



American Association
for Cancer Research



JOIN US IN
WARSAW, POLAND

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Dates: August 6–7, 2026

Warsaw, Poland

Venue: Maria Skłodowska-Curie National Research Institute of Oncology, 5 Wilhelma Konrada Roentgena Str., 02-781 Warsaw

AGENDA

DAY 1 — AUGUST 6, 2026

07:30 – 08:30

Registration and Welcome Coffee

08:30 – 08:45

Welcome Ceremony

- **Iwona Ługowska, MD, PhD, Prof.**

Maria Skłodowska-Curie National Research Institute of Oncology, Warsaw, Poland

- **Inesa Huivaniuk, MD, MPA**

Global Medical Knowledge Alliance, Kyiv, Ukraine

- **Douglas Davis, MD, PhD**

Global Medical Knowledge Alliance, UA-MED, Madison, WI, United States

- **AACR Representative**

08:45 – 10:30

Session 1: Cancer Prevention and Early Detection.
Covering innovations and challenges in early diagnosis
with a focus on low- and middle-income countries. HPV vaccination

Moderators:

- **Viacheslav Kopetskyi, MD**, National Cancer Institute of Ukraine, Kyiv, Ukraine
- **Martin Lajous, MD, DSc**, Mexico's National Institute of Public Health, Mexico City, Mexico

08:45 – 09:00

Prevention, Screening and Early Detection: Getting the Concept Right



Viacheslav Kopetskyi, MD

National Cancer Institute of Ukraine, Kyiv, Ukraine

09:00 – 09:15

European Code Against Cancer in Everyday Practice — From
Recommendations to Action



Paweł Koczkodaj, PhD

Maria Skłodowska-Curie National Research Institute of Oncology, Warsaw, Poland

09:15 – 10:00

Barriers to Screening: Why Programs Fail to Reach People



Electra D. Paskett, PhD, FACE, AACR, FASCO
The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center, Columbus, Ohio, United States

10:00 – 10:30

Panel Discussion “Closing the Screening Gap: Innovations, Access, and Public Health Action” + Q&A Session

Moderators:

- **Viacheslav Kopetskyi, MD**, National Cancer Institute of Ukraine, Kyiv, Ukraine
- **Martin Lajous, MD, DSc**, Mexico’s National Institute of Public Health, Mexico City, Mexico

Panelists:



Nelya Melnitchouk, MD, MSc, FACS
Assistant Professor, Harvard Medical School, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Boston, United States



Andriy Beznosenko, MD, PhD, MBA
National Cancer Institute of Ukraine, Kyiv, Ukraine



Paweł Koczkodaj, PhD
Maria Skłodowska-Curie National Research Institute of Oncology, Warsaw, Poland



Electra D. Paskett, PhD, FACE, AACR, FASCO, The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center, Columbus, Ohio, United States

10:30 – 11:00

Coffee Break, Networking and Poster Exhibition

11:00 – 13:00

Session 2: Quality of Life and Quality of Care in Cancer Management. Exploring patient-centered approaches, metrics, and strategies for improved care

Moderators:

- **Inesa Huivaniuk, MD, MPA**, Global Medical Knowledge Alliance, Kyiv, Ukraine
- **Anna Sikora-Koperska, PhD**, Maria Skłodowska-Curie National Research Institute of Oncology, Warsaw, Poland

11:00 – 11:15

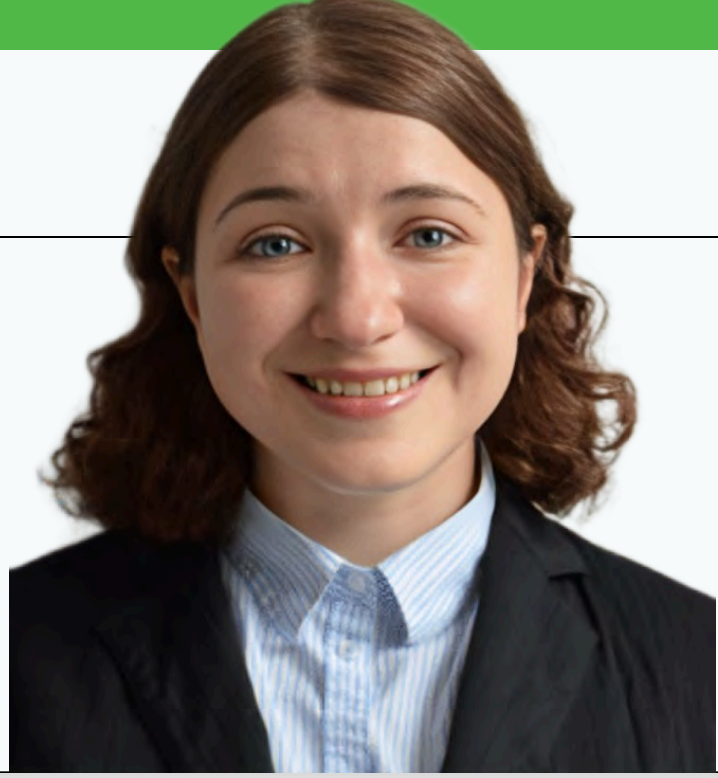
Quality Improvement in Cancer Care: Core Principles, Data, and the PDSA Cycle



Inesa Huivaniuk, MD, MPA
Global Medical Knowledge Alliance, Kyiv, Ukraine

11:15 – 11:30

Patient Reported Outcomes in Assessing Impact of Cancer Service Delivery and Quality Improvement Programs



Darya Kizub, MD
Assistant Professor, The University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, United States

11:30 – 11:45

Approach to Quality of Life in Cancer Care



Katarzyna Pogoda, MD, PhD
Maria Skłodowska-Curie National Research Institute of Oncology, Warsaw, Poland

11:45 – 12:30



Using Patient-Reported Outcomes to Improve the Quality of Cancer Care

Claire Snyder, MHS, PhD
Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and Public Health, Baltimore, MD, United States

12:30 – 13:00

Panel Discussion “Patient-Centered Oncology: Measuring, Communicating, and Implementing What Matters” + Q&A Session

Moderators:

- Inesa Huivaniuk, MD, MPA**, Global Medical Knowledge Alliance, Kyiv, Ukraine
- Anna Sikora-Koperska, PhD**, Maria Skłodowska-Curie National Research Institute of Oncology, Warsaw, Poland

Panelists:



Claire Snyder, MHS, PhD
Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and Public Health, Baltimore, MD, United States



Katarzyna Pogoda, MD, PhD
Maria Skłodowska-Curie National Research Institute of Oncology, Warsaw, Poland



Darya Kizub, MD
Assistant Professor, The University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, United States

13:00 – 13:45

Networking Lunch “Meet the Experts”

(informal dialogues between speakers and participants)

13:45 – 15:45

Session 3: Observational Studies— Learning from Real-World Data vs Clinical Trials

Moderators:

- Yuliia Novytska, MD**, Medical oncologist, LLC "Medical Center "Dobrobut-Clinic", Kyiv, Ukraine
- Magdalena Rosińska, MD, PhD, DSc**, Maria Skłodowska-Curie National Research Institute of Oncology, Warsaw, Poland

13:45 – 14:30



Real-world Data to Generate Evidence: Opportunities and Best Practices

Rodrigo Dienstmann, MD
VHIO’s Oncology Data Science (ODysSey) Group, Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain

14:30 – 14:45



Overview of Therapeutic Clinical Trials

Nataliya Uboha, MD, PhD
Associate Director for Clinical Research, Associate Professor, Department of Medicine, University of Wisconsin, United States

14:45 – 15:00



Influence of Clinical Trial Eligibility Criteria on Real-World Outcomes: an Introduction to Trial Emulation

Magdalena Rosińska, MD, PhD, DSc
Maria Skłodowska-Curie National Research Institute of Oncology, Warsaw, Poland

