

**MELANOMA BRIDGE**  
**Naples, Royal Continental Hotel (Via Partenope 38-42)**  
**December 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**SCIENTIFIC RATIONAL**

Recent insights into the genetic and somatic aberrations have initiated a new era of rapidly evolving treatments for melanoma.

The possibility to use targeted and immune-based drugs alone, in combination or in sequence, able to improve responses to overcome the resistance, to potentiate the action of immune system with the new immunomodulating antibodies, and identification of biomarkers that can predict the response to a particular therapy, represent actual concepts and approaches in the clinical management of melanoma.

Melanoma treatment landscape changed in 2011 with the approval of the first anti-cytotoxic T-lymphocyte-associated protein (CTLA)-4 checkpoint inhibitor and of the first BRAF-targeted monoclonal antibody, both of which significantly improved overall survival.

Since then, improved understanding of the tumor microenvironment and tumor immuno-evasion strategies has resulted in different approaches to target and harness the immune response.

Approval of new immune - and target - therapies has further improved outcomes for patients with advanced melanoma.

The therapies offer the opportunity for various approaches with distinct modes of action being used in combination with one another, as well as combined with other treatment modalities such as radiotherapy, electrochemotherapy and surgery.

This year latest findings in melanoma research and advances on themes of paramount importance for melanoma prevention, diagnosis and treatment, will be discussed in the session dedicated to system biology on immunotherapy, immunogenicity and gene expression profiling and focused on the progresses of melanoma research on biomarkers/precision medicine and on combination strategies.

Then, the “Great Debate” sessions, where counterpoint views from leading experts on specific and very actual controversial clinical issues will be presented and discussed from different points of view.

**SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM**

*\*Speakers to be confirmed*

*\*\* not CME accreditation*

**DAY 1**

**Thursday, Dec 5<sup>th</sup>**

**OPENING CEREMONY\*\***

Chairpersons: Paolo A. Ascierto, Franco Marincola

6.20 PM Update in Pathology, *Janis Taube*

6.40 PM Update in Melanoma research, *Omid Hamid*

7.00 PM Melanoma research funding opportunities, *Marc Hurlbert*

- 7.10 PM Through the Keyhole: The Next Wave of Therapies for Patients with Uveal Melanoma, *Kevin O'Neill*
- 7.25 PM Patient Advocacy reloaded. How to help patient empowerment in the new Melanoma era, *Samantha Guild and Claudia Piazza Cidonio*

## **DAY 2**

**Friday, Dec 6<sup>th</sup>**

- 9.20 AM Introduction and objectives, *Paolo A. Ascierto*

### **SESSION 1 - MORE TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH IN MELANOMA**

Chairpersons: Giuseppe Masucci, Magdalena Thurin

- 9.30 AM What should you do with pathologic non-responders for neoadjuvant therapy? *TBD*
- 9.45 AM What do we know about how much neoadjuvant treatment to give? *Michael Postow*
- 10.00 AM The an-unanswered questions in melanoma treatment, *Iman Osman*
- 10.15 AM The latest omics tools for translational research questions, *Mitch Levesque*
- 10.30 AM *TBD, Marc S. Ernstoff*
- 10.45 AM DISCUSSION Round Table

**11.15 AM Coffee Break\*\***

**11.30 AM CME SYMPOSIUM – Adjuvant Therapies for stage II melanoma**

### **GREAT DEBATE**

Chairpersons: Paolo A. Ascierto, Corrado Caracò, Iman Osman, Igor Puzanov

- 12.20 PM Genetically modified cells therapy VS unmodified cells therapy, *Chrystal Paulos vs Allison Betof Warner*
- 12.45 PM Are IrAE associated with better outcomes? Yes or no, *Ryan Sullivan vs Jarushka Naidoo\**

