX, US
Corrado Caracò	Naples, Italy
Reinhard Dummer	Zurich, Switzerland
Alexander M.M. Eggermont	Utrecht, The Netherlands
Marc S. Ernstoff	Bethesda, MD, US
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Samantha Guild	Richmond, CA, US
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Mitchell Levesque	Zurich, Switzerland
Joan Levy	Washington DC, US
Roger Lo	Los Angeles, CA, US
Georgina V. Long	Sydney, Australia
Francesco Marincola	Boston, MA; US
Janice Mehnert	New York, NY, US
Olivier Michielin	Geneve, Suisse
Paul Nathan	London, UK
Kevin O'Neill	London, UK
Giuseppe Palmieri	Sassari, Italy
Chrystal M. Paulos	Atlanta, GA, US

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Alessandro Testori

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Lisa Villabona

Stockholm, Sweden

Continuing Medical Education

CME Credits

CME Code: 596-498082 Ed. 1

The course has been accredited with 3.6 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, Ophthalmology, 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, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Palliative Care

CME Provider

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Organizing Secretariat

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