15:00 – 15:15

Clinical trials in Low-Resources Settings



Mariia Kukushkina, MD
Head of Oncological Department, “Dobrobut”, Kyiv, Ukraine

15:15 – 15:45

Panel Discussion “Trial Emulation and Beyond: Rethinking Evidence in the Era of Real-World Data” + Q&A Session

Moderators:

- **Yuliia Novytska, MD**, Medical Oncologist, LLC "Medical Center "Dobrobut-Clinic”, Kyiv, Ukraine
- **Magdalena Rosińska, MD, PhD, DSc**, Maria Skłodowska-Curie National Research Institute of Oncology, Warsaw, Poland

Panelists:



Rodrigo Dienstmann, MD
VHIO’s Oncology Data Science (ODysSey) Group, Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain



Nataliya Uboha, MD, PhD
Associate Director for Clinical Research, Associate Professor, Department of Medicine, University of Wisconsin, United States



Mariia Kukushkina, MD
Head of Oncological Department, “Dobrobut”, Kyiv, Ukraine

15:45 – 16:00

Break

16:00 – 18:00

Session 4: Workshop — Health Economics, Health Services Research and Implementation Science. How health systems in Poland and Ukraine can benefit from research programs to bridge the second translational gap (evidence to practice and policy)

Moderators:

- **Arman Kacharian, MD**, Medical Director, National Cancer Institute of Ukraine, Kyiv, Ukraine
- **Piotr Rutkowski, MD, PhD, Prof.**, Maria Skłodowska-Curie National Research Institute of Oncology, Warsaw, Poland

16:00 – 16:15

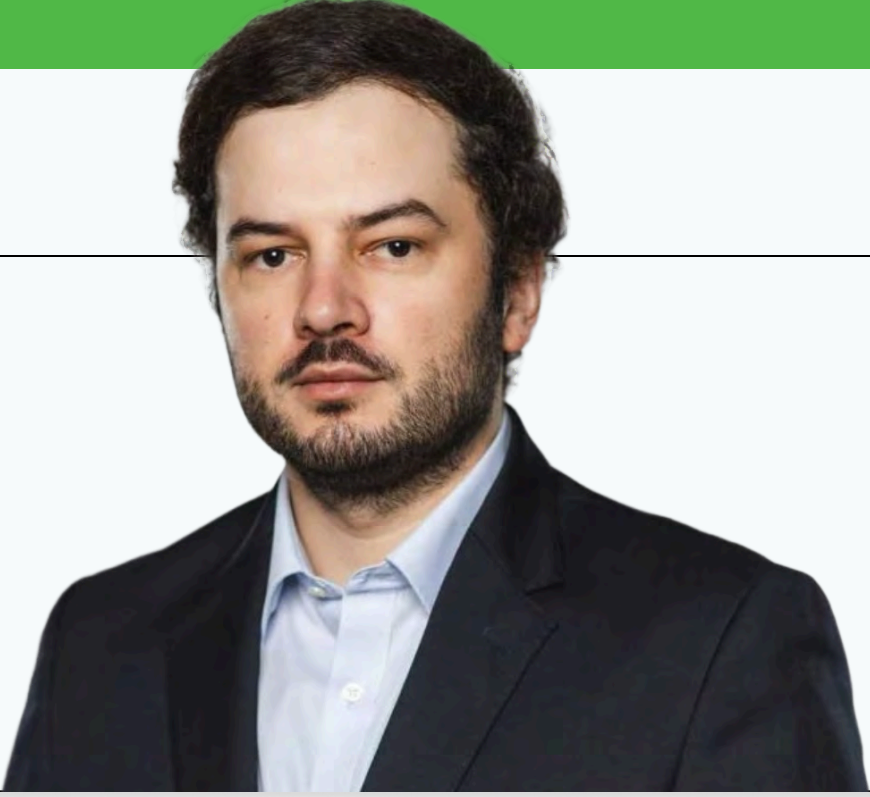
How Health Care System in Poland Can Benefit from Research Programs to Bridge the Second Translational Gap



Piotr Rutkowski, MD, PhD, Prof.
Maria Skłodowska-Curie National Research Institute of Oncology, Warsaw, Poland

16:15 – 16:30

No Data, No Deal: Decision Making in Managed Entry Agreements



Arman Kacharian, MD
Medical Director, National Cancer Institute of Ukraine, Kyiv, Ukraine

16:30 – 16:45



Health Economics, Health Services Research and Implementation Science



Richard Sullivan, MD, PhD
King’s College London, Institute of Cancer Policy & Centre for Conflict & Health Security, United Kingdom

16:45 – 18:00



Workshop "From Research to Reform: Health Economics and Implementation Science in Poland and Ukraine"



Richard Sullivan, MD, PhD
King’s College London, Institute of Cancer Policy & Centre for Conflict & Health Security, United Kingdom



Gemma Bowsher, MBBS, MA
United Kingdom's National Health Service, King’s College London, London, United Kingdom

18:00 – 19:30

Free Time

20:00

Gala Dinner: "Uniting for Progress in Cancer Research"

Gardens by Fort, Fort Mokotów
Władysława Szpilmana Street 6, Building 6
02-634 Warsaw

DAY 2 — AUGUST 7, 2026

08:30 – 09:00

Check-in and Coffee

09:00 – 10:30

Session 5: Workshop on Crafting Winning Grant Proposals

Moderators:

- Natalka Suchowerska, PhD, FACPSEM, Associate Professor, School of Physics, University of Sydney, Australia
- Iwona Ługowska, MD, PhD, Prof., Maria Skłodowska-Curie National Research Institute of Oncology, Warsaw, Poland

09:00 – 09:45



Fostering Global Impact Through International Oncology Grants



Garima Singh, PhD
Assistant Director, AACR, Philadelphia, PA, United States

09:45 – 10:05

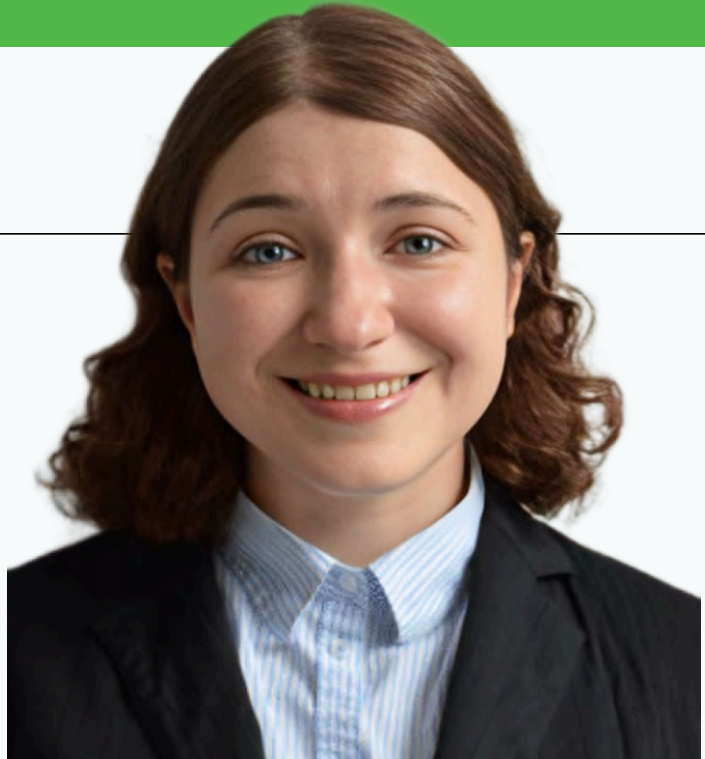
Navigating European Clinical Trial Grants & Consortia



Iwona Ługowska, MD, PhD, Prof.
Maria Skłodowska-Curie National Research Institute of Oncology, Warsaw, Poland



Agnieszka Janowska
Maria Skłodowska-Curie National Research Institute of Oncology, Warsaw, Poland

