

**CANCER  
BIOMARKERS  
CONFERENCE  
VIII**

**October 23-24, 2026**

**Program Director**

Donna E. Hansel, MD, PhD

Professor of Pathology

Head, Division of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

**MD Anderson Cancer Center**

Onstead Auditorium, BSRB S3.8012

6767 Bertner Avenue, Houston, Texas 77030



**Scan the QR code or visit:**

<https://mdanderson.cloud-cme.com/2026CancerBiomarkers>



## **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, October 23, 2026**

<b>TIME</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>SPEAKER</b>
11:00-12:00	<b>Check In and Visit Sustaining Partners &amp; Exhibitors</b>	
12:00-12:15	<b>Welcome</b>	Donna E. Hansel, MD, PhD UT MD Anderson
12:15-12:45	<b>Keynote Address:</b> Integrating Circulating Biomarkers into Lung Cancer Diagnostics	Samir Hanash, MD, PhD UT MD Anderson
12:45-01:15	The Expanding Role of Molecular and Biomarker Applications in Cytopathology	Gloria Sura, MD UT MD Anderson
01:15-01:45	Molecular Biomarker Applications for MRD Assessment in Hematological Malignancies	Keyur P. Patel, MD, PhD UT MD Anderson
01:45-02:15	Colon Cancer in Young Patients: Can Microbiome and Molecular Biomarkers Help Detect and Treat?	Suneel Kamath, MD Cleveland Clinic
02:15-02:45	<b>Break and Visit Sustaining Partners &amp; Exhibitors</b>	
02:45-03:15	Markers of Early Detection and Therapy in Liver Cancer Patients	Dan G. Duda, DMD, PhD Houston Methodist Hospital
03:15-03:45	Navigating an Expanding Panel of Molecular and IHC Markers in Renal Cell Carcinoma	Michelle Hirsch, MD, PhD Brigham and Women’s Hospital
03:45-04:30	<b>Panel Discussion / Day 1 Wrap Up</b>	
04:30	<b>Adjourn</b>	

### Agenda Saturday, October 24, 2026

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
07:00-08:00	<b>Check In, Breakfast, and Visit Sustaining Partners &amp; Exhibitors</b>	
08:00-08:30	Importance of Standardizing Preanalytical Variables in Biomarker Applications	Scott Jewell, PhD UT MD Anderson
08:30-09:00	HER2 Scoring in Cancer: Complexities and Challenges Across Cancer Types	Kurt Schalper, MD PhD Yale
09:00-09:30	A Contemporary Analysis of Brain Tumor Biomarkers for Diagnosis and Treatment with Discussion of DNA Methylation Profiling for Tumor Classification	Maria Gubbiotti, MD, PhD UT MD Anderson
09:30-10:00	Biomarkers from the Oncologist's Perspective: Opportunities for Enhancement	Paul Corn, MD UT MD Anderson
10:00-10:30	<b>Break and Visit Sustaining Partners &amp; Exhibitors</b>	
10:30-11:00	Proteomics-Driven Discovery of Cancer Biomarkers and Therapeutic Targets	Bing Zhang, PhD Baylor College of Medicine
11:00-11:30	Evolving Molecular Classification of Endometrial Carcinoma	Preetha Ramalingam, MD UT MD Anderson
11:30-12:00	Emerging Biomarkers in the Diagnosis and Treatment of Lung Cancer	Alain Borczuk, MD Northwell Health
12:00-12:30	<b>Panel Discussion</b>	
12:30-01:30	<b>Lunch and Visit Sustaining Partners &amp; Exhibitors</b>	

**Agenda**  
**Saturday, October 24, 2026**

<b>TIME</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>SPEAKER</b>
01:30-02:00	Centralized Pathology and Biomarker Analysis: COG Experience in AML	Michele Redell, MD, PhD Texas Children's Hospital
02:00-02:30	Evolving Biomarkers in Pancreatic Cancer Classification and Therapy	Huamin Wang, MD, PhD UT MD Anderson
02:30-03:00	Use of AI in Biomarker Readouts	Andrew Sohn, MD UT MD Anderson
03:00-03:30	<b>Break and Visit Sustaining Partners &amp; Exhibitors</b>	
03:30-04:00	<b>Panel Discussion / Day 2 Wrap Up</b>	
04:00-04:15	<b>Final Remarks / Adjournment</b>	
04:15-05:15	<b>Reception</b>	

