Harpoon

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
	Ahmed Sadik | DKFZ Heidelberg Laconis-DiffRx, a foundation model based classifier that predicts immunotherapy resistance from routine H&E sections in brain tumors.
	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: Marc Zapatka | NCT Heidelberg & DKFZ
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: Hanno Glimm | NCT Dresden
14.40 – 15.00	**Patient Advocacy: Julien Frick** | Patient Research Council NCT Heidelberg **Martina Schmidt** | NCT Heidelberg & DKFZ 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
	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 Dreden) **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 Tackling Genomic Integrity and Persistence: Pathways to Cures in GIST Chair: Stefan Fröhling | NCT Heidelberg & DKFZ
16.45 – 19.00	**Dinner & Drinks | Networking**
19.30	**OPTIONAL: Get-together at MEDOCS Heidelberg** *Welcome drink included (everything else on your expense)*

dkfz. GERMAN CANCER RESEARCH CENTER IN THE HELMHOLTZ ASSOCIATION

NCT NATIONAL CENTER FOR TUMOR DISEASES

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MONIKA KUTZNER STIFTUNG

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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 CCE_Baskets of Baskets: integrating genomically guided therapy in solid tumors
	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
	Wolfgang Huber | EMBL Heidelberg Making the most of single-cell resolution omics assays
	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: Peter Horak | NCT Heidelberg & UKHD
	Christopher Deacon | University of Nottingham Single-Assay Multilayered Profiling of Soft-Tissue Sarcoma: Rapid Fusion Detection and Methylation Classification with Adaptive Nanopore Sequencing
	Jens Kleesiek | University Hospital Essen Operationalizing Clinical AI
14.20 – 15.00	**Keynote: Nada Jabado** | McGill University, Montréal Oncohistones: How Polycomb Deregulation, Genome Architecture and Metabolic Reprogramming Lock Malignant Cell States Chair: Maria-Veronica Teleanu | NCT Heidelberg & UKHD
15.00 – 15.10	**Farewell | Closing Words**
15.10 – 15.30	**Coffee | Networking**

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