10:05 – 10:25	Bridging the Gap: Translational Science, Mentorship, and Leadership
	Natalka Suchowerska, PhD, FACPSEM Associate Professor, School of Physics, University of Sydney, Australia
10:25 – 10:30	Q&A Session
	Moderators: • Natalka Suchowerska, PhD, FACPSEM, Associate Professor, School of Physics, University of Sydney, Australia • Iwona Ługowska, MD, PhD, Prof., Maria Skłodowska-Curie National Research Institute of Oncology, Warsaw, Poland
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break, Networking and Poster Exhibition
11:00 – 12:30	Session 6: Strategies for Publishing High-Impact Scientific Articles Moderators: • Oksana Sulaieva, MD, PhD Professor, Doctor of Bioethics, Medical Director of CSD LAB, President of UAPM, Kyiv, Ukraine • Yuliia Lozko, MD Deputy Director for Strategic Development & Communications, Kyiv City Clinical Hospital N°10, Radiation Oncologist, National Cancer Institute of Ukraine, Kyiv, Ukraine
11:00 – 11:30	Navigating the Editorial Process and Peer-Review
	Robert Kruger, PhD Senior Executive Editor, Cancer Discovery and Editorial Director, American Association for Cancer Research, Philadelphia, PA, United States
11:30 – 11:45	Breaking the Barrier: Publishing Strategies for LMIC Researchers in High-Impact Journals
	Oksana Sulaieva, MD, PhD Professor, Doctor of Bioethics, Medical Director of CSD LAB, President of UAPM, Kyiv, Ukraine
11:45 – 12:00	Ethics in Publishing
	Anna Czarnecka, MD, PhD, DSc Maria Skłodowska-Curie National Research Institute of Oncology, Warsaw, Poland
12:00 – 12:15	Building Implementation and Cancer Care Delivery Research Capacity in Ukraine
	Darya Kizub, MD Assistant Professor, The University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, United States

12:15 – 12:30	Q&A Session	
Moderators: Oksana Sulaieva, MD, PhD Professor, Doctor of Bioethics, Medical Director of CSD LAB, President of UAPM, Kyiv, Ukraine Yuliia Lozko, MD Deputy Director for Strategic Development & Communications, Kyiv City Clinical Hospital N°10, Radiation Oncologist, National Cancer Institute of Ukraine, Kyiv, Ukraine		
12:30 – 13:00	Special Session	
	Moderator: Kateryna Potapova, MD, MHA, PhD Global Medical Knowledge Alliance, Kyiv, Ukraine	
12:30 – 12:45	Biobanks as a Critical Tool for the Progress of Personalized Medicine	
	Rostyslav Semikov, MD, MSc Zaporizhzhia State Medical University, Oxford University, Founder and CEO, Audubon Bioscience Co., Peace and Development Foundation, Houston, TX, United States	
12:45 – 13:00	Biobanks as a Pivotal Resource for the Development of Precision Medicine – A View from Poland	
	Anna Szumera-Ciećkiewicz, MD, PhD, Prof. Maria Skłodowska-Curie National Research Institute of Oncology, Warsaw, Poland	
13:00 – 14:00	Farewell Networking Lunch: "Building Bridges for the Future"	
(informal dialogues between speakers and participants)		
14:00 – 15:30	Poster Highlights Session and Poster Exhibition	
Moderators: Mariia Kukushkina, MD Head of Oncological Department, “Dobrobut”, Kyiv, Ukraine Piotr Rutkowski, MD, PhD, Prof. Maria Skłodowska-Curie National Research Institute of Oncology, Warsaw, Poland		
Poster Jury:		
	Electra D. Paskett, PhD, FACE, AACR, FASCO, The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center, Columbus, Ohio, United States	Claire Snyder, MHS, PhD Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and Public Health, Baltimore, MD, United States
	Rodrigo Dienstmann, MD VHIO’s Oncology Data Science (ODysSey) Group, Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain	Richard Sullivan, MD, PhD King’s College London, Institute of Cancer Policy & Centre for Conflict & Health Security, United Kingdom
	Garima Singh, PhD Assistant Director, AACR, Philadelphia, PA, United States	Robert Kruger, PhD Senior Executive Editor, Cancer Discovery and Editorial Director, American Association for Cancer Research, Philadelphia, PA, United States

15:30 – 16:00

Concluding Session and Award Ceremony for Poster Winners

- **AACR Representative**

- **Inesa Huivaniuk, MD, MPA**

Global Medical Knowledge Alliance, Kyiv, Ukraine

- **Kateryna Potapova, MD, PhD, MHA**

Global Medical Knowledge Alliance, Kyiv, Ukraine

- **Piotr Rutkowski, MD, PhD, Prof.**

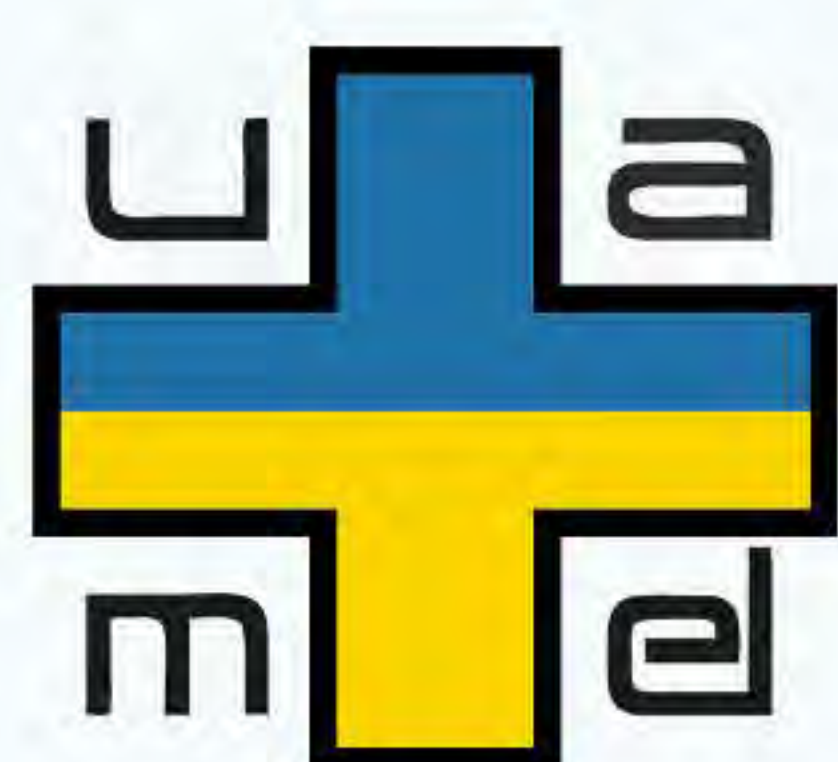
Maria Skłodowska-Curie National Research Institute of Oncology, Warsaw, Poland

16:00 – 18:30

Optional Cultural Tour: Visit to the Maria Skłodowska-Curie Museum and Guided Walk

Departure from the Maria Skłodowska-Curie National Research Institute of Oncology (W.K. Roentgena Street 5)

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American Association
for Cancer Research



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Dates: August 6–7, 2026

Warsaw, Poland

Venue: Maria Skłodowska-Curie National Research Institute of Oncology, 5 Wilhelma Konrada Roentgena Str., 02-781 Warsaw

