

CANCER BIOMARKERS

CONFERENCE
VIII

Oct. 23-24, 2026



Scan the QR code or
visit the [registration website](#)

Program Director

Donna E. Hansel, M.D., Ph.D.

Professor of Pathology

Head, Division of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Onstead Auditorium, BSRB S3.8012

6767 Bertner Avenue, Houston, Texas 77030



Overview

The **Cancer Biomarkers Conference VIII** at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center brings together experts in pathology, oncology, molecular diagnostics and translational research to explore the rapidly evolving role of biomarkers in cancer diagnosis, prognosis and therapy selection.

This conference highlights how advances in molecular pathology, artificial intelligence, liquid biopsy technologies and next-generation sequencing are transforming precision oncology. Through expert presentations and interdisciplinary discussion, the meeting provides an interactive forum where clinicians, scientists and laboratory professionals can exchange knowledge and explore strategies to translate biomarker discoveries into improved patient care.

Topics will include:

- Emerging cancer biomarkers in hematologic malignancies and solid tumors, including leukemia, bladder, lung and liver cancers
- Advances in molecular diagnostics, liquid biopsy and next-generation sequencing are shaping precision oncology
- Integration of artificial intelligence and digital pathology in biomarker discovery and diagnostic workflows
- Translational applications of biomarkers in disease monitoring, therapeutic decision-making and targeted treatment strategies
- Implementation of biomarker testing and collaborative innovation between academia and industry to advance precision cancer care

Learning Objectives:

After participating in this conference, learners should be able to:

- Recognize emerging cancer biomarkers and their role in diagnosis, prognosis and treatment selection across multiple cancer types
- Interpret advances in molecular diagnostics and next-generation sequencing to support precision oncology strategies
- Evaluate biomarker-driven therapies and targeted treatments that are shaping modern cancer care
- Assess the growing role of artificial intelligence, digital pathology and translational research in advancing biomarker-guided clinical practice

Target Audience:

This conference is designed for physicians, pathologists, oncologists, advanced practice providers, pharmacists, laboratory professionals, scientists, translational researchers, fellows, residents and other healthcare professionals involved in cancer diagnostics, biomarker discovery, molecular pathology and precision oncology.

The program will also be of interest to biotechnology and pharmaceutical professionals, diagnostic industry leaders, computational scientists, bioinformaticians, digital pathology innovators, artificial intelligence developers and industry partners engaged in the development, validation and implementation of cancer biomarkers, molecular diagnostics, targeted therapies, and biomarker-driven clinical innovation.

Educational Methods:

The conference will include:

- Expert faculty presentations
- Panel discussions
- Interdisciplinary networking and industry engagement opportunities
- Question-and-answer sessions

Evaluation:

Participants will be invited to complete a post-conference evaluation to assess the educational value of the program and its potential impact on clinical practice and patient care. The evaluation will also allow participants to provide feedback on program content, identify future educational needs and report any perceived commercial bias in the presentations.

Accreditation:

Cancer Biomarkers Conference VIII is designed as an educational and scientific forum to facilitate interdisciplinary discussion of emerging advances in cancer biomarkers, molecular diagnostics and precision oncology. Continuing Medical Education (CME) credit is *not being offered* for this activity.

Policy on Disclosure:

Faculty and speakers participating in this activity are asked to disclose any relevant financial relationships with commercial interests. All disclosures will be reviewed and shared with participants to promote transparency and scientific integrity.

Agenda Friday, Oct. 23, 2026

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
11 a.m. – noon	Check in and visit sustaining partners and exhibitors	
Noon – 12:15 p.m.	Welcome	Donna E. Hansel, M.D., Ph.D. UT MD Anderson
12:15 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.	Keynote Address: Integrating Circulating Biomarkers into Lung Cancer Diagnostics	Samir Hanash, M.D., Ph.D. UT MD Anderson
12:45 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.	The Expanding Role of Molecular and Biomarker Applications in Cytopathology	Gloria Sura, M.D. UT MD Anderson
1:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.	Molecular Biomarker Applications for MRD Assessment in Hematological Malignancies	Keyur P. Patel, M.D., Ph.D. UT MD Anderson
1:45 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.	Colon Cancer in Young Patients: Can Microbiome and Molecular Biomarkers Help Detect and Treat?	Suneel Kamath, M.D. Cleveland Clinic
2:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	Break and visit sustaining partners and exhibitors	
2:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	Markers of Early Detection and Therapy in Liver Cancer Patients	Dan G. Duda, D.M.D., Ph.D. Houston Methodist Hospital
3:15 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.	Navigating an Expanding Panel of Molecular and IHC Markers in Renal Cell Carcinoma	Michelle Hirsch, M.D., Ph.D. Brigham and Women's Hospital
3:45 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Panel discussion and wrap Up	
4:30 p.m.	Adjourn	

