

THE MD ANDERSON CANCER NEUROSCIENCE PROGRAM

is proud to host the

International Cancer Neuroscience Symposium February 18 – 20, 2026

TMC³ Collaborative Building, Houston, TX

DAY 1 of 3: Neurobiology and Neurotoxicity		
Time	Wednesday, February 18, 2026	
Time	Session / Title and Speaker Opening Remarks and Welcome	
10:00am – 10:10am	Peter Pisters, MD	
	President. MD Anderson Cancer Center	
	Welcome from the Cancer Neuroscience Program Leaders & Symposium Chairs	
40.40	Fred Lang, MD, Vinay Puduvalli, MD, Jim Ray, PhD, and Jian Hu, PhD	
10:10am – 10:15am	Co-Directors, Cancer Neuroscience Program	
	MD Anderson Cancer Center	
10:15am – 11:15am	Keynote Lecture	
10:15am – 10:20am	Keynote Speaker Introduction Vinay Puduvalli, MD	
	TITLE	
10:20am – 11:00am	Shawn Hervey-Jumper, MD, PhD	
10.20am - 11.00am	University of California at San Francisco	
11:00am – 11:15am	Question & Answer	
	Question & Answer	
11:15AM – 12:30PM	LUNCH	
12:30PM - 2:00PM	Session 1: Neurobiology	
	Moderators: Yuan Pan, PhD & Ekin Demir, MD, PhD TITLE	
12:30PM – 12:55PM	Nisha D'Silva, BDS, PhD	
12.30FW = 12.33FW	University of Michigan	
	TITLE	
12:55PM – 1:20PM	Jeremy Borniger, PhD	
12.001 W 1.201 W	Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory	
	TITLE	
1:20PM - 1:45PM	Nicole Scheff, PhD	
	University of Pittsburgh	
1:45PM – 2:00PM	Question & Answer for All Session Speakers	
2:00PM - 2:15PM	BREAK	
2:15PM – 4:15PM	Session 2: Neurotoxicity	
2.13FW - 4.13FW	Moderators: Peter Grace, PhD & Paige Green, PhD	
	TITLE	
2:15PM – 2:40PM	Jeff Wefel, PhD	
	MD Anderson Cancer Center	
2.40DM 2.05DM	TITLE Torono Pouro PhD	
2:40PM – 3:05PM	Teresa Reyes, PhD	
	University of Cincinnati TITLE	
3:05PM – 3:30PM	Ellen Lavoie Smith	
3.031 W = 3.301 W	University of Alabama-Birmingham	
	TITLE	
3:30PM – 3:55PM	Yi Ye, PhD	
	New York University	
3:55PM – 4:15PM	Question & Answer for All Session Speakers	
4:15PM - 4:30PM	BREAK	
4:30PM - 5:20PM	Oral Presentations by Pre-Selected Top 5 Abstracts	
	Moderators: Moran Amit, MD, PhD & Monty Montano, PhD	
	Awards Sponsored by Wiley Advanced Portfolio	



4:30PM - 4:40PM	Neuroimmunology
4:40PM - 4:50PM	Neurobiology
4:50PM - 5:00PM	Neurotoxicity
5:00PM - 5:10PM	Neurobehavioral Health
5:10PM - 5:20PM	Neural Neoplasms
5:45PM - 6:45PM	Music-in-Medicine Live Demonstration & Reception Mei Rui, DMA MD Anderson Cancer Center



