

Science Meets Industry Day '26

Biosketches of industry participants

Connecting platform DKFZ • DKTK • companies • vfa

19th / 20th October 2026 – Heidelberg



Dr. Niko Andre

Head of Oncology & Haematology, AstraZeneca Germany



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1. Research-focus of my organisation (company, institution/team, ..)

- ADCs, radioconjugates and next-generation immunotherapies.
- Cell therapies, T-cell engagers and combination therapies.

2. Where would I personally like to have future interactions of this partnership within the oncology field?

- Academia–industry partnerships to strengthen Germany as a location for cancer R&D.
- Shared clinical and data infrastructure to accelerate translation.
- Earlier alignment on evidence, funding and routes to patient access.

3. My personal goal for this meeting

- Agree on priorities for translating science into patient benefit.
- Remove barriers and hurdles for true collaboration

Dr. Ann-Marie Bröske

Group Head Translational Biomarker Strategy, pRED Oncology, Roche



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1. Research-focus of my organisation (company, institution/team, ..)

- I am part of Roche Pharma Research and Early Development and my team is responsible for early clinical biomarker development to drive decision-making biomarker strategies—including patient enrichment, mode of action, dose optimization, and companion diagnostics—from early discovery through phase 3 development.

2. Where would I personally like to have future interactions of this partnership within the oncology field?

- My company interests are in the following tumor types: Breast, Lung, Malignant haematology (including multiple myeloma (MM), lymphoma, acute myeloid leukemia (AML)), Transformative therapies in other indications - notably including colorectal cancer (CRC), prostate, bladder
- We are interested in innovative therapies as well as novel biomarkers

3. My personal goal for this meeting

- Identify areas for future collaborations

Dr. Bernd Bruns

Collaboration Manager M20 Genomics



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1. Research-focus of my organisation (company, institution/team, ..)

- M20 Genomics develops innovative single-cell RNA-sequencing technologies, without the associated limitations, enabling to better understand cancer biology in single-cell resolution and support translational oncology research.

2. Where would I personally like to have future interactions of this partnership within the oncology field?

- With scientists and researching physicians working on tumour heterogeneity, therapy resistance and treatment response, to explore opportunities for collaborative research.

3. My personal goal for this meeting

- To connect with science leaders, identify shared interests and raise awareness regarding current technological possibilities. Subsequently initiate partnerships that accelerate translational oncology research and help bridge the gap between scientific discovery and patient benefit.

Dr. Chris Eberl

Associate Director Omics Innovation, GSK



GSK

 **cellzome**

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1. Research-focus of my team

- Explore, identify, enable access to new technologies, biological samples, and scientific knowledge through external collaborations

2. Where would I personally like to have future interactions of this partnership within the oncology field?

- Exchange early on emerging technologies and capabilities in oncology to identify collaboration options for joint projects

3. My personal goal for this meeting

- Build trust and contacts with potential partners as the basis for future collaborations

Dr. Henrik Hammarén

Scientific Leader, GSK



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1. Research-focus of my organisation (company, institution/team, ..)

- Applying omics methodologies, in particular proteomics and metabolomics, to projects across the drug discovery process from target identification through to characterization of therapeutic molecules. Particular focus on oncology.

2. Where would I personally like to have future interactions of this partnership within the oncology field?

- Novel approaches to multimodal disease characterization
- Target identification
- Development and application of various drug modalities: ADCs, glues, bivalent molecules, oligos

3. My personal goal for this meeting

- Get an overview of the ongoing work and actors in the area.

Dr. Maike Kober Hasslacher

Lead Innovation Manager, Merck



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1. Research-focus of my organisation (company, institution/team, ..)

- As a vibrant science and technology company, we believe in science as a force for good. We uniquely combine three specialized, innovation-driven businesses: Life Science, Healthcare and, Electronics.
- Our Team's flagship initiatives are: Future Insight Prize, Innovation Cup, Curious – Future Insight conference & Research Grants.

2. Where would I personally like to have future interactions of this partnership within the oncology field?

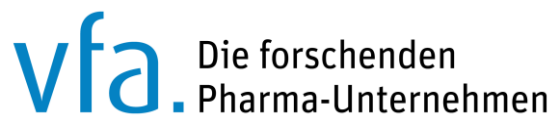
- Within the Healthcare sector, we focus our R&D efforts on Immunology, Immuno-Oncology and Oncology. In addition to the HC pipeline, we deliver growth for our existing fertility, immunology, and oncology franchises.

3. My personal goal for this meeting

- Building bridges to explore academia-industry collaborations

Dr. Tim Flink

Managing Research Policy



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1. Research-focus of my organisation (company, institution/team, ..)

- Provide science and business leaders (amongst vfa members) with a new connecting platform to intensify partnerships and close the translational gap.

