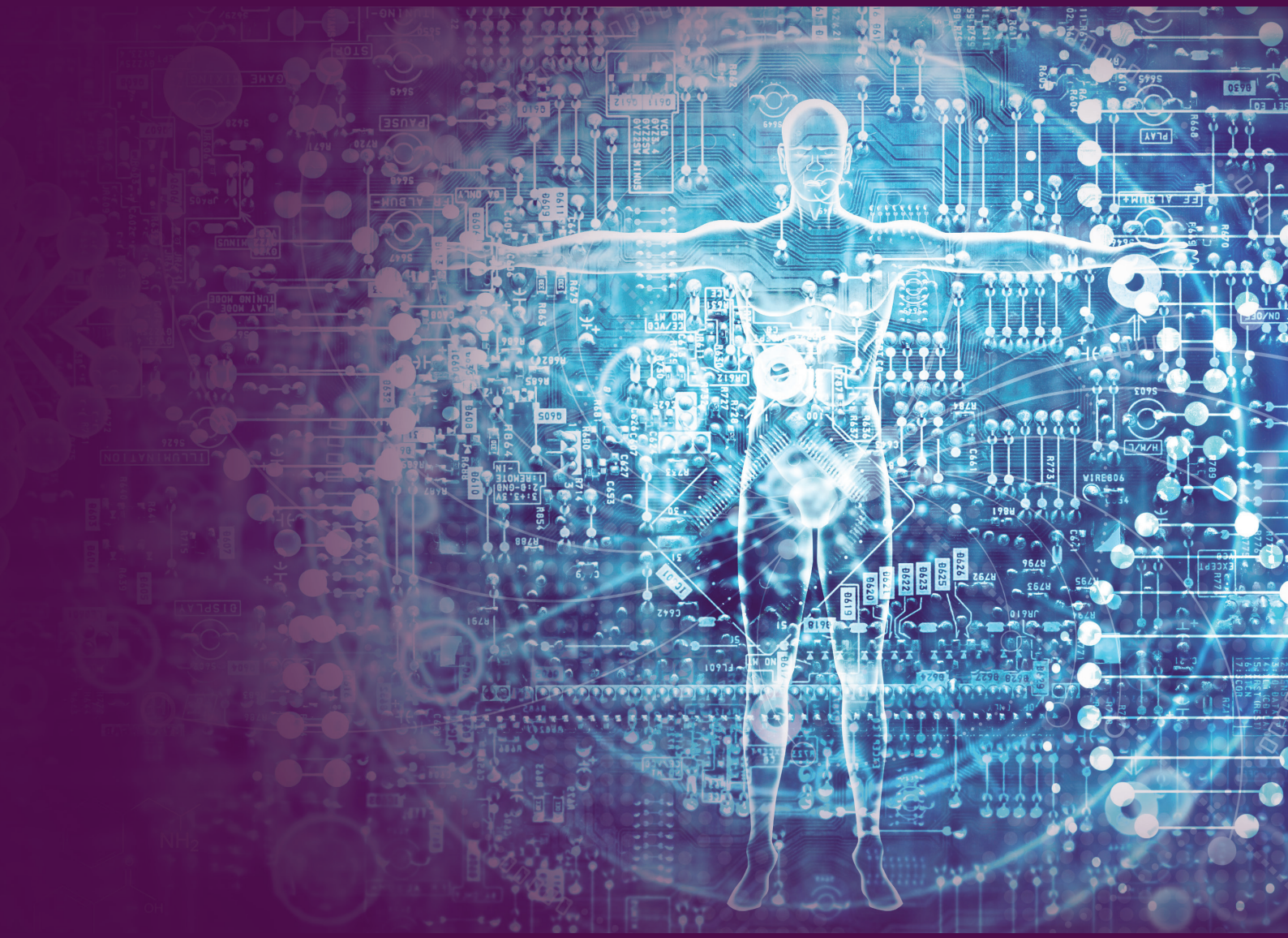
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center Presents:

UPMC INTERNATIONAL ONCOLOGY FORUM:

Innovations in Clinical and Research Practice



Tuesday, 3 November 2026 | Zagreb, Croatia

CME approved

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WELCOME TO THE UPMC INTERNATIONAL ONCOLOGY FORUM:

Innovations in Clinical and Research Practice

Presented by UPMC Hillman Cancer Center in Zabok



AGENDA

Tuesday, 3 November 2026

8:00 – 9:00

Registration

Enjoy breakfast and coffee while meeting members of UPMC's clinical teams from Ireland, Italy, Croatia, and the United States.