**1.10 PM Lunch\*\***

### **SESSION 2 - MELANOMA TUMOR BIOLOGY**

- 2.00 PM Cancer Stem Cells and Lineage Plasticity as Immuno-therapeutic targets, *Dean Tang*
- 2.15 PM Melanoma biology in the context of clinical and experimental resistance, *Roger Lo*
- 2.30 PM *TBD, Thomas Gajewski*
- 2.45 PM Improving mRNA vaccine in melanoma, *Michelle Krogsaard*
- 3.00 PM *TBD, Tomas Kirchhoff\**
- 3.15 PM Designing tumor-selective therapeutic strategies for RAS pathway-driven cancers, *Poulikos Poulikakos*
- 3.30 PM DISCUSSION Round Table
- 4.00 PM CME SYMPOSIUM Target Therapy**  
*Reinhard Dummer; Paolo A. Ascierto*

**4.50 PM CME SHORT SYMPOSIUM Uveal Melanoma**

**GREAT DEBATE**

Chairpersons: Paolo A. Ascierto, Corrado Caracò, Iman Osman, Igor Puzanov

5.20 PM Overview:

Artificial intelligence-driven Diagnosis of Melanoma and Non Melanoma Skin Cancers,  
*Titus Brinker*

Debates

5.35 PM Artificial intelligence VS human dermatology, *Axel Hauschild\** vs *Laura Ferris*

6.00 PM Artificial intelligence VS human pathology, *Carlo Bifulco\** vs *Janice Taube*

6.25 PM Artificial intelligence VS RWE, *Giuseppe Masucci* vs *Dirk Schadendorf\**

**DAY 3**

**Saturday, Dec 7<sup>th</sup>**

**9.15 AM Welcome Coffee\*\***

**SESSION 3 - EMERGENT STRATEGIES**

Chairpersons: *Mario Mandalà, Giuseppe Palmieri*

9.30 AM Multiomic predictive markers for primary stage II & III melanoma patients, *Nancy Thomas*

9.45 AM Lineage plasticity and relationship to TME, *David Goodrich*

10.00 AM Where will neoadjuvant make the difference and replace adjuvant and where will standard (GEP/algorithm) test on primary melanoma clean up adjuvant therapy,  
*Alexander M.M. Eggermont*

10.15 AM TBD, *Jeffrey Gershenwald\**

10.30 AM Engineered T Cells, *Olivier Michielin*

10.45 AM Checkpoint Inhibitors 2.0, *James Smithy*

11.00 AM What is next for tumor infiltrating lymphocyte therapy after the FDA approval, *Allison Betof Warner*

11.15 AM DISCUSSION Round Table

**11.40 AM Coffee break\*\***

**SESSION 4 - MELANOMA BRAIN METASTASES**

Chairpersons: *Hussein Tawbi, Kim Margolin*

11.55 AM Preclinical research, *Tullia Bruno\**

12.10 PM Tissue based analyses and immune competent in vivo models, *Tim Heffernan*

12.25 PM On the edge of clinical and translational, *Reinhard Dummer*

12.40 PM DISCUSSION Round Table

**1.00 PM Lunch\*\***

**2.00 PM CME SYMPOSIUM – Adjuvant/Neoadjuvant and metastatic melanoma**

**2.50 PM CME SYMPOSIUM – Vaccines in Oncology**

### **GREAT DEBATE**

Chairpersons: Paolo A. Ascierto, Corrado Caracò, Iman Osman, Igor Puzanov, Alessandro Testori

3.40 PM Steroids vs alternative strategies for toxicity management

*Ryan Sullivan vs Jeffrey Weber*

4.30 PM Which is the best combination therapy? NIVO/RELA VS IPI/NIVO,

*Janice Mehnert vs Hussein Tawbi*

4.55 PM PD-1 refractory melanoma: BRAF MEK VS IPI/NIVO, *Jeffrey Sosman vs Den Olson*

5.20 PM Putting it all together: Practical Considerations for Monday Clinic, *Sanjiv S. Agarwala*

**5.35 PM Conclusions**

### **PRESIDENCY**

#### **Paolo A. Ascierto**

Director of Melanoma, Cancer Immunotherapy and Development Therapeutics Unit, National Cancer Institute IRCCS Fondazione “G. Pascale”, Naples, Italy

