



DKFZ/NCT/DKTK HARPOON 2026

Cutting-Edge Precision Oncology:
Innovation. Impact. Insights.

Heidelberg Congress Center (HCC), Czernyring 20, Heidelberg

AGENDA

Thursday, Nov 5 | 9 am – 4.45 pm

08.30 – 09.00	Registration & Coffee
09.00 – 09.15	Welcome Stefan Fröhling (NCT & DKFZ Heidelberg)
09.15 – 10.35	Session 1 Recent Developments in Multilayered Tumor Profiling Chairs: Corinna Keup & Anja Riediger NCT Heidelberg Eva Schäfer NCT & DKFZ Heidelberg Exploring the Therapeutic Potential of Expression-Based Targets in Rare Cancers Alexander Beck LMU and Bavarian Biotech GmbH, Munich Therapeutic Epitope Accessibility: A New Functional Layer for Precision Oncology Bernd Bodenmiller University of Zurich, ETH Zurich Highly multiplexed imaging of tissues with subcellular resolution by imaging mass cytometry Klaus Pantel University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf Liquid Biopsy: From discovery to clinical implementation
10.35 – 11.20	Coffee Break
11.20 – 12.40	Session 2 Basic and Translational Research Guided by Clinical Discovery Chair: Claudia Scholl DKFZ Heidelberg Theresa Bunse UMM Mannheim, DKFZ Heidelberg Evaluation of glioma-specific T cells for therapeutic use Jens Kleesiek University Hospital Essen Operationalizing Clinical AI Sonja Loges DKFZ Hector Cancer Institute at the University Medical Center Mannheim Sex differences in response to cancer immune therapy in NSCLC and beyond Kendra Maaß Hopp Children's Cancer Center (KiTZ), Heidelberg Liquid Biopsies @KiTZ: Early Diagnosis, Therapy Monitoring and Surveillance
12.40 – 13.00	Special Feature: Natalie Jäger DKFZ and Epignostix GmbH, Heidelberg AI-powered models for cancer diagnostics: methylation-based precision tumor profiling Chair: TBA
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch Break
14.00 – 14.40	Keynote: Ken Herrmann University of Duisburg-Essen and DKTK – University Hospital Essen From Diagnosis to Destruction: The Power of Radioligand Therapeutics in Cancer Treatment. Chair: TBA
14.00 – 15.00	Patient Advocacy: Julien Frick Patient Research Council NCT Heidelberg Martina Schmidt DKFZ and NCT Heidelberg Profiling the Host: PROMs and Patient Perspective in Precision Oncology Chair: Simon Kreutzfeldt NCT Heidelberg
15.00 – 15.20	Flash Talks Chair: Maximilian Werner NCT Dresden Timon Blindauer (DKFZ HD) Mark Hartmann (DKFZ HD) Rayan Hassaine (Hartwig Medical Foundation) Sarah Masser (DKFZ HD) Charlotte Orschel (UK Köln) Sophie Roerink (Hartwig Medical Foundation) Lenja Voigt (NCT Dresden) Johanna Wagner (DKFZ HD) Federico Zingarelli (University of Bologna)
15.20 – 16.05	Coffee Break
16.05 – 16.45	Keynote: Jonathan Fletcher Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Boston TBA Chair: Stefan Fröhling NCT & DKFZ Heidelberg
16.45 – 19.00	Dinner & Drinks Networking
19.30	OPTIONAL: Get-together at MEDOCS Heidelberg Drinks & food at own expense



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Friday, Nov 6 | 9 am – 3.10 pm

08.30 – 09.00	Registration & Coffee
09.00 – 10.20	Session 3 Clinical Trials Guided by Basic and Translational Research Chair: Christophe Massard Gustave Roussy Cancer Center, Villejuif Irene Brana VHIO, Barcelona TBA Wolfgang Herr University Clinic Regensburg Translational research continuum at the NCT WERA site Regensburg Nana Talvard-Balland University Medical Center Freiburg Exploiting mechanisms of immune escape for therapeutic targeting in AML Marcel Trefny LMU, Munich Improving CAR T cell immunotherapy through enhanced migration and persistence
10.20 – 11.00	Coffee Break
11.00 – 12.20	Session 4 New Horizons in the Analysis of Molecular and Clinical Information Chair: Daniel Hübschmann NCT Heidelberg & DKFZ Santiago Demajo IRB Barcelona Cancer Genome Interpreter: Translating Cancer Driver Identification into Precision Oncology TBA TBA TBA Lena Maier-Hein DKFZ and NCT Heidelberg, University Heidelberg Failing forward in medical imaging AI Julien Vibert / Hakim Benkirane Gustave Roussy Cancer Center / CentraleSupélec, PRISM Institute Leveraging AI to better understand and treat sarcomas and rare cancers
12.20 – 12.40	Special Feature: Christophe Massard Gustave Roussy Cancer Center, Villejuif New drugs in 2030 Chair: Julien Vibert Gustave Roussy Cancer Center, Villejuif
12.40 – 13.40	Lunch Break
13.40 – 14.20	Selected Talks Chair: Maximilian Werner NCT Dresden Christopher Deacon University of Nottingham Single-Assay Multilayered Profiling of Soft-Tissue Sarcoma: Rapid Fusion Detection and Methylation Classification with Adaptive Nanopore Sequencing Ahmed Sadik DKFZ Heidelberg Laconis-DiffRx, a foundation model based classifier that predicts immunotherapy resistance from routine H&E sections in brain tumors.
14.20 – 15.00	Keynote: Nada Jabado McGill University, Montréal Oncohistones: How Polycomb Dereglulation, Genome Architecture and Metabolic Reprogramming Lock Malignant Cell States Chair: TBA
15.00 – 15.10	Farewell Closing Words
15.10 – 15.30	Coffee Networking