

MD ANDERSON CANCER NEUROSCIENCE PROGRAM
International Cancer Neuroscience Symposium
February 18 – 20, 2026
Texas Medical Center, TMC³ Collaborative Building, Houston, TX

DAY 1 of 3: Neurobiology and Neurotoxicity <i>Wednesday, February 18, 2026</i>		
Time	Session or Speaker	Moderators and/or Title
10:00AM – 10:10AM	Peter Pisters, MD <i>President, MD Anderson Cancer Center</i>	<i>Opening remarks and welcome</i>
10:10AM – 10:15AM	Fred Lang, MD, Vinay Puduvalli, MD, Jim Ray, PhD, and Jian Hu, PhD, <i>Co-Directors, Cancer Neuroscience Program MD Anderson Cancer Center</i>	<i>Welcome from the Cancer Neuroscience Program Leaders</i>
10:15AM – 11:45AM	Session 1: Neurobiology	<i>Yuan Pan, PhD & Ekin Demir, MD, PhD</i>
10:15AM – 10:40AM	Nisha D'Silva, BDS, PhD <i>University of Michigan</i>	<i>TBA</i>
10:40AM – 11:05AM	Jeremy Borniger, PhD <i>Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory</i>	<i>TBA</i>
11:05AM – 11:30AM	Nicole Scheff, PhD <i>University of Pittsburgh</i>	<i>TBA</i>
11:30AM – 11:45AM	Question & Answer Panel	<i>All Session Speakers</i>
11:45AM – 1:00PM	LUNCH	
1:00PM – 2:00PM	Keynote Lecture	
1:00PM – 1:05PM	Keynote Speaker Introduction	<i>Yuan Pan, PhD</i>
1:05PM – 1:50PM	Michelle Monje, MD, PhD (Virtual) <i>Stanford University</i>	<i>TBA</i>
1:50PM – 2:00PM	Question & Answer	<i>Michelle Monje, MD, PhD</i>
2:00PM – 2:15PM	BREAK	
2:15PM – 4:15 PM	Session 2: Neurotoxicity	<i>Paige Green, PhD</i>
2:15PM – 2:40PM	Jeff Wefel, PhD <i>MD Anderson Cancer Center</i>	<i>TBA</i>
2:40PM – 3:05PM	Teresa Reyes, PhD <i>University of Cincinnati</i>	<i>TBA</i>
3:05PM – 3:30PM	Ellen Lavoie Smith <i>University of Alabama-Birmingham</i>	<i>TBA</i>
3:30PM – 3:55PM	Yi Ye, PhD <i>New York University</i>	<i>TBA</i>
3:55PM – 4:15PM	Question & Answer Panel	<i>All Session Speakers</i>
4:15PM – 4:30PM	BREAK	
4:30PM – 5:30PM	Oral Presentations by Selected Top 5 Abstracts <i>Awards sponsored by Wiley Advanced</i>	<i>Moran Amit, MD, PhD & Monty Montano, PhD</i>
5:45PM – 6:45PM	Mei Rui, DMA <i>MD Anderson Cancer Center</i>	<i>"Music-in-Medicine" demonstration of brain activity during a live musical performance with Dr. Rui on piano accompanied by a cello and violin player</i>

DAY 2 of 3: Neuroimmunology of Cancer Thursday, February 19, 2026		
Time	Session or Speaker	Moderators and/or Topic
8:00AM – 9:00AM	1st Keynote Lecture	
8:00AM – 8:05AM	Keynote Speaker Introduction	<i>Jim Ray, PhD</i>
8:05AM – 8:50AM	James P. Allison, PhD <i>2018 Nobel Laureate, MD Anderson Cancer Center</i>	TBA
8:50AM – 9:00AM	Question & Answer	<i>Jim Allison, PhD</i>
9:00AM – 9:15AM	BREAK	
9:15AM – 10:45AM	Session 3: Neuro-immune Interactions at the Tumor Bed	<i>Nicole Scheff, PhD & Sébastien Talbot, PhD</i>
9:15AM – 9:40AM	Sangeeta Goswami, MD, PhD <i>MD Anderson Cancer Center</i>	TBA
9:40AM – 10:05AM	Elizabeth Repasky, PhD <i>Roswell Park</i>	TBA
10:05AM – 10:30AM	Paola Vermeer, PhD <i>University of South Dakota</i>	TBA
10:30AM – 10:45AM	Question & Answer Panel	<i>All Session Speakers</i>
10:45AM – 11:00AM	BREAK	
11:00AM – 12:00PM	2nd Keynote Lecture	
11:00AM – 11:05AM	Keynote Speaker Introduction	<i>Moran Amit, MD, PhD</i>
11:05AM – 11:50AM	Sébastien Talbot, PhD <i>Queen's University</i>	TBA
11:50AM – 12:00PM	Question & Answer	<i>Sébastien Talbot, PhD</i>
12:00PM – 1:30PM	LUNCH	
12:00PM – 1:00PM	Meet-the-Editors Roundtable Discussion <i>Monty Montano, PhD, Executive Editor, Wiley Advanced Portfolio</i> <i>Ada Wong, PhD, Deputy Editor, Advanced Science (Oncology)</i>	<i>Each editor will have a roundtable where attendees can visit with them and have discussions.</i>
12:00PM – 2:00PM	Poster Session	<i>Posters on display all day; presenters at poster during this set time.</i>
1:30PM – 3:00PM	Session 4: Future of Cancer Neuroscience <i>Wiley Live Podcast</i>	<i>Monty Montano, PhD & Mekenzie Peshoff, PhD Candidate</i>
1:30PM – 1:55PM	Ekin Demir, MD, PhD <i>Technical University of Munich</i>	TBA
1:55PM – 2:20PM	Leanne Li, MD, PhD <i>Francis Crick Institute</i>	TBA
2:20PM – 2:45PM	Advanced Science Editor <i>Advanced Biology Editor</i>	TBA
2:45PM – 3:05PM	Young Investigator Awardee	TBA
3:05PM – 3:20PM	Question & Answer	<i>All Session Speakers</i>
3:20PM – 3:30PM	BREAK	
3:30PM – 5:00PM	Session 5: Clinical Neuroimmunology	<i>Frank Winkler, PhD</i>
3:30PM – 3:55PM	Padmanee Sharma, MD, PhD <i>MD Anderson Cancer Center</i>	TBA
3:55PM – 4:20PM	Corina Amor, MD, PhD <i>Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory</i>	TBA
4:20PM – 4:45PM	Douglas Hanahan, PhD (Virtual) <i>Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research</i>	TBA
4:45PM – 5:00PM	Question & Answer Panel	<i>All Session Speakers</i>
5:00PM – 6:30PM	Networking Reception <i>"The Checkmates" Band to perform featuring Nobel Laureate Dr. Jim Allison on harmonica</i>	<i>Sponsored by Wiley Advanced Portfolio</i>

