Welcome Message

The American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) warmly welcomes you to AACR on Campus Colombia (Bogota and Cali). We are pleased to bring this program to Colombia and to engage with researchers, clinicians, and trainees who are advancing cancer research and care across the country and the broader region.

Founded in 1907, the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) is the world's first and largest professional organization dedicated to advancing cancer research and its mission to prevent and cure cancer. AACR membership includes more than 61,000 laboratory, translational, and clinical researchers; population scientists; other health care professionals; and patient advocates residing in 143 countries and territories around the world. Presently, 34% of members live outside the United States and 20% of AACR's international members are located in countries building cancer research capacity. The AACR marshals the full spectrum of expertise of the cancer community to accelerate progress in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer by annually convening more than 30 conferences and educational workshops, the largest of which is the AACR Annual Meeting.

The AACR on Campus (AACRoC) program is designed to extend AACR's educational mission directly to institutions and regions where strengthening research capacity and supporting early-career investigators are priorities. These programs provide access to cutting-edge science, global expertise, mentorship, and practical professional development. AACRoC Colombia reflects AACR's commitment to fostering local talent, encouraging international collaboration, and supporting sustainable growth in cancer research and innovation.

Throughout this program, participants will engage with leading international and regional experts on scientific topics that are shaping the future of oncology, including Digital Pathology and Implementation Science. Complementing the scientific sessions, professional development workshops focus on essential skills such as Grant Writing and Grantsmanship, Scholarly Publishing in AACR Journals, and Poster Competition. Two Best Poster Prize winners from each location will be awarded USD $2,500 to support attendance at the 2027 AACR Annual Meeting.

Participants are encouraged to take full advantage of AACRoC Colombia program by actively engaging in discussions, sharing perspectives, and building connections with faculty and peers. Collaboration, knowledge exchange, and mentorship are central to AACR's mission, and the relationships formed during this program are intended to extend well beyond the event itself.

Thank you for joining AACR on Campus Colombia and for your commitment to advancing cancer research. We hope this program is a valuable, inspiring, and empowering experience, and we look forward to the scientific and professional impact that will emerge from your continued work.

Special AACR Membership Invitation

for AACR on Campus Colombia Participants

February 9-10, 2026, Bogota

February 12-13, 2026, Cali

Margaret Foti, PhD, MD (hc)
AACR Chief Executive Officer

Lillian L. Siu, MD, FAACR
AACR President, 2025-2026

Drs. Foti and Siu extend an offer of **FREE AACR Membership to nonmember attendees** that would like to join our scientifically vibrant association for 2026. This is a limited-time offer.

Scan the QR code or go to
www.surveymonkey.com/r/AACRoCColombia26
to complete your application.

AACR American Association for Cancer Research®

AACR on Campus Colombia (Bogotá) - PROGRAM

Instituto Nacional de Cancerología

Address: Cl. 1 #9-85, Bogotá, Colombia

February 9–10, 2026

Digital Pathology and Implementation Science

DAY 1: February 9, 2026

OPENING

8:30–9:00 AM Check-in
9:00–9:10 AM Welcome and Opening Remarks (Host)

SESSION 1: DIGITAL PATHOLOGY

Topic: Basic concepts on digital pathology

This session will introduce the foundational principles of digital pathology, highlighting the role of image analysis, artificial intelligence, and the integration of digital workflows in both clinical and research environments. Discussion will emphasize how digital pathology enhances diagnostic accuracy, enables remote consultations, and supports education and quality assurance across diverse healthcare settings.

9:10–9:30 AM Local Speaker: **Andrés Mosquera-Zamudio, MD**
9:30–10:10 AM AACR Speaker: **Giovanni Lujan, MD**

Topic: Research opportunities on digital pathology

This session will explore emerging research directions in digital pathology, including AI-driven diagnostics, computational approaches, and multi-omics integration. Speaker will address infrastructure needs, regional collaborations, and capacity-building efforts, while considering how innovation can be tailored to local healthcare systems to advance cancer research and patient care.