Welcome Ceremony

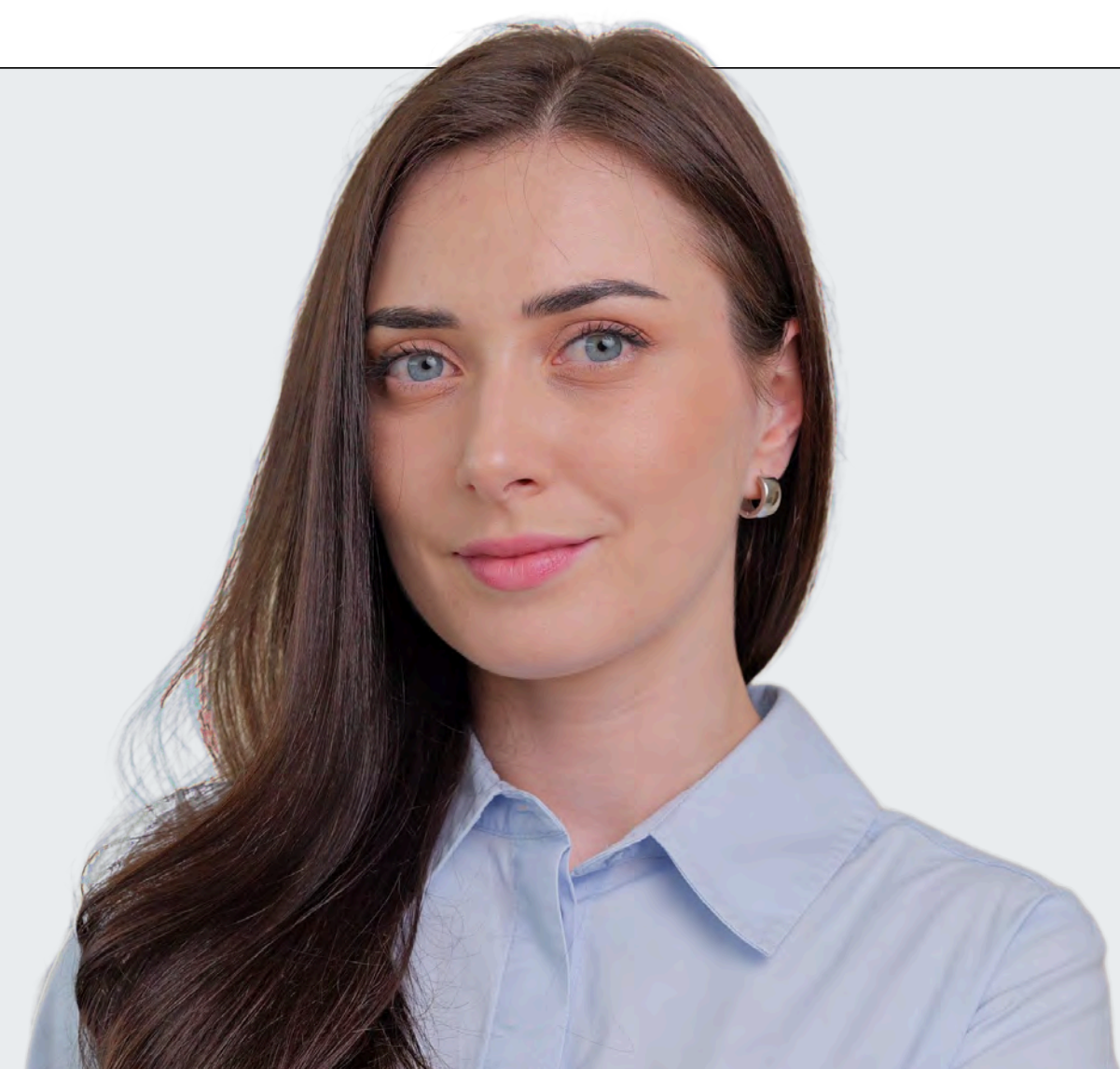


Iwona Ługowska, MD, PhD, Prof.

Prof. Ługowska is a clinical oncologist and the Head of the Centre of Excellence for Precision Oncology at Maria Skłodowska-Curie National Research Institute of Oncology in Warsaw, Poland. She also serves as the Director's Plenipotentiary for International Affairs. In 2017, she established and led Poland's first Early Phase Clinical Trials Unit for Oncology.

Since June 2026, Prof. Ługowska has been serving as the President of the Organisation of European Cancer Institutes (OECI) and is a Board Member of the EURACAN European Reference Network for rare cancers. She previously served as Chair of the ESMO Educational Publishing Working Group and as a Board Member of EORTC. Prof. Ługowska actively contributes to European cancer policy through the Mission Cancer initiative and Europe's Beating Cancer Plan. She currently leads the JANE 2 Joint Action focused on poor prognosis cancers.

Prof. Ługowska has authored numerous scientific publications, including several ESMO handbooks. She received clinical and research training at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York and the Sir Bobby Robson Cancer Centre in Newcastle. She also completed the MBA Essentials Programme at the London School of Economics. Her achievements have earned her multiple honors, including the ASCO IDEA Award, the Golden Cross of Merit awarded by the President of Poland (2022), and the Wprost Eagles of Science Award. (2023).



Inesa Huivaniuk, MD, MPA

Dr. Huivaniuk graduated from Bogomolets National Medical University and completed an internship in Surgery. She then obtained a specialization in Surgical Oncology from the Shupyk National Healthcare University of Ukraine in Kyiv. She practices as a surgical oncologist at the Kyiv Regional Cancer Center.

Dr. Huivaniuk also holds a master's degree in health care management from the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy. She currently serves as Co-Executive Director of GMKA Ukraine.



Douglas Davis, MD, PhD

Dr. Davis is an American neuroradiologist, emergency radiologist. He serves as an Assistant Professor of Radiology and the Global Health and as Global Health Officer at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

His work brings together clinical imaging, global health, humanitarian response, and health- system strengthening in conflict-affected settings. Since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, he has supported medical humanitarian initiatives, academic partnerships, physician training, and international collaboration. Dr. Davis is also a co-founder of the Ukrainian Alliance for Medical Exchange and Development, which works to strengthen Ukraine's healthcare capacity through global medical partnerships.

Session 1: Cancer Prevention and Early Detection. Covering innovations and challenges in early diagnosis with a focus on low- and middle-income countries. HPV vaccination



Viacheslav Kopetskyi, MD

Dr. Kopetskyi is a surgical oncologist, gynecologic oncologist, and Deputy Medical Director of the National Cancer Institute of Ukraine. He is an experienced surgical oncologist with over 16 years of practice, specializing in complex surgeries for liver and pancreatic tumors, as well as rare abdominal diseases.

Dr. Kopetskyi is a member of ESGO, EAHBPBA, ESSO, ESMO, and ASCO. Since 2017, he has been actively advancing the field of peritoneal carcinomatosis treatment in Ukraine, specifically HIPEC therapy, and regularly participates in international fellowships and professional associations. He has also established specialized clinical programs for the treatment of advanced ovarian tumors, mesothelioma, and pseudomyxoma peritonei. His practical and organizational contributions to the development of hepatopancreatobiliary (HPB) surgery are highly significant to the oncology care system in the Kyiv region.



Paweł Koczkodaj, PhD

Prof. Koczkodaj is Head of the Primary Prevention and Health Policy Unit within the Department of Cancer Epidemiology and Primary Prevention at the Maria Skłodowska-Curie National Research Institute of Oncology in Poland. He is also a member of the Health Council to the President of the Republic of Poland and President-Elect of the Polish Association of Prevention Professionals.

He is a recipient of several prestigious international fellowships, including the Fulbright-Schuman Award. Prof. Koczkodaj has authored numerous peer-reviewed publications in leading international journals and is actively involved in international research collaborations. His academic work focuses on cancer prevention, public health, and health policy, with particular interests in the implementation of evidence-based cancer prevention strategies, cancer screening, and translating scientific evidence into effective public health policy and practice.



Electra D. Paskett, PhD, FACE, AACR, FASCO

Prof. Paskett became Marion N. Rowley Professor of Cancer Research at the Ohio State University (OSU) in 2002. She is the Director of the Division of Cancer Prevention and Control in the College of Medicine, a professor in the Division of Epidemiology in the College of Public Health, Deputy Director for Population Sciences and Community Outreach and Founding Director of the Center for Community Outreach and Engagement at the James OSU-Comprehensive Cancer Center. She is also an American Cancer Society Distinguished Professor.