#### **Corrado Caracò**

Director of Melanoma and Skin Tumor Surgery, National Cancer Institute, IRCCS Fondazione “G. Pascale”, Naples, Italy

#### **Iman Osman**

Rudolf Baer Professor of Dermatology Professor, Departments of Medicine (Oncology) and Urology Director, NYU Melanoma SPORE Associate Dean for Clinical Research Strategy NYU Grossman School of Medicine, New York, NY, US

#### **Igor Puzanov**

Judith and Sanford Lipsey Chair in Clinical Cancer Research; Senior Vice President, Clinical Investigation Chief, Division of Melanoma, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, Buffalo, NY, US

### **FACULTY**

Agarwala	Sanjiv S.	Chief, Oncology & Hematology	St. Luke's University Hospital and Temple University	Bethlehem, PA, US
Ascierto	Paolo Antonio	Director, Medical Oncology, Melanoma, Cancer Immunotherapy and Development Therapeutics Department	National Cancer Institute "Fondazione G. Pascale"	Napoli

Betof Warner	Allison	Director, Melanoma Program Director, Solid Tumor Cellular Therapy Leader, Melanoma & Cutaneous Oncology Clinical Research Group Stanford University School of Medicine	Stanford Cancer Center	Standford, CA, US
Bifulco	Carlo	Medical Director of Oncological Molecular Pathology and pathology Informatics, Regional Laboratory, Director of Translational Molecular Pathology	Earle A. Chiles Research Institute, Providence Cancer Institute	Portland, OR, US
Brinker	Titus	Digital Biomarkers for Oncology	Deutsches Krebsforschungszentrum	Heidelberg, Germania
Bruno	Tullia	Assistant Professor of Immunology	UPMC Hillman Cancer Center	Pittsburgh, PA, US
Caracò	Corrado	Director of Melanoma and Skin Tumor Surgery	National Cancer Institute "Fondazione G. Pascale"	Napoli
Dummer	Reinhard	Vanderbilt University Medical Center and Vanderbilt Ingram Cancer Center	University of Zurich Hospital, Department of Dermatology	Zurich, Switzerland
Eggermont	Alexander M.M.	Chief Scientific Officer, Board of Directors Professor Surgical Oncology	Princess Máxima Center for pediatric oncology	Utrecht, The Netherlands
Ernstoff	Marc S.	Branch Chief, ImmunoOncology Branch (IOB), Developmental Therapeutics Program, Cancer Therapy & Diagnosis Division,	National Cancer Institute (NCI), National Institutes of Health (NIH),	Bethesda, MD, US
Ferris	Laura	Professor of Dermatology and Director of the University of Pittsburgh Department of Dermatology Clinical Trials Unit	University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC)	Pittsburgh, PA, US
Gajewski	Thomas	Professor of Medicine	University of Chigago	Chicago, IL, US
Gershenwald	Jeffrey E.	Professor, Department of Surgical Oncology, Division of Surgery	The University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center	Houston, TX, US
Goodrich	David	Professor, Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics	<u>Roswell Park Cancer Institute</u>	Buffalo, NY, US
Guild	Samantha	President	AIM at Melanoma	Richmond, CA, US
Hamid	Omid	Director, Clinical Research and Immunotherapy	The Angeles Clinic and Research Institute	Los Angeles, CA, US
Heffernan	Tim	Executive Director and Head of Oncology Research, Director for the Center for Co-Clinical Trials	Institute for Applied Cancer Science (IACS), MD Anderson Cancer Center	Houston, TX, US
Hurlbert	Marc	Chief Executive Officer Melanoma Research Alliance	Melanoma Research Alliance	Washington, DC, US
Kirchhoff	Tomas	Associate Professor, Department of Population Health	Perlmutter Cancer Center	New York, NY, US