2. Where would I personally like to have future interactions of this partnership within the oncology field?

- In partnerships at the intersection of preclinical, translational and clinical research
- Translate common industrial & public R&D needs into policy recommendations

3. My personal goal for this meeting

- Bring R&D experts together, learning about cutting-edge development, successfully moderating a session

Sabine Fröhlich

Site Engagement Lead, Clinical Study Unit, Sanofi



sanofi

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1. Research-focus of my organisation

- Sanofi focuses on discovering and developing innovative medicines across multiple therapeutic areas to address significant unmet medical needs and improve health outcomes worldwide

2. Where would I personally like to have future interactions of this partnership within the oncology field?

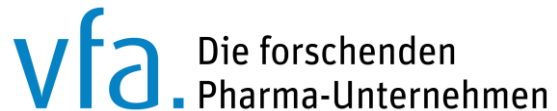
- I would like to strengthen collaborations with leading cancer centers, supporting clinical trial readiness and patient access, and fostering the exchange of scientific insights to help accelerate the development of therapies for patients with cancer

3. My personal goal for this meeting

- My goal is to support partnerships that help bring innovative oncology solutions to patients faster

Arbresha Hoti

Manager Health Policy, vfa



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1. Research-focus of my organisation (company, institution/team, ..)

- Foster collaboration between science and business leaders among vfa members and patient representatives, strengthen partnerships, and integrate patient perspectives into research and innovation to help bridge the translational gap.

2. Where would I personally like to have future interactions of this partnership within the oncology field?

- Strengthen collaboration between industry, research, and patient representatives in oncology.
- Identify barriers and opportunities for meaningful patient involvement throughout the research process.

3. My personal goal for this meeting

- Building bridges to explore academia-industry collaborations
- Exchange perspectives with industry, research, and patient representatives to identify opportunities for future collaboration in oncology research.

Dr. David Liesenfeld

Medical Group Lead Hematology&Oncology – Roche Pharma AG, Germany



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Research-focus of my organisation (company, institution/team, ..)

- The Medical Organization of Roche in Germany is primarily responsible for clinical trials involving products that are already on the market as well as Phase II-III trials.
- At the same time, we establish a vital connection and interface to early-phase research.

Where would I personally like to have future interactions of this partnership within the oncology field?

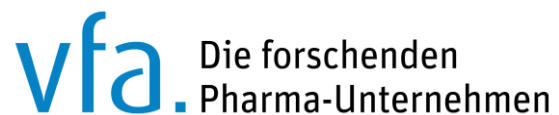
- I would like to use these interactions to strengthen the bridge between early drug research, late-stage clinical development, and post-marketing.
- Furthermore, I want to leverage my upcoming role as the designated Spokesperson of Section C and Board Member of the German Cancer Society (starting in December 2026) to further expand cross-industry and cross-institutional partnerships in oncology.

My personal goal for this meeting

- To build valuable networks and foster discussions on how research findings from early phases can be optimally and rapidly translated into late-stage trials and patient care.

Dr. Matthias Meergans

Head Research Policy, vfa



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1. Research-focus of my organisation (company, institution/team, ..)

- Provide science and business leaders (amongst vfa members) with a new connecting platform to intensify partnerships and close the translational gap.

2. Where would I personally like to have future interactions of this partnership within the oncology field?

- Share respective research focus in oncology to open opportunities for scientific / business partnerships
- Identify needs/barriers that we have to meet/overcome in Germany as a country for research along the entire value chain up to patients' benefits.

3. My personal goal for this meeting

- Build trust and bridges among partners; provide strategic frame for future partnering and successful R&D activities

Karin Mitosch

PhD, Cellzome/GSK



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1. Research-focus of my organisation (company, institution/team, ..)

- Discovery and development of innovative therapies for oncology
- Proteomics and metabolomics approaches

2. Where would I personally like to have future interactions of this partnership within the oncology field?

- Integration of patient-derived samples into early drug discovery
- Exploration of novel therapeutic modalities
- Understanding mechanisms of drug response and resistance

3. My personal goal for this meeting

- Build new scientific connections and identify potential areas for collaboration
- Learn about innovative approaches and technologies at DKFZ

Dr. Emilia Neuwirt

CEO & Co-Founder, EMUNO Therapeutics GmbH



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1. Research-focus of my organisation (company, institution/team, ..)

- Our vision at EMUNO is to restore immune balance through precise control. We develop drugs that fine-tune specific immune responses. Our lead asset, EMT-224, activates macrophages to induce controlled inflammation, turning cold tumors hot while maintaining balanced immune activation.