Andriy Beznosenko, MD, PhD, MBA

Dr. Beznosenko is a Ukrainian surgical oncologist specializing in colorectal cancer. From 2015 to 2023 he served as Chief Medical Officer of the National Cancer Institute in Kyiv and from 2023 to 2026 he led its Division of Thoraco-Abdominal Oncology. Dr. Beznosenko is the founder and head of oncoHUB, a professional platform that unites clinicians, educators and researchers around evidence-based cancer care and multidisciplinary decision-making.



Nelya Melnitchouk, MD, MSc, FACS

Nelya Melnitchouk is a board-certified colorectal surgeon at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, USA. She is also a faculty member at Harvard Medical School, where she serves as Program Director for the Colorectal Surgery Fellowship and the Advanced Minimally Invasive Gastrointestinal and Abdominal Wall Surgery Fellowship at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Her clinical and academic work focuses on colorectal surgery, surgical oncology, and advanced minimally invasive approaches. Dr. Melnitchouk is also the CEO and Co-Founder of the Global Medical Knowledge Alliance.

Session 2: Quality of Life and Quality of Care in Cancer Management.
Exploring patient-centered approaches, metrics, and strategies for improved care

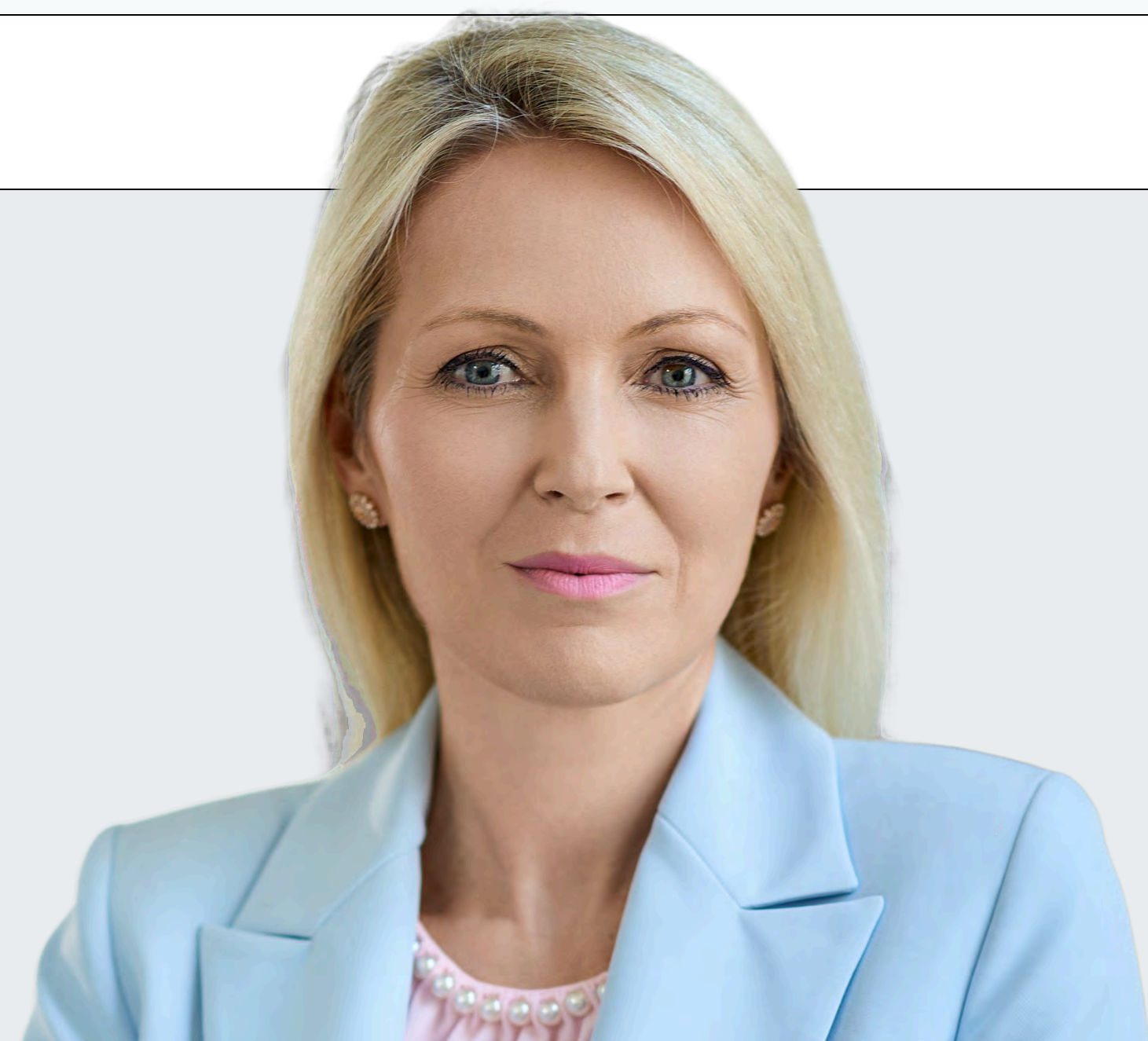


Claire Snyder, MHS, PhD

Dr. Snyder is Professor of Medicine in the Division of General Internal Medicine and Professor of Oncology at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, with a joint appointment in Health Policy & Management in the Bloomberg School of Public Health. She is Director of the Johns Hopkins Program for Building Lifestyle, Outcomes, and Care Services Research in Cancer (BLOCS).

Dr. Snyder’s research focuses on the quality of cancer care, with emphasis in two areas: quality of life for cancer patients and coordination of care between primary care providers and cancer specialists. She has received competitive, peer-reviewed funding from the National Cancer Institute, American Cancer Society, and Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute. Dr. Snyder has held various leadership positions in international organizations focused on quality-of-life and quality-of-care. She currently leads the PROTEUS Consortium (Patient-Reported Outcomes Tools: Engaging Users & Stakeholders).

She is a past president of the International Society for Quality of Life Research. For the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), she has served on the Health Services Committee, Quality of Care Committee, Survivorship Care Planning Task Force, and Patient-Reported Outcomes Panel. Previously, Dr. Snyder worked at the U.S. National Cancer Institute and edited Outcomes Assessment in Cancer: Measures, Methods, and Applications (Cambridge University Press).



Katarzyna Pogoda, MD, PhD

Prof. Pogoda is a medical oncologist in the Department of Breast Cancer and Reconstructive Surgery at the Maria Skłodowska-Curie National Research Institute of Oncology in Warsaw, Poland. A specialist in medical oncology, she focuses her clinical practice and research on breast cancer, genetic counseling, and the management of hereditary cancer syndromes. Since 2025, she has served as the Head of the AYA (Adolescent and Young Adult) Cancer Working Group at the National Monitoring Centre and as an advisor to the Agency for Health Technology Assessment and Tariff System (AOTMiT). Since 2024, she has also chaired the Breast Cancer Group of the Polish Society of Clinical Oncology (PTOK).

Dr. Pogoda is heavily involved in international oncological structures, serving as a Steering Committee Member of the EORTC Breast Cancer Group and a Liaison with the Quality of Life Group since 2016. Her commitment to professional excellence is further evidenced by her participation in the Clinical Scholars Research Training at Harvard Medical School (2025–present) and the ESMO Leaders Generation Programme. She holds a Certificate of Competence in Breast Cancer from the European School of Oncology and Ulm University.

Beyond her clinical and leadership roles, Dr. Pogoda is a dedicated advocate for healthcare policy, advising the Polish Ministry of Health and the National Health Fund (NFZ) on drug programs. She is also a prominent figure in health promotion, actively contributing to campaigns such as "I plan a long life" (Planuję Długie Życie). Her academic contributions include numerous peer-reviewed publications with a cumulative Impact Factor of 560. Her work has been recognized with multiple honors, including the "Wizjonerzy Zdrowia WPROST" award (2024), the "Jaskółka Nadziei" (Swallow of Hope) award (2022, 2024), and the Avon Global Breast Cancer Clinical Scholars Program Award at Johns Hopkins University.