Agenda
Saturday, Oct. 24, 2026

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.	Check in, breakfast and visit sustaining partners and exhibitors	
8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Importance of Standardizing Preanalytical Variables in Biomarker Applications	Scott Jewell, Ph.D. UT MD Anderson
8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	HER2 Scoring in Cancer: Complexities and Challenges Across Cancer Types	Kurt Schalper, M.D., Ph.D. Yale
9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	A Contemporary Analysis of Brain Tumor Biomarkers for Diagnosis and Treatment with Discussion of DNA Methylation Profiling for Tumor Classification	Maria Gubbiotti, M.D., Ph.D. UT MD Anderson
9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Biomarkers from the Oncologist's Perspective: Opportunities for Enhancement	Paul Corn, M.D. UT MD Anderson
10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Break and visit sustaining partners and exhibitors	
10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Proteomics-Driven Discovery of Cancer Biomarkers and Therapeutic Targets	Bing Zhang, Ph.D. Baylor College of Medicine
11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Evolving Molecular Classification of Endometrial Carcinoma	Preetha Ramalingam, M.D. UT MD Anderson
11:30 a.m. – noon	Emerging Biomarkers in the Diagnosis and Treatment of Lung Cancer	Alain Borczuk, M.D. Northwell Health
Noon – 12:30 p.m.	Panel discussion	
12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch and visit sustaining partners and exhibitors	

Agenda

Saturday, Oct. 24, 2026

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Centralized Pathology and Biomarker Analysis: COG Experience in AML	Michele Redell, M.D., Ph.D. Texas Children’s Hospital
2:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Evolving Biomarkers in Pancreatic Cancer Classification and Therapy	Huamin Wang, M.D., Ph.D. UT MD Anderson
2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Use of AI in Biomarker Readouts	Andrew Sohn, M.D. UT MD Anderson
3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Break and visit sustaining partners and exhibitors	
3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Panel discussion and day two wrap up	
4:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.	Final remarks and adjournment	
4:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.	Reception	

Faculty Presenters

CBC-VIII Program Director

Donna E. Hansel, M.D., Ph.D.

Professor, Head of Pathology &
Laboratory Medicine
UT MD Anderson Cancer Center

Alain Borczuke, M.D.

Professor
Northwell Health

Paul Corn, M.D.

Professor, Chair
GU Medical Oncology
UT MD Anderson Cancer Center

Dan G. Duda, D.M.D., Ph.D.

Professor of Surgery
Weill Medical College
Scientific Director of Transplant
Oncology and Therapeutics
Houston Methodist Research
Institute.

Maria Gubbiotti, M.D., Ph.D.

Assistant Professor
UT MD Anderson Cancer Center

Samir Hanash, M.D., Ph.D.

Professor
Clinical Cancer Prevention
UT MD Anderson Cancer Center

Scott Jewell, Ph.D.

Professor, Deputy Division Head
Tissue Utilization & Biorepositories
UT MD Anderson Cancer Center

Michelle Hirsch, M.D., Ph.D.

Professor
Brigham and Woman's Hospital
Harvard Medical School

Suneel Kamath, M.D.

Assistant Professor
Cleveland Clinic

Keyur P. Patel, M.D., Ph.D.

Professor
UT MD Anderson Cancer Center

Preetha Ramalingam, M.D.

Professor
UT MD Anderson Cancer Center

Michele Redell, M.D., Ph.D.

Professor
Baylor College of Medicine
Texas Children's

Kurt Schalper, M.D., Ph.D.

Associate Professor
Director, Translational Immuno-
oncology Laboratory
Yale Cancer Center

Andrew Sohn, M.D.

Assistant Professor
UT MD Anderson Cancer Center

Gloria Sura, M.D.

Assistant Professor
UT MD Anderson Cancer Center

Huamin Wang, M.D., Ph.D.

Professor
UT MD Anderson Cancer Center

Bing Zhang, Ph.D.

Professor
Molecular and Human Genetics
Baylor College of Medicine

Advisory Committee

Sadhna Dhingra, M.B.B.S.