9:00 – 9:20

Opening Remarks

Moderator: Veronika Raguž

Prof. Joel Nelson, MD
Executive Vice President and Chief Clinical Officer, UPMC
President, UPMC International
President, UPMC Physician Services
Professor, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

Elizabeth Wild, MBA
President, UPMC Hillman Cancer Center

Evyenia Sidereas
Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy in Croatia

Marija Bubaš, MD, PhD
State Secretary, Ministry of Health

9:20 – 10:30

BLOCK 1:

Transforming Cancer Care in Croatia: Epidemiology, Accreditation, and National Planning

Moderators: Prof. Dragan Primorac, MD, PhD, and Prof. Joel Nelson, MD

9:20 – 9:40

Croatian Oncology Transformation. From Zero to Hero. The Costs and Benefits of a Data-driven National Cancer Plan

Prof. Eduard Vrdoljak, MD, PhD
Head of Oncology and Radiotherapy Clinic, University Hospital Center Split
Professor, University of Split School of Medicine
President, Croatian Oncology Society

9:40 – 10:00

Accreditation and Certification of Oncology Centers in Croatia: Standards, Requirements, and Designation

Prof. Stjepko Pleština, MD, PhD
Head of Oncology Clinic, University Hospital Center Zagreb
Professor, University of Zagreb School of Medicine
President, Croatian Society for Medical Oncology

10:00 – 10:20

Epidemiology of Cancer in Croatia – Recent Trends and Comparisons

Mario Šekerija, MD, PhD
Department of Malignant Diseases, Croatian Institute of Public Health
Associate Professor, University of Zagreb School of Medicine
Chief Editor, Croatian Medical Journal

10:20 – 10:30

Questions from the Audience

10:30 – 11:50	**BLOCK 2:** **Advances in Diagnostics and Predicting Patient Response to Drive Treatment Decisions** **Moderators: Prof. Adrian Lee, PhD, and Prof. John Byrd, MD**
10:30 – 10:50	**The AI-Driven Advances in Cancer Diagnostics and Personalized Treatment** **Prof. Dragan Primorac, MD, PhD** *President of Management Board and Founder of St. Catherine Specialty Hospital* *Professor, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and The Penn State University, USA* *Professor, Universities of Split, Osijek, and Rijeka, Croatia* *President, Croatian Society for Human Genetics* *President, Croatian Society for Personalized Medicine* *President, International Society for Applied Biological Sciences (ISABS)*
10:50 – 11:10	**Precision Oncology: Translating Complex Genomics Into Tailored, Evidence-based Therapies and Pharmacogenomics for Patients** **Prof. Adrian Lee, PhD** *Director, Institute for Precision Medicine, a partnership between UPMC and the University of Pittsburgh* *Professor of Pharmacology & Chemical Biology and Professor of Human Genetics, University of Pittsburgh*
11:10 – 11:40	**Drug Development in Cancer: The Basics** **Prof. John Byrd, MD** *Director, UPMC Hillman Cancer Center* *Associate Vice Chancellor for Cancer Affairs, University of Pittsburgh*
11:40 – 11:50	**Questions from the Audience**
11:50 – 13:20	**BLOCK 3:** **Translating Research Advancements into Radiation Oncology Practice** **Moderators: Prof. Heath Skinner, MD, PhD, and Prof. PierCarlo Gentile, MD**
11:50 – 12:10	**Stereotactic Radiotherapy: Our Experience at University Hospital Center Rijeka** **Dag Zahirović, MD** *Clinical Oncologist, Clinic for Tumors, University Hospital Center Rijeka* *University of Rijeka School of Medicine*
12:10 – 12:30	**Learning from Every Patient: AI and the Future of Integrated Cancer Care** **Prof. Heath Skinner, MD, PhD** *Chief Medical Officer, Radiation Oncology Network, UPMC Hillman Cancer Center* *Professor and Claude Worthington Benedum Chair of Radiation Oncology, University of Pittsburgh*
12:30 – 12:50	**The Evolution of Radiotherapy – From IGRT to Adaptive RT** **Prof. PierCarlo Gentile, MD** *Medical Director, UPMC Hillman Cancer Center San Pietro FBF, Italy* *Scientific Director, UPMC Hillman Cancer Center Villa Maria, Italy* *Associate Professor, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine* *Adjunct Professor, Radiation Oncology Residency Program, Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, Italy*
12:50 – 13:10	**Dosimetry-Guided RPT: Moving Beyond One-Size-Fits-All Dosing** **Prof. Ravi Patel, MD, PhD** *Director of Radiopharmaceuticals, UPMC Hillman Cancer Center* *Assistant Professor, University of Pittsburgh, Department of Radiation Oncology*
13:10 – 13:20	**Questions from the Audience**
13:20 – 14:20	**Lunch**