Darya Kizub, MD

Dr. Kizub is an Assistant Professor in Breast Medical Oncology at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, USA. A board-certified medical oncologist, she specialises in early-stage and metastatic breast cancer, hereditary cancer syndromes, and disparities in cancer care. Her work focuses on expanding equitable access to cancer diagnosis, treatment, clinical trials, and guideline-based genetic testing for underserved populations in the United States and in low- and middle-income countries. She is actively involved in global oncology initiatives in Ukraine, Zambia, Uganda, and Côte d'Ivoire, including projects addressing cancer care delivery during armed conflict and strengthening health system capacity. Dr. Darya Kizub is also a Director of Oncology Program at the Global Medical Knowledge Alliance (GMKA).

Session 3: Observational Studies—Learning from Real-World Data vs Clinical Trials



Yuliia Novytska, MD

Dr. Novytska is a certified clinical oncologist specializing in the diagnosis and treatment of malignant solid tumors, practices at the Dobrobut Medical Network in Kyiv. She is an active member of the European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO), the European School of Oncology (ESO), and the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO). Dr. Novytska serves as a consultant for the Coordination Group on Medical Evacuation for the Ministry of Health of Ukraine. She graduated with honors from the Bogomolets National Medical University. She has also completed internships and clinical rotations in the oncology departments of several leading global institutions, including Northwestern Medicine (Chicago, USA), HCA Sarah Cannon Cancer Center (Nashville, USA), Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center (Nashville, USA), the European Institute of Oncology (Milan, Italy), and the Maria Skłodowska-Curie National Research Institute of Oncology (Warsaw, Poland).



Rodrigo Dienstmann, MD

Dr. Dienstmann is a medical oncologist with expertise in clinical informatics, biostatistics, precision medicine, and real-world evidence. He currently leads the Oncology Data Science (ODysSey) Group and the Molecular Prescreening Program at Vall d'Hebron Institute of Oncology in Barcelona, Spain.

His work focuses on integrating clinical and molecular data to improve precision cancer diagnosis and treatment. His team develops real-world databases, decision-support tools, and analytical approaches for biomarker research, study design, and the application of artificial intelligence in oncology.

Dr. Dienstmann has also served as Medical Director of Precision Medicine and Big Data Initiatives at Oncoclínicas in São Paulo, Brazil. Since 2024, he has been Editor-in-Chief of ESMO Real-World Data and Digital Oncology.



Nataliya Uboha, MD, PhD

Dr. Uboha is a gastrointestinal medical oncologist and Associate Professor in the Department of Medicine, Division of Hematology and Oncology, at the University of Wisconsin–Madison School of Medicine and Public Health. She practices at the UW Carbone Cancer Center, where she serves as Associate Director of Clinical Research and leads the Early Phase Oncology Therapeutics (EPOT) Program, the institution's largest and fastest-growing clinical trials program.

Dr. Uboha's research focuses on the development and conduct of early-phase and biomarker-driven clinical trials for patients with gastroesophageal and pancreatobiliary malignancies. She has extensive experience as a principal investigator on investigator-initiated studies and as an institutional principal investigator for multiple NCI-sponsored and industry-supported trials, with particular expertise in precision oncology, novel targeted therapies, and immunotherapy combinations.

Nationally, Dr. Uboha is an active leader in cooperative group research, serving as Chair of the ECOG-ACRIN Upper GI Task Force and Co-Chair of the NCI Upper GI Task Force, and as an institutional principal investigator for the NCI UM1 ETCTN grant. She also contributes to national clinical practice standards through her involvement in NCCN and ASCO guideline development, helping to translate emerging clinical trial data into evidence-based recommendations for the management of GI malignancies.



Magdalena Rosińska, MD, PhD, DSc

Prof. Rosińska is a physician, mathematician, and public health specialist, currently serving as the Head of the Department of Oncological Mathematics at the Maria Skłodowska-Curie National Research Institute of Oncology in Warsaw. She also holds the position of Associate Professor at the National Institute of Public Health PZH – National Research Institute (NIPH PZH-NRI), where she previously led the Laboratory of Bloodborne and Sexually Transmitted Diseases.

Prof. Rosińska possesses a rare, interdisciplinary academic background. She earned her medical degree from the Medical University of Warsaw and a Master's degree in Mathematics from the University of Warsaw. She furthered her expertise in the United States, obtaining a Master of Science in Biostatistics from the State University of New York at Albany. In 2016, she received her Habilitation (DSc) in Health Sciences, and she is a certified specialist in Public Health.

A leader in integrating data science with medicine, Prof. Rosińska currently spearheads the Regional Center for Digital Medicine in Oncology (RCMC) project, funded by the Medical Research Agency. She also serves as a Work Package Leader for the European "eCAN" Joint Action, focusing on e-health and remote monitoring in cancer care. Her extensive international experience includes serving as a Project Leader for multiple European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) framework contracts, where she developed advanced modeling tools and methods for HIV estimates in the EU/EEA.

Prof. Rosinska is a prolific researcher and the co-editor of the comprehensive textbook "Epidemiology: From Theory to Practice" (2021). Her work spans a wide range of topics, from infectious disease surveillance (HIV, COVID-19) to the application of mathematical methods in oncology, including research on triple-negative breast cancer and melanoma. Her career is dedicated to improving public health systems through data-driven innovation and international scientific collaboration.



Mariia Kukushkina, MD

Dr. Kukushkina is a surgical oncologist at the Dobrobut Medical Network in Kyiv, Ukraine, and currently serves as the Dean of the Mohyla-Dobrobut Medical School. She previously held leadership roles at "Dobrobut" as the Head of the Center of Oncology and the Head of the Center of Oncodermatology. Prior to her current positions, she served as a Surgical Oncologist and Senior Research Associate at the National Cancer Institute in Kyiv for over a decade. Her clinical and academic work focuses heavily on skin cancer, with a particular expertise in skin melanoma and dermatooncology. She is also an active member of several prominent professional organizations, including ASCO, ESMO, and EADO.

Session 4: Workshop – Health Economics, Health Services Research and Implementation Science. How health systems in Poland and Ukraine can benefit from research programs to bridge the second translational gap (evidence to practice and policy)



Piotr Rutkowski, MD, PhD, Prof.

Dr. Rutkowski is Professor of Surgical Oncology at the Maria Skłodowska-Curie National Research Institute of Oncology in Warsaw, Poland. He is the current Head of the Department of Soft Tissue/Bone Sarcoma and Melanoma, the Plenipotentiary of Head Director of Institute for National Oncological Strategy and Clinical Trials at the Maria Skłodowska-Curie National Research Institute of Oncology. He has participated in several investigator-driven trials in melanoma and sarcoma. He is a reviewer for several international scientific journals, as well as a member of the Editorial Board of Annals of Surgical Oncology and European Journal of Surgical Oncology.

Dr. Rutkowski is an active member of the EORTC Melanoma Group; EORTC Soft Tissue and Bone Sarcoma Group, where he chaired the Local Treatment Subcommittee and the Membership Committee of the EORTC Board. He is a member of several Polish and international scientific societies (President of Polish Oncological Society, Board member of Polish Society Surgical Oncology, Ex-member of the Board of Directors of the Connective Tissue Oncology Society, member of Membership Advisory Committee of ASCO, Global Curriculum Committee of ESMO).

Prof. Rutkowski has authored or co-authored over 500 scientific papers in Polish and international journals (with an impact factor of above 4000, index-H:86, citation index >30000, rewarded Highly Cited Researcher in Clinical Medicine 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024), and is co-author of national and international recommendations for sarcoma and melanoma. He is working very closely with national patient advocacy groups for GIST/sarcoma and melanoma, coordinating Polish Sarcoma Group and is Chairman of the Melanoma Academy in Poland. President of Council of Agency of Medical Research. Chair of Task Group of Ministry of Health, Poland for National Oncological Strategy.



