

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

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

5:00PM – 5:15PM	<i>Didem Cobanoglu, PhD</i> (MD Anderson Cancer Center) & <i>Karen Dixon, PhD</i> (Univ of Basel)	<i>Adaptive Immunity</i>
5:15PM – 5:30PM	<i>Sissi Dolci, PhD</i> (Univ of Verona) & <i>Chengcheng Jin, PhD</i> (Univ of Pennsylvania)	<i>Innate Immunity</i>
5:30PM – 5:45PM	<i>Jingjing Zhu, PhD</i> (Ludwig Institute) & <i>Yuri Bunimovich, PhD</i> (Univ of Pittsburgh)	<i>Neuro-immune Interactions in Cancer</i>
5:45PM	Final Remarks & Meeting Adjournment	<i>Moran Amit, MD, PhD</i>