14:20 – 15:30	**BLOCK 4:** **Translating Research Advancements Into Medical Oncology Practice** Moderators: Marko Bebek, MD, and Prof. Sergio Rizzo, MD, PhD
14:20 – 14:40	**Implementing Population-Based Lung Cancer Screening: Lessons from Croatian National Program** Kristina Krpina, MD, PhD *Department for Respiratory Diseases, University Hospital Center Zagreb* *Assistant Professor, University of Zagreb, School of Medicine*
14:40 – 15:00	**Optimizing Perioperative Treatment Strategies in Thoracic Malignancies: The ISMETT UPMC Experience** Prof. Sergio Rizzo, MD, PhD *Medical Oncologist, UPMC Hillman Cancer Center at IRCCS ISMETT, Italy*
15:00 – 15:20	**Multimodal De-Escalation Strategies in Early Breast Cancer** Ana Tečić Vuger, MD, PhD *Head of Breast Cancer Department, University Hospital for Tumors, Sisters of Charity University Hospital Center* *Assistant Professor, Juraj Dobrila University of Pula, School of Medicine*
15:20 – 15:30	**Questions from the Audience**
15:30 – 16:40	**BLOCK 5:** **Optimizing Patient Outcomes and Access to World Class Care** Moderators: Prof. Renata Dobrila Dintinjana, MD, PhD, and Prof. Paul J. Kelly
15:30 – 15:50	**Comprehensive Genomic Profiling-Guided Treatment in Croatia: Our National Experience** Josipa Flam, MD, PhD *Head of Department, University Hospital Center Osijek* *Assistant Professor, University of J.J. Strossmayer Osijek School of Medicine*
15:50 – 16:10	**The Gut Immune Axis in Cancer Immunotherapy: From Pittsburgh Discovery to Everyday Clinical Practice** Diwakar Davar, MBBS, M.Sc *Clinical Director, Melanoma and Skin Cancer Program, UPMC Hillman Cancer Center* *Assistant Professor of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh* *Vice-Chief of Academic Affairs in the Division of Hematology-Oncology and Department of Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh*
16:10 – 16:30	**Building a Clinical Trials Program at a UPMC Department in Ireland** Prof. Paul J. Kelly *Medical Director, UPMC Oncology Network Ireland* *Clinical Professor, University College Cork, Ireland*
16:30 – 16:40	**Questions from the Audience**
16:40 – 16:50	**Closing Remarks** Prof. Joel Nelson, MD

CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION (CME) ACCREDITATION

UPMC International Oncology Forum: Innovations in Clinical and Research Practice 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**.

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Managing a cancer diagnosis is more than treating a tumor. As one of the largest integrated networks of cancer experts in the world, our medical teams in Croatia and the United States work together to determine the best course of treatment and care for each patient.

We are partners with the **Croatian Health Insurance Fund (HZZO)** to expand access to modern, high-quality oncology care in Croatia.

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