DAY 2 of 3: Neuroimmunology of Cancer Thursday, February 19, 2026	
Time	Session / Title and Speaker
8:00AM – 9:00AM	1st Keynote Lecture
8.00AW - 9.00AW	Keynote Speaker Introduction
8:00AM – 8:05AM	Jim Ray, PhD
	Immune Checkpoint Blockade in Cancer Immunotherapy: Mechanistic
	Insights Provide New Therapeutic Opportunities
8:05AM – 8:50AM	James P. Allison, PhD
	2018 Nobel Laureate, MD Anderson Cancer Center
8:50AM – 9:00AM	Question & Answer
9:00AM - 9:15AM	BREAK
9.00AW - 9.15AW	Session 3: Neuro-immune Interactions at the Tumor Bed
9:15AM - 10:45AM	Moderators: Nicole Scheff, PhD & Sébastien Talbot, PhD
0.150M 0.400M	TITLE
9:15AM – 9:40AM	Sangeeta Goswami, MD, PhD
	MD Anderson Cancer Center
0.40 AM 40.05 AM	TITLE
9:40AM – 10:05AM	Elizabeth Repasky, PhD
	Roswell Park
	TITLE
10:05AM – 10:30AM	Paola Vermeer, PhD
	University of South Dakota
10:30AM – 10:45AM	Question & Answer for All Session Speakers
10:45AM - 11:00AM	BREAK
11:00AM - 12:00PM	2 nd Keynote Lecture
11:00AM – 11:05AM	Keynote Speaker Introduction
77.007 1171 77.007 1171	Moran Amit, MD, PhD
	Neuro-Immune Interplay in Cancer
11:05AM – 11:50AM	Sébastien Talbot, PhD
	Queen's University
11:50AM – 12:00PM	Question & Answer
12:00PM – 1:30PM	LUNCH
40.00014 4.00014	Meet-the-Editors Roundtable Discussion
12:00PM – 1:00PM	Monty Montano, PhD, Executive Editor, Wiley Advanced Portfolio
	Ada Wong, PhD, Deputy Editor, Advanced Science (Oncology)
12:00PM - 2:00PM	Poster Session Posters on display all day; presenters at poster during this set time.
	Session 4: Future of Cancer Neuroscience
1:20DM _ 2:00DM	Wiley Live Podcast
1:30PM – 3:00PM	Moderators: Monty Montano, PhD & Mekenzie Peshoff, PhD Candidate
	Pseudo-Synaptic Neuron-Cancer Signaling in Pancreatic Cancer: Lessons
	Learned
1:30PM – 1:55PM	Ekin Demir, MD, PhD
	Technical University of Munich TITLE
1:55PM – 2:20PM	Leanne Li, MD, PhD
1.55PW - 2.20PW	Francis Crick Institute
	TITLE
2:20DM 2:45DM	Advanced Science Editor
2:20PM – 2:45PM	
	Advanced Biology Editor TITLE
2:45PM - 3:05PM	=
2.05DM 2.00DM	Young Investigator Awardee
3:05PM – 3:20PM	Question & Answer for All Session Speakers
3:20PM - 3:30PM	BREAK Session F: Clinical Neuroimmunology
3:30PM - 5:00PM	Session 5: Clinical Neuroimmunology Moderator: Frank Winkler, PhD &
	From the Clinic to the Lab: Investigating Mechanisms of Responses and
3:30PM - 3:55PM	Resistance to Immune Checkpoint Therapy
	nesistance to inilitatie Checkpolit Therapy



	Padmanee Sharma, MD, PhD
	MD Anderson Cancer Center
	TITLE
3:55PM – 4:20PM	Corina Amor, MD, PhD
	Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory
	TITLE
4:20PM – 4:45PM	Douglas Hanahan, PhD (Virtual)
	Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research
4:45PM - 5:00PM	Question & Answer for All Session Speakers
5:00PM - 6:30PM	Networking Reception Sponsored by Wiley Advanced Portfolio
	"The Checkmates" Band to perform featuring Nobel Laureate Dr. Jim Allison on
	harmonica