10:10–10:30 AM Local Speaker: **Rafael Parra-Medina, MD, MSc, PhD**
10:30–11:10 AM AstraZeneca Speaker: **Hadassah Sade, PhD**
11:10–11:30 AM Coffee Break / Posters
11:00–12:00 PM Panel Discussion 1: Strategies for Scaling Digital Pathology

This panel will explore practical approaches to expanding digital pathology from pilot projects to widespread clinical and research adoption. Experts will discuss infrastructure needs, workflow integration, and data management strategies, as well as the role of artificial intelligence in accelerating diagnostics. The conversation will highlight regulatory considerations, cost-effectiveness, and sustainability models, with a special focus on lessons learned globally and their adaptation to the Latin American context. Participants will gain insights into overcoming barriers and building collaborative frameworks that enable digital pathology to scale effectively and transform cancer care.

Chair: **Rafael Parra-Medina, MD, MSc, PhD**
Panelists:

- **Giovanni Lujan, MD**
- **Hadassah Sade, PhD**
- **Andrés Mosquera-Zamudio, MD**

12:00–1:00 PM Lunch with the Experts / Posters

SESSION 2: IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE

Topic: Basic Concepts on Implementation Research

This session will examine how implementation science translates evidence-based interventions into real-world practice to reduce health disparities. Speakers will discuss frameworks and strategies for adapting interventions to local contexts, engaging stakeholders, and strengthening health systems, with a focus on building cancer research capacity and ensuring equitable access to care in underserved populations.

1:00–1:20 PM Local Speaker: **Raúl Murillo, MD, PhD**
1:20–2:00 PM AACR Speaker: **Jesse Nodora, DrPH**

Topic: Implementation Research Challenges/Opportunities

This session will highlight the challenges of conducting implementation research in diverse communities, including resource limitations, regional variability, and fragmented health systems. At the same time, it will showcase opportunities for innovation, community-based approaches, and sustainable public health programs, with emphasis on advancing implementation research in Latin America through training, institutional partnerships, and policy engagement.

2:00–2:20 PM Local Speaker: **Marcela Gomez Suarez, MD, MSc, PhD**
2:20–3:00 PM AACR Speaker: **María E. Fernández, PhD**
3:00–3:20 PM Coffee Break / Posters
3:20–4:20 PM Panel Discussion 2: Bridging Research and Practice in Implementation Science

This panel will examine how implementation science can effectively translate research findings into real-world practice. Speakers will highlight strategies for overcoming barriers, fostering collaboration between researchers and practitioners, and adapting evidence-based interventions to diverse healthcare settings. The discussion will emphasize opportunities for innovation, sustainability, and regional relevance, offering participants practical insights into how implementation research can drive meaningful improvements in cancer care and public health.

Chair:

- **Raúl Murillo, MD, PhD**

Panelists:

- **Jesse Nodora, DrPH**
- **María E. Fernández, PhD**
- **Marcela Gomez Suarez, MD, MSc, PhD**

DAY 2: February 10, 2026

OPENING

8:30–9:00 AM Check-in

SESSION 3: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Topic: Grant Writing and Grantsmanship

9:00–9:40 AM AACR Speaker: **Christina (Leah) Kline, PhD**

9:40–10:40 AM Panel Discussion 3: Funding Opportunities and Global Collaborations

These session and panel will focus on strategies to secure research funding and foster international collaborations in cancer research and related fields. Panelists will share insights into grant writing, navigating funding agencies, and building partnerships across borders to strengthen scientific impact. The discussion will highlight opportunities for early-career investigators, explore mechanisms for sustaining global networks, and emphasize how collaborative approaches can accelerate innovation and expand access to resources worldwide.

Chair:

- **Michelle Guevara-Nieto, MSc, PhD**

Panelists:

- **Christina (Leah) Kline, PhD**
- **Hadassah Sade, PhD**
- **María E. Fernández, PhD**

10:40–11:00 AM Coffee Break / Posters

Topic: Scholarly Publishing in AACR Journals

11:00–11:40 AM AACR Speaker: **Rachel Hodge, PhD**

11:40–12:40 PM Panel Discussion 4: Ethics and Research Integrity in the Era of AI

These session and panel will address the ethical challenges and responsibilities that arise as artificial intelligence becomes increasingly integrated into biomedical research and clinical practice. Experts will explore issues of transparency, bias, data privacy, and accountability, while considering how AI-driven tools can be used responsibly to advance science without compromising integrity. The discussion will highlight global perspectives, regulatory frameworks, and best practices to ensure that innovation in AI aligns with ethical standards and fosters trust in research outcomes.