DAY 3 of 3: Neurobehavioral Health, Neural Neoplasms, and “Inflamed Scientists” Friday, February 20, 2026		
Time	Session or Speaker	Moderators and/or Topic
8:00AM – 9:00AM	Keynote Lecture	
8:00AM – 8:05AM	Introduction of Keynote Speaker	Jian Hu, PhD
8:05AM – 8:50AM	Erica Sloan, PhD Monash University	TBA
8:50AM – 9:00AM	Question & Answer	Erica Sloan, PhD
9:00AM – 9:15AM	BREAK	
9:15AM – 10:45AM	Session 6: Neurobehavioral Health	Jeff Wefel, PhD & Erica Sloan, PhD
9:15AM – 9:40AM	Manuel Valero, PhD Hospital del Mar Medical Research Institute (IMIM)	TBA
9:40AM – 10:05AM	Charles Raison, MD University of Wisconsin – Madison	TBA
10:05AM – 10:30AM	Paige A. Green, PhD National Institutes of Health	TBA
10:30AM – 10:45AM	Question & Answer Panel	All Session Speakers
11:00AM – 12:30PM	LUNCH	
11:00AM – 1:00PM	Poster Session	Posters on display all day; presenters at poster during this set time.
12:00PM – 12:45PM	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	Each editor will have a roundtable where attendees can visit with them and have discussions.
1:00PM – 2:00PM	Keynote Lecture	
1:00PM – 1:05PM	Introduction of Keynote Speaker	Frederick Lang, MD
1:05PM – 1:50PM	Frank Winkler, MD, PhD Heidelberg University Hospital	TBA
1:50PM – 2:00PM	Question & Answer	Frank Winkler, MD, PhD
2:00PM – 2:15PM	BREAK	
2:15PM – 4:15PM	Session 7: Neural Neoplasms	Vinay Puduvalli, MD & Frederick Lang, MD
2:15PM – 2:40PM	Mario Suva, MD, PhD Mass General Hospital	TBA
2:40PM – 3:05PM	Joseph Costello, PhD University of California San Francisco	TBA
3:05PM – 3:30PM	Shawn Hervey-Jumper, MD, PhD University of California San Francisco	TBA
3:30PM – 3:55PM	Kathryn Taylor, PhD Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center	TBA
3:55PM – 4:15PM	Question & Answer Panel	All Session Speakers
4:15PM – 4:30PM	BREAK	
4:30PM – 5:45PM	Session 8: Inflamed Scientists Elevator Pitch Session Elevator pitches by emerging leaders (3 min per speaker) + 8 min rapid fire Q&A from moderator panel	Frank Winkler, MD, PhD, Moran Amit, MD, PhD, Séb Talbot, PhD &
4:30PM – 4:45PM	Vera Thiel, PhD (HI-STEM) & Carmen Mota Reyes, PhD (Tech Univ of Munich)	Tracing and Omics in Cancer Research
4:45PM – 5:00PM	Melina Müller (Heidelberg Univ) & Claire Magnon, PhD (INSERM)	Electrically Active Tumors
5:00PM – 5:15PM	Didem Cobanoglu, PhD (MD Anderson Cancer Center) & Karen Dixon, PhD (Univ of Basel)	Adaptive Immunity
5:15PM – 5:30PM	Sissi Dolci, PhD (Univ of Verona) & Chengcheng Jin, PhD (Univ of Pennsylvania)	Innate Immunity

5:30PM – 5:45PM	Jingjing Zhu, PhD (Ludwig Institute) & Yuri Bunimovich, PhD (Univ of Pittsburgh)	<i>Neuro-immune Interactions in Cancer</i>
5:45PM	Final Remarks & Meeting Adjournment	<i>Moran Amit, MD, PhD</i>