

**THE MD ANDERSON CANCER **NEUROSCIENCE** PROGRAM**  
*is proud to host the*  
**International Cancer Neuroscience Symposium**  
February 18 – 20, 2026  
TMC<sup>3</sup> Collaborative Building, Houston, TX

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

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

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

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

<b>DAY 3 of 3: Neurobehavioral Health, Neural Neoplasms, and “Inflamed Scientists”</b> <i>Friday, February 20, 2026</i>	
<b>Time</b>	<b>Session / Title and Speaker</b>
<b>8:00AM – 9:00AM</b>	<b>Keynote Lecture</b>
8:00AM – 8:05AM	<b>Introduction of Keynote Speaker</b> <i>Jian Hu, PhD</i>
8:05AM – 8:50AM	<b>TITLE</b> <b>Erica Sloan, PhD</b> <i>Monash University</i>
8:50AM – 9:00AM	Question & Answer for All Session Speakers
<b>9:00AM – 9:15AM</b>	<b>BREAK</b>
<b>9:15AM – 10:45AM</b>	<b>Session 6: Neurobehavioral Health</b> <i>Moderators: Jeff Wefel, PhD &amp; Erica Sloan, PhD</i>
9:15AM – 9:40AM	<b>TITLE</b> <i>Manuel Valero, PhD</i> <i>Hospital del Mar Medical Research Institute (IMIM)</i>
9:40AM – 10:05AM	<b>TITLE</b> <i>Charles Raison, MD</i> <i>University of Wisconsin – Madison</i>
10:05AM – 10:30AM	<b>TITLE</b> <i>Paige A. Green, PhD</i> <i>National Institutes of Health</i>
10:30AM – 10:45AM	Question & Answer for All Session Speakers
<b>11:00AM – 12:30PM</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>
<b>11:00AM – 1:00PM</b>	<b>Poster Session</b> <i>Posters on display all day; presenters at poster during this set time.</i>
<b>12:00PM – 12:45PM</b>	<b>Meet-the-Editor Roundtable Discussions</b> <i>Barbara Marte, PhD, Senior Editor, Nature</i> <i>Dorothy Hallberg, PhD, Associate Editor, Science Translational Med</i> <i>Sam Rose, PhD, Neuron</i> <i>John Pham, PhD, Editor-in-Chief, Cell</i> <i>Montse Rojo de la Vega, PhD, Scientific Editor, Cancer Cell</i> <i>Mattia Maroso, PhD, Senior Editor, Science</i>
<b>1:00PM – 2:00PM</b>	<b>Keynote Lecture</b>
1:00PM – 1:05PM	<b>Introduction of Keynote Speaker</b> <i>Frederick F. Lang, MD</i>
1:05PM – 1:50PM	<b>TITLE</b> <i>Frank Winkler, MD, PhD</i> <i>Heidelberg University Hospital</i>
1:50PM – 2:00PM	Question & Answer for All Session Speakers
<b>2:00PM – 2:15PM</b>	<b>BREAK</b>
<b>2:15PM – 4:15PM</b>	<b>Session 7: Neural Neoplasms</b> <i>Moderators: Vinay Puduvalli, MD &amp; Frederick F. Lang, MD</i>
2:15PM – 2:40PM	<b>Single Cell Analysis of Gliomas in Space and Time</b> <i>Mario Suva, MD, PhD</i> <i>Mass General Hospital</i>
2:40PM – 3:05PM	<b>TITLE</b> <i>Joseph Costello, PhD</i> <i>University of California San Francisco</i>
3:05PM – 3:30PM	<b>TITLE</b> <i>Simona Parrinello, PhD</i> <i>University College London</i>
3:30PM – 3:55PM	<b>TITLE</b> <i>Kathryn Taylor, PhD</i> <i>Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center</i>
3:55PM – 4:15PM	Question & Answer for All Session Speakers
<b>4:15PM – 4:30PM</b>	<b>BREAK</b>
<b>4:30PM – 5:45PM</b>	<b>Session 8: Inflamed Scientists Elevator Pitch Session</b>

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