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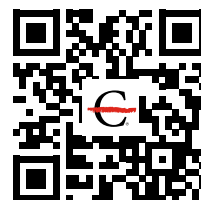
2026 International Cancer Neuroscience Symposium

Feb. 18, 10 a.m. - Feb. 20, 6:00 p.m.

TMC³ Collaborative Building

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
MDAnderson
Cancer Center
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CANCER NEUROSCIENCE SYMPOSIUM 2026
February 18 – 20, 2026
Texas Medical Center, TMC³ Collaborative Building
Houston, TX

DAY 1 of 3: Neurobiology and Neurotoxicity <i>Wednesday, 2/18/26</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</i> <i>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, PhD <i>University of Michigan</i>	
10:40AM – 11:05AM	Jeremy Boringer, PhD <i>Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory</i>	
11:05AM – 11:30AM	Nicole Scheff, PhD <i>University of Pittsburgh</i>	
11:30AM – 11:45AM	Question & Answer Panel	<i>All Session 1 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>	
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>Peter Grace, PhD & Paige Green, PhD</i>
2:15PM – 2:40PM	Jeff Wefel, PhD <i>MD Anderson Cancer Center</i>	
2:40PM – 3:05PM	Teresa Reyes, PhD <i>University of Cincinnati</i>	
3:05PM – 3:30PM	Ellen Lavoie Smith <i>University of Alabama-Birmingham</i>	
3:30PM – 3:55PM	Yi Ye, PhD <i>New York University</i>	
3:55PM – 4:15PM	Question & Answer Panel	<i>All Session 2 Speakers</i>
4:15PM – 4:30PM	BREAK	
4:30PM – 5:15PM	Oral Abstract Competition <i>(Top 4 Chosen Abstracts to Compete; 10 min each)</i>	<i>Moran Amit, MD, PhD & Monty Montano, PhD</i>
5:30PM – 6:15PM	<i>Music performed by Dr. Mei Rui, a classically trained concert pianist & Assistant Professor in Neurosurgery at MD Anderson Cancer Center</i>	

DAY 2 of 3: Neuroimmunology of Cancer Thursday, 2/19/26		
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>	
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 & Séb Talbot, PhD</i>
9:15AM – 9:40AM	Sangeeta Goswami, MD, PhD <i>MD Anderson Cancer Center</i>	
9:40AM – 10:05AM	Elizabeth Repasky, PhD <i>Roswell Park</i>	
10:05AM – 10:30AM	Paola Vermeer, PhD <i>University of South Dakota</i>	
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>	<i>State of the Field in Cancer Neuroimmunology</i>
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>Kerstin Bracchold, PhD, Editor-in-Chief, Advanced Biology</i> <i>Andrew Jobbins, PhD, Deputy Editor, Advanced Science (Neuroscience)</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 & Mckenzie Peshoff, PhD Candidate</i>
1:30PM – 1:55PM	Ekin Demir, MD, PhD <i>Technical University of Munich</i>	
1:55PM – 2:20PM	Leanne Li, MD, PhD <i>Francis Crick Institute</i>	
2:20PM – 2:45PM	Advanced Science Editor <i>Advanced Biology Editor</i>	
2:45PM – 3:05PM	Young Investigator Awardee	
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>	
3:55PM – 4:20PM	Corina Amor, MD, PhD <i>Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory</i>	
4:20PM – 4:45PM	Douglas Hanahan, PhD (Virtual) <i>Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research</i>	
4:45PM – 5:00PM	Question & Answer Panel	<i>All Session Speakers</i>
5:00PM – 6:30PM	Networking Reception “The Checkpoints” Band to perform featuring Nobel Laureate Dr. Jim Allison on harmonica	<i>Sponsored by Wiley Advanced Portfolio</i>

DAY 3 of 3: Neurobehavioral Health and Neural Neoplasms Friday, 2/20/26		
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	
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)	
9:40AM – 10:05AM	Charles Raison, MD University of Wisconsin – Madison	
10:05AM – 10:30AM	Paige A. Green, PhD National Institutes of Health	
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	
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	
2:40PM – 3:05PM	Joseph Costello, PhD University of California San Francisco	
3:05PM – 3:30PM	Shawn Hervey-Jumper, MD, PhD University of California San Francisco	
3:30PM – 3:55PM	Kathryn Taylor, PhD Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center	
3:55PM – 4:15PM	Question & Answer Panel	All Session Speakers
4:15PM – 4:30PM	BREAK	
4:30PM – 5:45PM	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 & Andrew Jobbins, 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	Yue Wu, PhD (Mayo Clinic) & Melinda Müller (Heidelberg Univ)	Electrically Active Tumors
5:00PM – 5:15PM	Didem Cobanglu, PhD (MD Anderson Cancer Center) & Karen Dixon, PhD (Univ of Basel)	Adaptive Immunity

5:15PM – 5:30PM	Sissi Dolci, PhD (Univ of Verona) & Erez Baruch, MD (MD Anderson Cancer Center)	<i>Innate Immunity</i>
5:30PM – 5:45PM	Jingjing Zhu, PhD (Ludwig Institute) & Yuri Bunimovich, PhD (Univ of Pittsburgh)	<i>Neuro-immune Interactions in Cancer</i>
6:00PM	Final Remarks & Meeting Adjournment	<i>Moran Amit, MD, PhD</i>