

UPMC INTERNATIONAL ONCOLOGY FORUM

Innovations in Clinical and Research Practice

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2026 — **Hilton Garden Inn Zagreb**

8:00–9:00	**REGISTRATION**
9:00–9:20	**OPENING REMARKS**
	Joel Nelson (UPMC; University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine)
	Elizabeth Wild (UPMC Hillman Cancer Center)
	Evyenia Sidereas (U.S. Embassy in Croatia – Deputy Chief of Mission)
	Marija Bubaš (Ministry of Health – State Secretary)
9:20–10:30	**BLOCK 1 — Transforming Cancer Care in Croatia: Epidemiology, Accreditation, and National Planning** **Moderators: Dragan Primorac / Joel Nelson**
9:20–9:40	**Eduard Vrdoljak** (Clinical Hospital Center Split; University of Split School of Medicine): *Croatian Oncology Transformation. From Zero to Hero. The Costs and Benefits of a Data-Driven National Cancer Plan*
9:40–10:00	**Stjepko Pleština** (Clinical Hospital Center Zagreb; University of Zagreb School of Medicine): *Accreditation and Certification of Oncology Centers in Croatia: Standards, Requirements and Designation*
10:00–10:20	**Mario Šekerija** (Croatian Institute of Public Health; University of Zagreb School of Medicine): *Epidemiology of Cancer in Croatia: Recent Trends and Comparisons*
10:20–10:30	**Questions from Audience**
10:30–11:50	**BLOCK 2 — Advances in diagnostics and predicting patient response to drive treatment decisions** **Moderators: Adrian Lee / John Byrd**
10:30–10:50	**Dragan Primorac** (St. Catherine Specialty Hospital; Universities of Split, Osijek and Rijeka School of Medicine; University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine; The Pennsylvania State University): *The AI-Driven Advances in Cancer Diagnostics and Personalized Treatment*
10:50–11:10	**Adrian Lee** (UPMC Hillman Cancer Center; University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine): *Precision Oncology: Translating Complex Genomics into Tailored, Evidence-based Therapies and Pharmacogenomics for Patients*
11:10–11:40	**John Byrd** (UPMC Hillman Cancer Center; University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine): *Drug Development in Cancer: The basics*
11:40–11:50	**Questions from Audience**

11:50–13:20	**BLOCK 3 — Translating research advancements into radiation oncology practice** **Moderators: Heath Skinner / PierCarlo Gentile**
11:50–12:10	**Dag Zahirović** (Clinical Hospital Center Rijeka; University of Rijeka School of Medicine): *Stereotactic Radiotherapy: Our Experience at University Hospital Center Rijeka*
12:10–12:30	**Heath Skinner** (UPMC Hillman Cancer Center; University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine): *Learning from Every Patient: AI and the Future of Integrated Cancer Care*
12:30–12:50	**PierCarlo Gentile** (UPMC Hillman Cancer Center San Pietro FBF, Rome): *The Evolution of Radiotherapy—from IGRT to Adaptive RT*
12:50–13:10	**Ravi Patel** (UPMC Hillman Cancer Center; University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine): *Dosimetry-Guided RPT: Moving Beyond One-Size-Fits-All Dosing*
13:10–13:20	**Questions from Audience**
13:20–14:20	**LUNCH**
14:20–15:30	**BLOCK 4 — Translating research advancements into medical oncology practice** **Moderators: Sergio Rizzo / Marko Bebek**
14:20–14:40	**Kristina Krpina** (Clinical Hospital Center Zagreb; University of Zagreb School of Medicine): *Implementing Population-Based Lung Cancer Screening: Lessons from Croatian National Program*
14:40–15:00	**Sergio Rizzo** (UPMC Hillman Cancer Center at IRCCS ISMETT, Palermo, Italy): *Optimizing Perioperative Treatment Strategies in Thoracic Malignancies: The ISMETT UPMC Experience*
15:00–15:20	**Ana Tečić Vuger** (University Hospital for Tumors, Sister of Charity Clinical Hospital Center; Juraj Dobrila University of Pula School of Medicine): *Multimodal De-Escalation Strategies in Early Breast Cancer*
15:20–15:30	**Questions from Audience**
15:30–16:40	**BLOCK 5 — Optimizing patient outcomes and access to world class care** **Moderators: Renata Dobrila Dintinjana / Paul Kelly**
15:30–15:50	**Josipa Flam** (Clinical Hospital Center Osijek; University of J.J. Strossmayer Osijek School of Medicine): *Comprehensive Genomic Profiling-Guided Treatment in Croatia: Our National Experience*
15:50–16:10	**Diwakar Davar** (UPMC Hillman Cancer Center; University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine): *The Gut–Immune Axis in Cancer Immunotherapy: From Pittsburgh Discovery to Everyday Clinical Practice*
16:10–16:30	**Paul Kelly** (UPMC Oncology Network Ireland): *Building a Clinical Trials Program at a UPMC Department in Ireland*
16:30–16:40	**Questions from Audience**
16:40–16:50	**CLOSING REMARKS** **Joel Nelson**

Continuing Medical Education (CME) Accreditation

UPMC International Oncology Forum: Innovations in Clinical and Research Practice conference has been accredited by the Croatian Medical Chamber for Continuing Medical Education (CME). Active participants will receive **15 CME credits**, and registered attendees will receive **10 CME credits**.

Register today at UPMC.hr/forum.