## Faculty Presenters

### **CBC-VIII Program Director**

#### **Donna E. Hansel, MD, PhD**

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

#### **Alain Borczuke, MD**

Professor  
Northwell Health

#### **Paul Corn, MD**

Professor, Chair  
GU Medical Oncology  
UT MD Anderson Cancer Center

#### **Dan G. Duda, DMD, PhD**

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

#### **Maria Gubbiotti, MD, PhD**

Assistant Professor  
UT MD Anderson Cancer Center

#### **Samir Hanash, MD, PhD**

Professor  
Clinical Cancer Prevention  
UT MD Anderson Cancer Center

#### **Scott Jewell, PhD**

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

#### **Michelle Hirsch, MD, PhD**

Professor  
Brigham and Woman's Hospital  
Harvard Medical School

#### **Suneel Kamath, MD**

Assistant Professor  
The Cleveland Clinic

#### **Keyur P. Patel, MD, PhD**

Professor  
UT MD Anderson Cancer Center

#### **Preetha Ramalingam, MD**

Professor  
UT MD Anderson Cancer Center

#### **Michele Redell, MD, PhD**

Professor  
Baylor College of Medicine  
Texas Children's

#### **Kurt Schalper, MD, PhD**

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

#### **Andrew Sohn, MD**

Assistant Professor  
UT MD Anderson Cancer Center

#### **Gloria Sura, MD**

Assistant Professor  
UT MD Anderson Cancer Center

#### **Huamin Wang, MD, PhD**

Professor  
UT MD Anderson Cancer Center

#### **Bing Zhang, PhD**

Professor  
Molecular and Human Genetics  
Baylor College of Medicine

## Advisory Committee

#### **Sadhna Dhingra, MBBS**

Professor  
Houston Methodist

#### **Kevin Fisher, MD, PhD**

Associate Professor  
Texas Children's  
Baylor College of Medicine

#### **Shashikant Kulkarni, MBBS, PhD**

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

#### **Bob McGonnagle, BA**

#### **Annikka Weissferdt, MD**

Professor  
UT MD Anderson Cancer Center

## Event Coordinators

#### **Kareen Chin, EdD**

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 [www.mdanderson.2026CancerBiomarkers](http://www.mdanderson.2026CancerBiomarkers). The Conference will begin at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, October 23, and conclude at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 24, 2026.

**Advanced registration deadline is Monday August 31, 2026.**

### Registration Fees:

- Healthcare Professional and Guests:  
    \$250.00 (Before August 31, 2026)  
    \$400.00 (After August 31, 2026)
- Trainees: Free (verification required)
- Exhibitor: Please contact Kareen Chin at [kechin@mdanderson.org](mailto:kechin@mdanderson.org) or Jeff Mize at [jmize@mdanderson.org](mailto: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:

#### Division of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

**Unit 0085, Room G1.3540 – Attn: Jeff Mize**

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center  
1515 Holcombe Blvd.  
Houston, Texas 77030

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, TX 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, October 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, TX 77030

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

**Website:** <https://www.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**

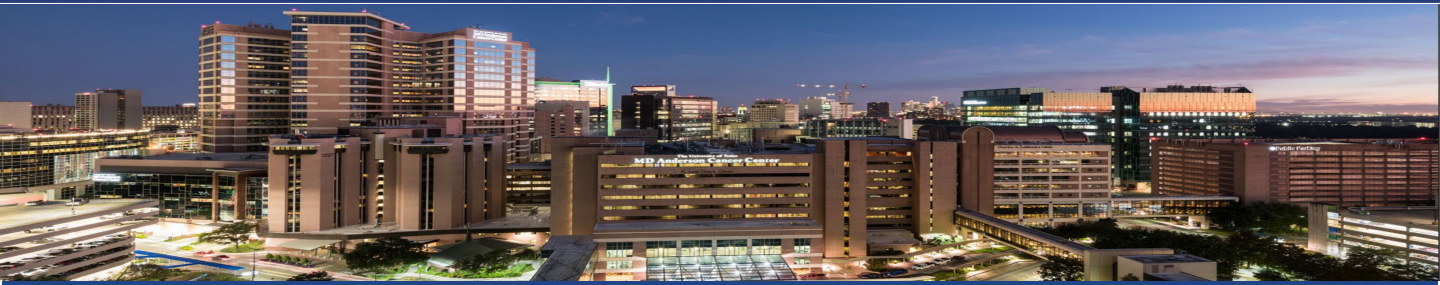
Houston offers an exceptional mix of nationally recognized restaurants, local favorites, and newly celebrated culinary destinations. The resources below highlight award-winning dining, trending hotspots, and recently opened restaurants across the city:

- <https://houston.eater.com/restaurant-news/84260/houston-2025-Michelin>
- <https://houston.eater.com/maps/houston-best-new-restaurants-heatmap>

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**

Scan the QR code or visit:

<https://mdanderson.cloud-cme.com/2026CancerBiomarkers>



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