Chair:

- **Raúl Murillo, MD, PhD**

Panelists:

- **Rachel Hodge, PhD**
- **Giovanni Lujan, MD**
- **Jesse Nodora, DrPH**

12:40–1:30 PM Lunch with the Experts / Posters

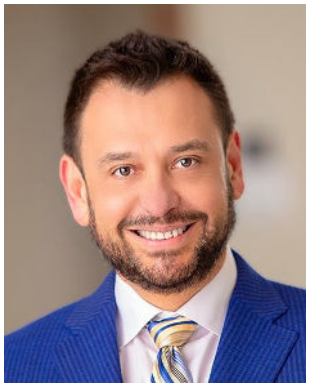
1:30–2:30 PM Poster Competition and Judging

2:30–3:00 PM Award Ceremony and Closing Remarks

Speaker Biographies

Dr. María Fernández is Vice President of Population Health and Implementation Science at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth Houston) and the founding Co-Director of the UTHealth Houston Institute for Implementation Science. Dr. Fernández is also the Lorne Bain Chair of Public Health and Medicine, Professor of Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences, and Director of the UTHealth Houston Center for Health Promotion and Prevention Research (CHPPR) at the UTHealth Houston School of Public Health. As a researcher and a leader, Dr. Fernández has spent her career conducting participatory community-engaged research and practice to develop, evaluate, implement, and disseminate interventions to improve health and reduce health disparities. Her research focuses on cancer and chronic disease prevention and control among underserved populations in the U.S. and globally. Dr. Fernández is an expert in dissemination and implementation (D&I) research, having served as a member of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Dissemination and Implementation Research in Health Study Section and as faculty for several national and international D&I training programs. Dr. Fernández has an extensive portfolio of global, federal, and state-funded research developing and improving evidence-based interventions and guidelines for the prevention and control of cancer, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease (among others) in clinical and public health settings. Dr. Fernández has over 235 peer-reviewed publications and has co-authored several books, including the 4th edition of Planning Health Promotion Programs: An Intervention Mapping Approach (2016) and the Handbook of Community-based Participatory Research (2017). Her awards include the Association for Schools and Programs of Public Health Research Excellence Award and the UTHealth President's Scholar Award for Research Excellence.

Dr. Jesse Nodora is Associate Professor in the Department of Radiation Medicine and Applied Sciences (RMAS) and a full member of the Moores Cancer Center (MCC). At MCC he serves as Associate Director of Community Outreach and Engagement (COE). Additionally, he is a member of the RMAS Center for Health Equity Education and Research (CHEER). Dr. Nodora is committed to improving health outcomes through discovery, implementation, and dissemination of effective health promotion and health service interventions. As part of RMAS, CHEER and the MCC COE, Dr. Nodora has developed community-based interventions and outreach that focus on improving the health of underserved persons by addressing social and economic issues. His research focuses on systems interventions, informed decision-making, and patient-provider communication among diverse, low-income populations. His various research grants, including multi-site research consortia, have provided him with significant experience in leading and working with multidisciplinary research teams and the application of quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods.



Giovanni Lujan, MD, is the Vice Chair of Clinical Informatics as well as the Digital and Computational Pathology Division and the OSU WSI Image Scanning Center. He has dual board certification in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology by the American Board of Pathology. His areas of expertise include Gastrointestinal Pathology, Clinical Informatics, Digital Pathology and Artificial Intelligence in WSI analysis. He completed a surgical pathology fellowship at Johns Hopkins Hospital after graduating from the pathology residency program at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. Dr. Lujan is currently active in many committees and task forces pertaining to the development and integration of Digital Pathology and Artificial Intelligence in routine diagnosis. He has published many authoritative articles and has been invited to speakers at many national and international conferences.

Hadassah Sade, PhD, leads AstraZeneca's Computational Pathology division, an innovative team utilizing artificial intelligence, digital pathology, and translational data science to accelerate medicine development and delivery. Her division focuses on leveraging AI-based computational pathology solutions to enhance patient selection for clinical trials and treatment regimens. Under Dr. Sade's leadership, the team transforms drug development landscapes, advancing life-changing therapies for patients in need. Her vision and expertise position AstraZeneca as a leader in integrating technology and science in healthcare, ultimately benefiting patients and the broader medical community through timely, effective treatments."