Arman Kacharian, MD

Dr. Kacharian is the Medical Director of the National Cancer Institute of Ukraine and a former senior official at the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, where he held leadership roles in high-technology medical care and healthcare innovation. His work combines oncology leadership, national health policy, and the development of patient-centred access to advanced diagnostics and treatment. He has been closely involved in strengthening cancer care pathways, medical innovation, and state-level mechanisms for access to treatment.



Gemma Bowsher, MBBS, MA

Dr. Gemma Bowsher is a Senior Research Associate at the Centre for Conflict and Health Research (King's College London, London), where she leads work on global health security. Trained as a medical doctor and social scientist, her research examines the links between health security, conflict, biosecurity, and preparedness for biological and chemical emergencies. She works across academic, policy, and operational settings, including programmes in Ukraine, the MENA region, Latin America, and South East Asia. Her doctoral research focuses on global health security in Ukraine.



Richard Sullivan, MD, PhD

Dr. Sullivan is Professor of Cancer & Global Health at King's College London. He is the Director of the Institute of Cancer Policy and Co-Director of the Centre of Conflict & Health Security.

Dr. Sullivan is an NCD advisor to the World Health Organisation and is currently leading the World Bank Group cancer strategy. He is a Fellow at the Centre for Global Development and UK representative to the WHO International Agency for Research's Scientific Council.

He has worked on a wide range of global oncology research areas, including cancer systems strengthening, the political economy of cancer, pharmaceutical policy, and global cancer surgery. In conflict and health security, Dr. Sullivan has led major programs in health systems strengthening in conflict ecosystems, especially the Middle East. His teams work on highly securitised issues such as bio-hybrid warfare, high-threat infectious diseases and health intelligence.

Dr. Sullivan trained in general and surgical oncology, which he combined with a laboratory drug discovery program. His PhD in Biochemistry from University College London led to wider research into cell signal pathways in cancer. His group was one of the first to work on targeting the EGFR receptor. He was Clinical Director of Cancer Research UK for nearly a decade, leading the charity's clinical strategy, and was the past Director of the Council for Emerging National Security Affairs.

Session 5: Workshop on Crafting Winning Grant Proposals



Nataka Suchowerska, PhD, FACPSEM

Associate Professor Nataka Suchowerska is a medical physicist at the University of Sydney, Australia, with a PhD and clinical background in medical physics. Her work focuses on improving cancer treatment through novel technologies, translational research, and advances in radiation dosimetry. She has contributed to patented innovations and research with commercial application potential. Since 2022, she has also supported Ukrainian professional communities through the Help Ukraine Group, promoting international advocacy, exchange, and collaboration.



Garima Singh, PhD

Dr. Singh is an Assistant Director at the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), where she manages a portfolio of oncology research grant mechanisms and contributes to the development and execution of funding initiatives aimed at advancing innovative cancer science and improving patient outcomes. In this role, she collaborates with researchers, funders, and scientific leaders to support high-impact research and foster collaboration across the cancer research community.

Prior to joining AACR, Dr. Singh served as a Research Assistant Professor at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, where her research focused on the epigenetic mechanisms underlying lead-induced neurotoxicity. Dr. Singh earned her PhD in Molecular and Human Genetics from the National Institute of Immunology in India. She further specialized in epigenetics during her postdoctoral training at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) in Bethesda and at Thomas Jefferson University.



Agnieszka Janowska

Agnieszka Janowska is Head of the International Affairs Office at the Maria Skłodowska-Curie National Research Institute of Oncology in Warsaw, Poland. She is responsible for coordinating the Institute's international collaborations, developing and managing European and national research projects, and fostering partnerships with academic institutions, international organizations, and public authorities.

Since 2012, she has been involved in the preparation, implementation, and management of European and Polish research and innovation grants, including projects funded by Horizon Europe, EU4Health, I3, the Operational Programme Smart Growth (POIR), the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, and the Polish Medical Research Agency (ABM).

Agnieszka holds Master's degrees in Management from the Warsaw School of Economics and Northeastern Illinois University (Chicago), as well as a postgraduate diploma in Innovation Management. She is a certified PRINCE2 project manager and has extensive experience in international project management, research administration, and the organization of scientific conferences and training programmes.

Session 6: Strategies for Publishing High-Impact Scientific Articles



Oksana Sulaieva, MD, PhD

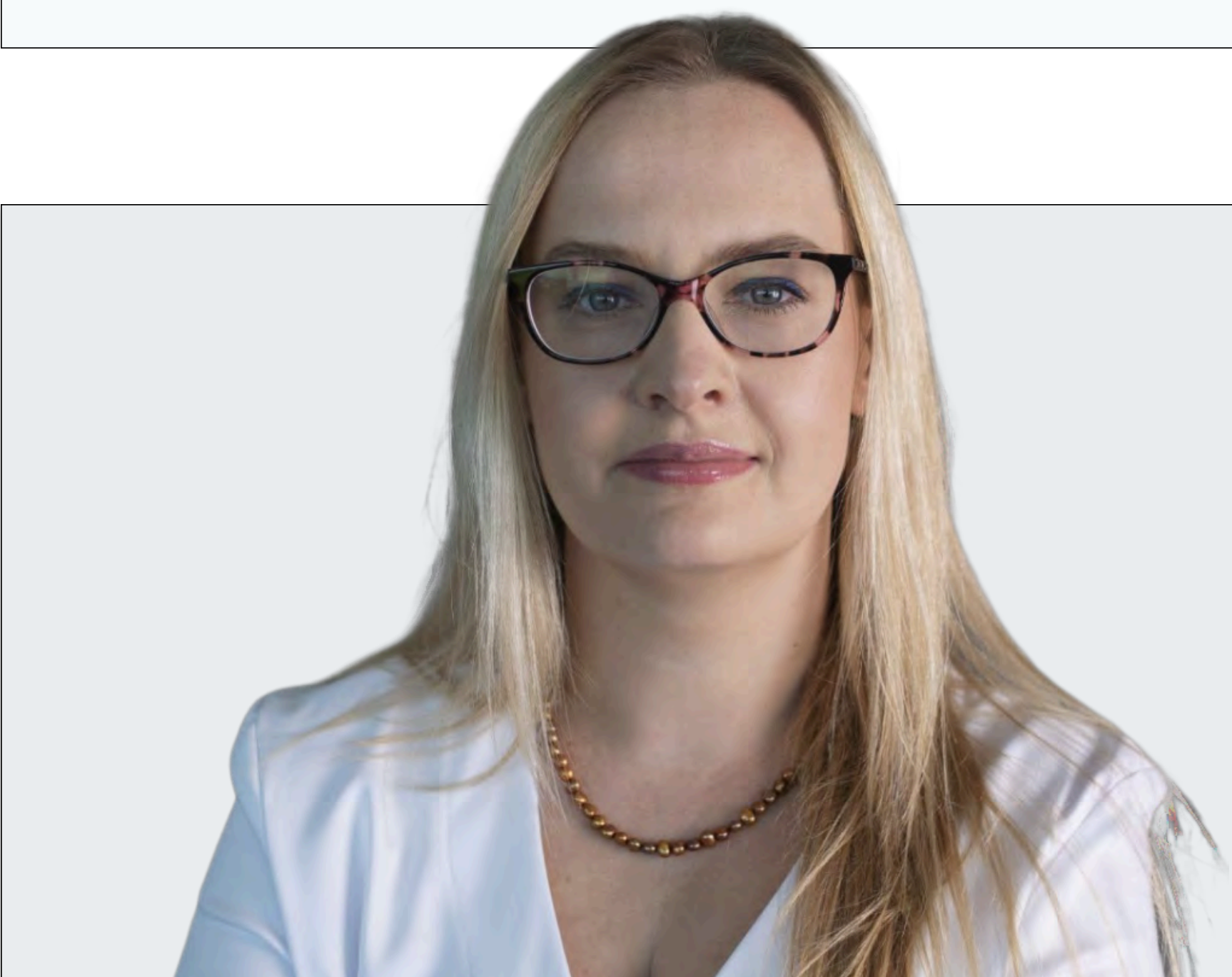
Dr. Oksana Sulaieva is a professor and pathologist who specializes in cancer, genomics, and tumor immune microenvironment. She serves as the medical director of the Medical Laboratory CSD LAB. In addition, Oksana Sulaieva is the founder and president of the Ukrainian Association of Personalized Medicine, which focuses on promoting a patient-centered approach, fostering research in the field of genomic medicine, and implementing personalized medicine in Ukraine.