Session / Title and Speaker	8:00AM - 9:00AM 8:00AM - 8:05AM 8:05AM - 8:50AM
8:00AM – 9:00AM 8:00AM – 8:05AM Bintroduction of Keynote Speaker Jian Hu, PhD TITLE 8:05AM – 8:50AM BEGIN PRO Monash University 8:50AM – 9:00AM 9:00AM – 9:15AM 9:15AM – 10:45AM Session 6: Neurobehavioral Health Moderators: Jeff Wefel, PhD & Erica Sloan, PhD TITLE 9:15AM – 9:40AM TITLE 9:40AM – 10:05AM Posters Raison, MD University of Wisconsin – Madison TITLE 10:05AM – 10:30AM Disconsin – Madison TITLE 10:03AM – 10:45AM Question & Answer for All Session Speakers LUNCH Poster Session Posters on display all day; presenters at poster during this set time. Meet-the-Editor Roundtable Discussions Barbara Marte, PhD, Senior Editor, Nature Dorothy Hallberg, PhD, Associate Editor, Science Translational Med Sam Rose, PhD, Neuron John Pham, PhD, Editor-in-Chief, Cell Montse Rojo de la Vega, PhD, Scientific Editor, Cancer Cell Mattia Maroso, PhD, Senior Editor, Science 1:00PM – 2:00PM Introduction of Keynote Speaker Frederick F. Lang, MD	8:00AM - 9:00AM 8:00AM - 8:05AM 8:05AM - 8:50AM
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TITLE	
Heidelberg University Hospital	1:05PM – 1:50PM
1:50PM – 2:00PM Question & Answer for All Session Speakers	1:05PM – 1:50PM
2:00PM – 2:15PM BREAK	
Specian 7: Noural Noonlasms	1:50PM – 2:00PM
2:15PM – 4:15PM Moderators: Vinay Puduvalli, MD & Frederick F. Lang, MD	1:50PM – 2:00PM 2:00PM – 2:15PM
Single Cell Analysis of Gliomas in Space and Time	1:50PM – 2:00PM
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Mass General Hospital	1:50PM – 2:00PM 2:00PM – 2:15PM 2:15PM – 4:15PM
TITLE	1:50PM – 2:00PM 2:00PM – 2:15PM
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University of California San Francisco	1:50PM – 2:00PM 2:00PM – 2:15PM 2:15PM – 4:15PM
TITLE	1:50PM – 2:00PM 2:00PM – 2:15PM 2:15PM – 4:15PM 2:15PM – 2:40PM
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University College London	1:50PM – 2:00PM 2:00PM – 2:15PM 2:15PM – 4:15PM 2:15PM – 2:40PM
TITLE	1:50PM - 2:00PM 2:00PM - 2:15PM 2:15PM - 4:15PM 2:15PM - 2:40PM 2:40PM - 3:05PM
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Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center	1:50PM - 2:00PM 2:00PM - 2:15PM 2:15PM - 4:15PM 2:15PM - 2:40PM 2:40PM - 3:05PM
3:55PM – 4:15PM Question & Answer for All Session Speakers	1:50PM - 2:00PM 2:00PM - 2:15PM 2:15PM - 4:15PM 2:15PM - 2:40PM 2:40PM - 3:05PM 3:05PM - 3:30PM 3:30PM - 3:55PM
4:15PM – 4:30PM BREAK	1:50PM - 2:00PM 2:00PM - 2:15PM 2:15PM - 4:15PM 2:15PM - 2:40PM 2:40PM - 3:05PM 3:05PM - 3:30PM 3:30PM - 3:55PM
4:30PM – 5:45PM Session 8: Inflamed Scientists Elevator Pitch Session	1:50PM - 2:00PM 2:00PM - 2:15PM 2:15PM - 4:15PM 2:15PM - 2:40PM 2:40PM - 3:05PM 3:05PM - 3:30PM 3:30PM - 3:55PM



	Elevator pitches by emerging leaders (3 min per speaker) + 8 min rapid fire Q&A from moderator panel
	Moderators: Frank Winkler, MD, PhD, Moran Amit, MD, PhD,
	& Séb Talbot, PhD
	Tracing and Omics in Cancer Research
4:30PM - 4:45PM	Vera Thiel, PhD (HI-STEM) & Carmen Mota Reyes, PhD (Tech Univ of
	Munich)
4:45PM – 5:00PM	Electrically Active Tumors
4.43FW - 5.00FW	Melina Müller (Heidelberg Univ) & Simon Grelot, PhD (Univ of South Alabama)
	Adaptive Immunity
5:00PM - 5:15PM	Didem Cobanoglu, PhD (Texas A&M University) & Karen Dixon, PhD (Univ of
	Basel)
5:15PM – 5:30PM	Innate Immunity
	Sissi Dolci, PhD (Univ of Verona) & Chengcheng Jin, PhD (Univ of Pennsylvania)
5:30PM – 5:45PM	Neuro-immune Interactions in Cancer
	Jingjing Zhu, PhD (Ludwig Institute) & Yuri Bunimovich, PhD (Univ of Pittsburgh)
5:45PM	Final Remarks & Meeting Adjournment
	Moran Amit, MD, PhD