Christina Leah Kline, PhD, is the Deputy Director of Scientific Review and Grants Administration at the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR). She earned her undergraduate degree in Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, graduating magna cum laude from the University of the Philippines, and completed graduate training in Integrative Biosciences with a focus on Chemical Biology at Penn State University College of Medicine. Her research journey spanned studies on protein translation in diabetic retinopathy and pro-apoptotic proteins in colon cancer, followed by postdoctoral work under Dr. Wafik El-Deiry at Fox Chase Cancer Center, where she investigated the mechanism of action and therapeutic potential of the dual Akt/ERK inhibitor ONC201.After five years of postdoctoral training, Leah transitioned to grant administration, joining AACR in 2017 as a Senior

Scientific Grant Administrator. Today, she oversees a diverse portfolio of funding programs—from postdoctoral fellowships to large-scale, multi-institutional initiatives such as those supported by Stand Up To Cancer—helping advance cancer research through strategic grantmaking.

Rachel Hodge, PhD, is an Assistant Editor for the scientific journal Clinical Cancer Research at the American Association for Cancer Research. After receiving her PhD in Genetics, Genomics, and Cancer Biology from Thomas Jefferson University, she transitioned from academia to publishing where she handles scientific manuscript submissions throughout the publication process. As an Assistant Editor, Rachel is responsible for managing the peer-review process, developing and editing content, communicating with authors, editors, and reviewers regarding the Clinical Cancer Research journal, and promoting the journal through outreach and networking efforts.

Rafael Parra-Medina MD, MSc, PhD, is a medical pathologist with a master's degree in applied Statistics and Data Science and a PhD in Biological and Biomedical Sciences, with an emphasis on Molecular Pathology. He also completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the National Cancer Institute (USA), with a strong emphasis on Translational Pathology. He currently serves as Head of the Pathology Department at the National Cancer Institute of Colombia and as a research professor at the Fundación Universitaria de Ciencias de la Salud (FUCS), and Vice President of the Colombian Association of Pathology (ASOCOLPAT). He is the co-creator and principal investigator of the GLORIA National Telepathology Network in Colombia, the largest telepathology initiative in the country. His work focuses on integrating molecular pathology, digital pathology, and advanced data analytics to improve cancer diagnosis, prognosis, and personalized treatment strategies.

Andres Mosquera-Zamudio, MD, PhD(c), is Head of Computational Pathology at Keralty Laboratory. He is the co-creator and coordinator of the GLORIA National Telepathology Network in Colombia, the largest telepathology initiative in the country. He is a PhD candidate focused on computational pathology at Universitat de València, Spain and a researcher at the Unisanitas Digital Health Group. He is a former Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions fellow and has authored multiple peer-reviewed publications in digital and computational pathology.

Raul Murillo, MD, MPH, PhD. Currently director of the Javeriana Oncology Center at the San Ignacio University Hospital and associate professor at the Faculty of Medicine of the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Bogotá-Colombia. Formerly Director General of the National Cancer Institute of Colombia and Senior Researcher at the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC). Over 20 years of experience in cancer research particularly in the areas of cancer control, models of cancer care and early detection, with emphasis on suitable alternatives for low- and middle-income countries. Consultant in the field cancer for institutions of the Colombian health system and for international organizations such as the World Health Organization, the Pan American Health Organization, the International Atomic Energy Agency. Member of technical-scientific working groups in international organizations such as the American Association for Cancer Research, the American Society of Clinical Oncology and the City Cancer Challenge initiative.

Marcela Gómez-Suarez, MD, MSc, PhD, is the Vice-Rector for Research at Fundación Universitaria de Ciencias de la Salud (FUCS) in Bogotá, Colombia. She is a physician and researcher with expertise in epidemiology, health equity, public health, and economic analysis. With extensive experience in teaching research methodology, epidemiology, and public health at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, she also serves as a thesis advisor for Master's and PhD students. Dr. Gómez-Suarez is an active peer reviewer for academic journals and is recognized for her ability to lead interdisciplinary academic discussions, offering respectful and constructive feedback to support experiential learning and professional development.