Krogsgaard	Michelle	Associate Professor, Department of Pathology, Perlmutter Cancer Center	New York University School of Medicine	New York, NY, US
Levesque	Mitch	associate professor of translational dermato-oncology, Scientific Department Leader in the Department of Dermatology	University Hospital	Zurich, Svizzera
Lo	Roger	Professor Medicine Professor Molecular and Medical Pharmacology	David Geffen School of Medicine, UCLA	Los Angeles, CA, US
Mandalà	Mario	Professore associato in Oncologia Medica	Università degli Studi di Perugia	Perugia
Margolin	Kim	Medical Director of the Borstein Family Foundation Melanoma Program	SAINT JOHN'S CANCER INSTITUTE	Santa Monica, CA, US
Marincola	Francesco	Chief Scientific Officer	Sonata Therapeutics	Watertown, MA, US
Masucci	Giuseppe	Professor of Clinical Oncology	Department of Oncology-Pathology, Karolinska Institute	Stockholm, Sweden
Mehnert	Janice	Professor, Department of Medicine, Director, Melanoma Medical Oncology Program; Associate Director, Clinical Research.	NYU Grossman School of Medicine, Perlmutter Cancer Center	New York, NY, US
Michielin	Olivier	Service d'oncologie de précision et chef du Département d'oncologie des HUG, Hospitaux Universitaire Geneve	HUG	Geneve, Suisse
Naidoo	Jarushka	Consultant Medical Oncologist, Professor of Medical Oncology	Beaumont Hospital Dublin, RCSI Department of Medicine	Dublin, UK
Olson	Den	Assistant Professor of Medicine, Section of Hematology / Oncology	University of Chicago	Chicago, IL, US
O'Neill	Kevin	Head of Neurosurgery	Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust	Londra, UK
Osman	Iman	The Ronald O. Perelman Department of Dermatology	New York University School of Medicine	New York, NY, US
Palmieri	Giuseppe	Medical Oncologist Investigator at the Institute of Biomolecular Chemistry of the National Research Council (ICB-CNR)	Unit of Cancer Genetics, Institute of Biomolecular Chemistry, National Research Council, Sassari, Italy	Sassari
Paulos	Chrystal	Associate Professor, Department of Surgery and Department of Microbiology and Immunology	Emory University School of Medicine	Atlanta, GA, US
Piazza Cidonio	Claudia	Founder	Melanoma Uruguay; Melanoma Italia Onlus	Roma
Postow	Michael	Chief Melanoma Service	Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center	New York, NY, US
Poulikakos	Poulikos	Cancer Clinical Investigator, Associate Professor	Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai	New York, NY, US
Schadendorf	Dirk	Director of Clinic for Dermatology	University Hospital Essen	Dusseldorf, Germany

Smithy	James	Melanoma Oncologist & Cellular Therapist, Assistant Attending Physician	Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center	New York, NY, US
Sosman	Jeffrey	Professor of Medicine; Director, Melanoma program; Director, Faculty Development; Co-Leader, Translational Research in Solid Tumors	Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center, Northwestern University	Evanston, IL, US
Sullivan	Ryan	Associate Professor, Medicine, Associate Professor, Hematology/Oncology,	Harvard Medical School; Massachusetts General Hospital	Boston, MA, US
Tang	Dean	Professor of Oncology; Chair in Department of Pharmacology & Therapeutics	Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center	Buffalo, NY, US
Taube	Janis	Director, Division of Dermatopathology	The Johns Hopkins Hospital	Baltimore, MD, USA
Tawbi	Hussein	Professor, Deputy Chair and Director of Personalized Cancer Therapy, Department of Melanoma Medical Oncology, Division of Cancer Medicine; Co-Director, MD Anderson Brain Metastasis Clinic	The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center	Houston, TX, US
Testori	Alessandro	Direttore Dermato-Oncologia	Istituto Image Milano	Milano
Thurin	Magdalena	Program Director, Cancer Diagnosis Program, Division of Cancer Treatment and Diagnosis	NCI, NIH	Rockville, MD, US
Weber	Jeffrey	Director of the Perlmutter Cancer Center, Professor of Oncology	NYU Grossman School of Medicine	New York, NY, US