Professor
Houston Methodist

Kevin Fisher, M.D., Ph.D.

Associate Professor
Texas Children's
Baylor College of Medicine

Shashikant Kulkarni, M.B.B.S., Ph.D.

Professor, Deputy Division Head
Molecular Pathology & Cytogenetics
UT MD Anderson Cancer Center

Bob McGonnagle, B.A.

Annikka Weissferdt, M.D.

Professor
UT MD Anderson Cancer Center

Event Coordinators

Kareen Chin, Ed.D.

UT MD Anderson Cancer Center

Jeff Mize, MBA, CPA

UT MD Anderson Cancer Center

Registration Information

Registration for the **Cancer Biomarkers Conference (CBC)** is now open at the following [link](#). The Conference will begin at 11 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 23, and conclude at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 24, 2026.

Advanced registration deadline is Monday, Aug. 31, 2026.

Registration fees:

- Healthcare professional and guests:
 \$250 before Aug. 31, 2026
 \$400 after Aug. 31, 2026
- Trainees: Free (verification required)
- Exhibitor: Please contact Kareen Chin at KEChin@mdanderson.org or Jeff Mize at JMize@mdanderson.org

We accept the following forms of payment:

- Credit cards (MasterCard, Visa and American Express)
- Check (payable to The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center; U.S. banks only)

Mail checks to:

MD Anderson Cancer Center
P.O. Box 4390
Houston, Texas 77210-4390

When registering online, a confirmation email will be sent automatically. UT MD Anderson reserves the right to cancel the activity before the scheduled date due to low enrollment or other circumstances. In such cases, registrants will be notified by mail, email, or phone using the contact information provided during registration. In the event of cancellation, the liability is limited to the registration fee. The CBC organizers also reserve the right to limit the number of participants in the activity and are not responsible for any expenses incurred by an individual whose registration is not confirmed.

Location: UT MD Anderson Cancer Center

Mitchell Building (BSRB), Floor 3, Onstead Auditorium (S3.8012)
6767 Bertner Avenue, Houston, Texas 77030

Parking Garage: 6550 Bertner Avenue (McGovern Commons). The entrance is located between the waterfalls. Park on any level and take the elevator to **Level 1**.

Refund/Cancellation Policy: The registration fee, minus a \$75 administrative handling fee, is refundable if a written request is received on or before **Thursday, Oct. 1, 2026**. No refunds will be granted after that date.

Accommodations

Conference attendees may reserve accommodations at a rate of **\$179 per night** for a standard guest room (exclusive of state and local taxes) at:

InterContinental Houston – Medical Center

6750 Main Street, Houston, Texas 77030

Book online: [2026 Cancer Biomarkers Conference, University of TX MD Anderson Cancer Center](#)

Phone: (713) 422-2779

Attendees are encouraged to make reservations early, as room availability and rates are subject to hotel availability.

Additional Area Hotel

Houston Marriott Medical Center/Museum District

6580 Fannin Street, Houston, Texas 77030

Phone: (713) 796-0080 or Toll-Free: (800) 228-9290

Website: Marriott.com/Houmc

Transportation

Houston is served by two airports:

- George Bush Intercontinental (IAH)
- William P. Hobby (HOU)

Ground transportation options to and from both airports include rideshare services such as Uber and Lyft.

Houston Dining Recommendations for Visitors

Houston offers an exceptional mix of nationally recognized restaurants, local favorites, and newly celebrated culinary destinations. The resources below highlight award-winning dining, trending hotspots, and recently opened restaurants across the city:

- [Here's How Houston Did at the 2025 Michelin Ceremony](#)
- [The Best New Restaurants in Houston, June 2026](#)

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center requires all individuals responsible for the content of an educational activity to disclose any relevant financial relationships with commercial interests that could influence the presented content. Additionally, all faculty members must disclose any off-label or investigational use of pharmaceutical or medical device products that are not approved for any purpose. These disclosures will be shared with participants before the educational activity begins.

The agenda is subject to change as we continually strive to enhance the quality of the educational experience. MD Anderson reserves the right to substitute faculty with comparable expertise in the event of illness, scheduling conflicts, or other unforeseen circumstances.

Audio and video recording are not permitted.



Join Us for the 2026 Cancer Biomarkers Conference VIII

Secure Your Spot Today

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We look forward to welcoming you to an engaging and
impactful conference experience