Robert Kruger, PhD

Dr. Kruger is Editorial Director of Publications at the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) and he serves as Senior Executive Editor of AACR’s premier journal Cancer Discovery. He holds a PhD in neuroscience from the University of Michigan, an MPhil in biology from the University of Sussex, and a BSc in microbiology and molecular genetics from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Since joining AACR in 2019, he has played a key role in shaping content strategies for its 10 scientific journals, including the launch of its first open access journal. He has previously held key positions at Cell Press, including Deputy Editor of Cell, where he pioneered new publication formats and organized scientific conferences.



Anna Czarnecka, MD, PhD, DSc

Dr. Czarnecka is Professor of Oncology at the Maria Skłodowska-Curie National Research Institute of Oncology in Warsaw, where she serves as Head of the Day Chemotherapy Department and works in the Department of Soft Tissue/Bone Sarcoma and Melanoma. She is also a researcher at the Institute of Experimental and Clinical Medicine of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

She graduated from the Medical University of Warsaw and the University of Warsaw with a specialization in molecular biology and biotechnology. She obtained her PhD in 2010, her DSc in Oncology in 2018, and was awarded the title of full professor in 2022. She also holds postgraduate qualifications in innovation management, biostatistics, and an MBA in healthcare innovation.

Prof. Czarnecka has gained international research experience at leading institutions in the USA, Italy, Austria, and Japan. Her research focuses on melanoma, soft tissue sarcomas, renal cell carcinoma, precision oncology, and translational cancer research. She is the author of numerous scientific publications and the recipient of prestigious awards, including the Fulbright Scholarship, the L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Award, and several distinctions from the Foundation for Polish Science.

Special Session



Kateryna Potapova, MD, MHA, PhD

Dr. Kateryna Potapova is an Assistant Professor and neurologist at Bogomolets National Medical University, and Co-Executive Director of the Global Medical Knowledge Alliance (GMKA) Ukraine. Her work focuses on neuroscience, medical education, quality improvement, and health systems strengthening.

At GMKA, Dr. Potapova leads the development of neuroscience and rehabilitation Centers of Excellence and the strategic development of HealUA, a secure digital platform connecting more than 5,300 verified physicians to support clinical collaboration, education, and knowledge exchange.

She completed clinical observerships at Harvard-affiliated hospitals and is an American Academy of Neurology Global Scholar.



Rostyslav Semikov, MD, MSc

Dr. Semikov is a Ukrainian biomedical entrepreneur and co-founder of Audubon Bioscience, where he supports cancer and precision medicine research through ethically consented biospecimen collection and clinical data services. With a background in medicine and international academic experience at Oxford and in the United States, he works at the intersection of translational research, personalised medicine, and global biomedical collaboration. He is also a Chairman of Peace and Development Foundation - a 501(c)3 non-profit promoting peace and development in the world through networking, education, and financial support, focusing on Ukraine now.



Anna Szumera-Ciećkiewicz, MD, PhD, Prof.

Prof. Szumera-Ciećkiewicz is a board-certified pathologist and professor of medical sciences, serving as Head of the Biobank at the Maria Skłodowska-Curie National Research Institute of Oncology in Warsaw and as the Director’s Representative for Biobanking. Her professional and scientific activity combines oncological pathology, translational oncology, molecular and digital diagnostics, and the development of modern biobanking infrastructure.

A key focus of her work is advancing cancer biobanking, including the collection, preservation, quality control, standardisation, and distribution of biological material for scientific research, translational projects, clinical trials, and the development of predictive and prognostic biomarkers. Her scientific output includes over 200 publications with a total IF >500, focusing on haematological malignancies, melanoma and other skin cancers, sarcomas, and oncological biomarkers. She is actively involved in national and international scientific organisations, including the Polish Society of Pathologists, the Polish Lymphoma Research Group, the Polish Sarcoma Group, and the EORTC Melanoma Group. Since 2025, she has served as Editor-in-Chief of the Polish Journal of Pathology.



Yuliia Lozko, MD

Dr. Lozko is a certified radiation oncologist practicing at the National Cancer Institute in Kyiv, Ukraine. She serves as the Head of Radiation Oncology at oncoHUB, an organization dedicated to bringing together physicians and patients to improve cancer care in Ukraine.

Dr. Lozko has completed training at leading medical institutions in the United States, including Brigham and Women's Hospital and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute (DFCI) in Boston, as well as Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago. Furthermore, she has experience working as a research fellow in the radiation oncology departments at Stanford Hospital and the Mayo Clinic in Rochester.



Anna Sikora-Koperska, PhD

Anna Sikora-Koperska, PhD, is a psychologist and Project Coordinator at the Maria Skłodowska-Curie National Research Institute of Oncology in Warsaw, Poland. She holds a PhD in Biological Sciences.

Her work focuses on digital health, oncology, patient-reported outcomes (PROMs), implementation research, and quality of life evaluation. She contributes to several international initiatives, including STRONG-AYA, the EUonQoL validation study, and EORTC projects focused on adolescents and young adults with cancer.



Martin Lajous, MD, DSc

Dr. Lajous is a Faculty Researcher at the Center for Research on Population Health at Mexico's National Institute of Public Health and an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Global Health and Population at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

He is a physician and cancer epidemiologist and serves as the principal investigator of the Mexican Teachers' Cohort, a prospective study involving approximately 115,000 Mexican women. He also co-leads LISTOS—Leveraging Implementation Science to Optimize Strategies for Cancer Control—an NCI-funded center in Latin America.

Dr. Lajous is a Senior Editor of Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention and a member of Mexico's National Academy of Medicine. His research focuses on cancer epidemiology and the implementation of cancer prevention and control programs.

During the 2024–2025 academic year, he completed a sabbatical as a Ulam Fellow at the Maria Skłodowska-Curie National Research Institute of Oncology in Warsaw, Poland.

AACR Staff Representatives



Frédéric Biemar, PhD

Dr. Biemar is Vice President and Head of the Division of Education at the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR). In this role, he oversees AACR’s membership services and engagement, as well as its growing portfolio of professional development and continuing education programs and initiatives. Before joining AACR in 2011, Dr. Biemar served as an assistant professor of biology at Temple University in Philadelphia. He holds bachelor’s and doctoral degrees from the University of Liège in Belgium, where he trained in molecular, cellular, and developmental biology.



Alfonso López-Coral, PhD

Dr. López-Coral is a Scientific Program Administrator in the Professional Development Division at the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR). He earned his PhD from The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, and his MS from Rutgers University–Camden.

Before joining AACR, he conducted cancer research at The Wistar Institute and completed postdoctoral training at the National Cancer Institute, part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). His expertise lies in cellular and molecular oncology, with a focus on melanoma, hepatocellular carcinoma, and prostate cancer.

At AACR, Dr. López-Coral leads global professional development initiatives, including the AACR on Campus program and the Global Scholar-in-Training Awards, advancing education, training, and international engagement for early-career cancer researchers worldwide.