2. Where would I personally like to have future interactions of this partnership within the oncology field?

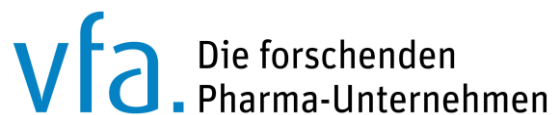
- I would like to see this partnership create opportunities to engage with Key Opinion Leaders in oncology, facilitate scientific exchange, and explore potential R&D and clinical collaborations.

3. My personal goal for this meeting

- Build novel relationships, engage scientific exchange and explore potential future partnering and collaborative R&D activities.

Han Steutel

President, vfa



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1. Research-focus of my organisation (company, institution/team, ..)

- Providing science and business leaders across research based pharmaceutical companies with a collaborative platform to intensify public-private partnerships, foster biopharmaceutical innovation, and bridge the translational gap in Germany.

2. Where would I personally like to have future interactions of this partnership within the oncology field?

- Exchanging strategic research priorities in oncology to unlock novel scientific and business collaboration opportunities.

3. My personal goal for this meeting

- Building long-term trust, fostering cross-sectoral dialogue, and establishing a robust strategic framework to enable sustainable partnering and impactful biopharma R&D in oncology.

Dr. Masakatsu Suzuki

Head, Daiichi Sankyo Research Institute Munich



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1. Research-focus of my organisation (company, institution/team, ..)

- Our areas of interest include oncology, cardiovascular disease, immunological disease, respiratory disease, neurodegenerative disease, ophthalmic disease and drug discovery/modality-related technologies:

[Daiichi Sankyo Areas of Interest](#)

2. Where would I personally like to have future interactions of this partnership within the oncology field?

- Identify mutual interest within the following field: tumor-specific binders & multispecific antibodies, immuno-oncology & tumor microenvironment, modalities & targeting, cancer disease models, and biomarkers & diagnostic technologies

3. My personal goal for this meeting

- Network building for research collaboration/sponsored research

Szilvia Tarjanyi

Business Development Manager, analyze & realize-Biofortis Group



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1. Research-focus of my organisation (company, institution/team, ..)

- Clinical research and clinical trial management
- Biostatistics, scientific substantiation and regulatory strategy

2. Where would I personally like to have future interactions of this partnership within the oncology field?

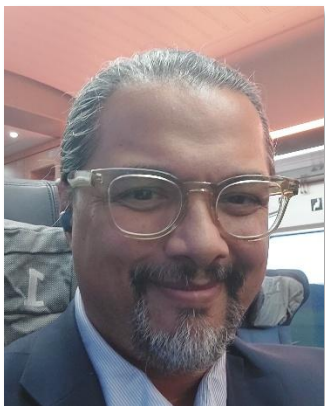
- Collaboration with academic oncology groups, clinical researchers and biotech companies
- Supporting translational research by helping bridge preclinical findings and clinical evidence generation
- Exploring collaborations in supportive care, nutrition and microbiome-related research in oncology

3. My personal goal for this meeting

To establish industry and academic partnerships and identify potential clinical research collaborations.

Okan Zaba, MD

Medical Engagement Lead, Hematology/Oncology, BMS Deutschland GmbH



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1. Research-focus of my organisation (company, institution/team, ..)

- The whole spectrum of hard-to-treat solid and hematologic cancers is in scope
- Cellular therapies, ADCs, CELMoDs and Bispecific Antibodies are currently forming the backbone of our pipeline and therefore are our research focus.

2. Where would I personally like to have future interactions of this partnership within the oncology field?

- Evaluate and discuss overlapping research interests with the potential for synergy.
- Identify current barriers for intensified collaboration.

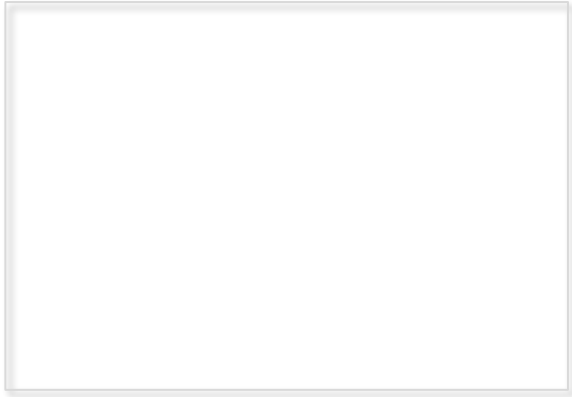
3. My personal goal for this meeting

- Build connections to potential new partners for successful R&D activities
- Explore new ways of collaboration between academia and industry

Gerhard Zugmaier, MD, PhD

Professor of Medicine

Amgen Research Munich



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1. Research-focus of my organisation (company, institution/team, ..)

➤ T cell engager therapy

2. Where would I personally like to have future interactions of this partnership within the oncology field?

➤ Find synergism between academia and industry

3. My personal goal for this meeting

➤ Increase my network