RespirERA
IHU Côte d'Azur
Respiratory Health
Environment & Ageing

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
MD Anderson
Cancer Center

5TH JOINT MEETING ON LUNG CANCER

3rd & 4th OCTOBER

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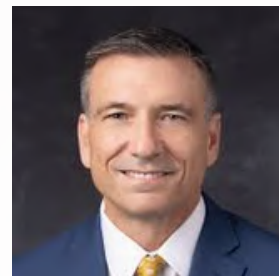
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IHU RespirERA
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Ignacio WISTUBA
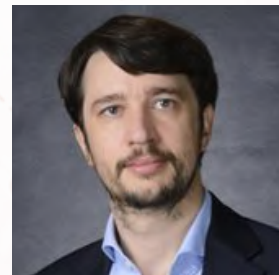Moffitt Cancer Center
Florida, USA

Charles-Hugo MARQUETTE
IHU RespirERA
Nice, France

John V. HEYMACH
MD Anderson Cancer Center
Houston, USA

Marius ILIÉ
IHU RespirERA
Nice, France

Simon HEEKE
MD Anderson Cancer Center
Houston, USA

RespirERA
IHU Côte d'Azur
Respiratory Health
Environment & Ageing

IHU RespirERA, established in Nice in 2023, is a unique reference center aiming to revolutionize the field of age and environment related respiratory diseases through innovative modeling techniques. The ultimate goal of RespirERA is to pioneer innovative methods for diagnosing, treating, and preventing respiratory ailments by considering the influence of the environment on diseased cells. This transformative vision aims to replace the conventional one-size-fits-all approach with personalized or precision medicine for the management of chronic respiratory diseases and lung cancer. IHU RespirERA aspires to provide each patient with precise diagnoses and customized treatments based on their unique biological and environmental characteristics. This achievement will be made possible through the comprehensive analysis of multi-omics health data and the development of targeted therapies. By employing a multidisciplinary team and utilizing multi-omics approaches, RespirERA is paving the way for a groundbreaking and holistic personalized approach to prevention and care. RespirERA places great importance on knowledge dissemination by training students, health professionals, industrial partners, and even patients themselves. This collaborative effort ensures that expertise and advancements in personalized respiratory medicine are widely shared and applied to improve patient outcomes.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
MD Anderson Cancer Center
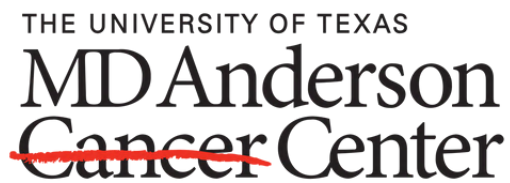
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Cener (UT MDACC) is one of the world's most respected cancer centers devoted exclusively to cancer patient care, research, education and prevention.

The mission of The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center is to eliminate cancer in Texas, the nation, and the world through outstanding programs that integrate patient care, research and prevention, and through education for undergraduate and graduate students, trainees, professionals, employees and the public.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

Friday, 3 October, 2025

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM
Introduction and objectives of the 5th Joint Meeting on Lung Cancer
John V. HEYMACH, Ignacio WISTUBA, Charles-Hugo MARQUETTE, Paul HOFMAN

Session I

Chairperson : Albrecht STENZINGER (University Hospital, Heidelberg, Germany)

9:00 AM - 9:30 AM
From the FHU OncoAge to the IHU RespirERA
Paul HOFMAN (IHU RespirERA, Nice, France)

9:30 AM - 10:45 AM
Reprogram immune microenvironment for interception of lung adenocarcinoma precancers
Jianjun ZHANG (MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, USA)

10:45 AM - 11:30 AM
Leveraging multimodal profiling to define mediators of resistance to therapy in NSCLC
Natalie VOKES (MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, USA)

11:30 AM - 12:15 PM
Biomarker development for patient stratification to lung cancer interception trials
Simon HEEKE (MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, USA)

12:30 PM - 2:00 PM   **Lunch break**

Session II

Chairperson : Catherine ALIX-PANABIÈRES
(Laboratory of Rare Human Circulating Cells, Montpellier, France)

2:00 PM - 2:45 PM
Computational pathology approaches to lung cancer diagnosis and research
Ignacio WISTUBA (Moffitt Cancer Center, Florida, USA)

2:45 PM - 3:30 PM
Multimodal AI for Advancing Lung Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment
Jia WU (MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, USA)

3:30 PM - 4:15 PM
Integrative pathology at the IHU RespirERA
Guylène RIGNOL (IHU RespirERA, Nice, France)

4:15 PM - 5:00 PM
Some challenges and Issues of AI in thoracic Oncology
Hervé DELINGETTE (IHU RespirERA, Nice, France)

Saturday, 4 October, 2025

Session III

Chairperson : Mihaela ALDEA (Institut Gustave Roussy, Villejuif, France)

9:00 AM - 9:45 AM

Heterogeneity and its impact on precision medicine for lung cancer
John V. HEYMACH (MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, USA)

9:45 AM - 10:30 AM

Real-World Prevalence and Prognostic Value of Targeted Biomarkers in Small Cell Lung Cancer
Marius ILIÉ (IHU RespirERA, Nice, France)

10:30 AM - 11:15 AM

Next generation molecular tumor board: is it realistic?
Mihaela ALDEA (Institut Gustave Roussy, Villejuif, France)

11:15 AM - 12:15 PM

Which future for NGS Liquid biopsy and for CTCs detection in Lung Cancer Patients?
Albrecht STENZINGER, Catherine ALIX-PANABIÈRES, John V. HEYMACH, Simon HEEKE, Jonathan BENZAQUEN, Jacques BOUTROS, Marius ILIÉ, Mihaela ALDEA, Paul HOFMAN, Ignacio WISTUBA, Natalie VOKES

12:15 PM - 12:30 PM

Conclusion and summary of the 5th JMLC
John V. HEYMACH, Ignacio WISTUBA, Simon HEEKE, Jonathan BENZAQUEN, Jacques BOUTROS, Charles-Hugo MARQUETTE, Paul HOFMAN

CHAIRPERSONS

Albrecht STENZINGER

Albrecht Stenzinger is Professor of Molecular Tumor Pathology, Vice Chair of the Institute of Pathology (IPH), as well as the Director of the IPH Center for Molecular Pathology (CMP) and Section Head for Molecular Diagnostics and Biomarker Development at the Institute of Pathology, University Hospital Heidelberg, Germany. Dr. Stenzinger is holding an MD degree from the University of Giessen, completed his residency and fellowship training in pathology at the Charité University Hospital, Berlin and the University Hospital Heidelberg. He is a board-certified surgical pathologist, molecular pathologist, and senior attending. Dr. Stenzinger received postdoctoral training at the University of Heidelberg and Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School, USA. He has broad expertise in molecular pathology as well as molecular diagnostics and works in the field of translational research and genetics of solid tumors.

Catherine ALIX-PANABIÈRES

Catherine Alix-Panabières is a Professor of Oncology and the Director of the 'Laboratoire de Cellules Circulantes Humaines Rares et Biopsie Liquide' (LCCRH) at Montpellier University Hospital and the Faculty of Medicine. Since 2022, she has also held the position of Professor at the University of Hamburg in Germany. A specialist in circulating tumor cell (CTC) research for 26 years, she is credited with coining the term "liquid biopsy" in 2010, in collaboration with Prof. Pantel. Professor Alix-Panabières instructs students in this subject at academic institutions in France and abroad, has organized numerous international conferences, has published over 160 scientific articles and numerous chapters in books and encyclopedias, has filed three patents and has collaborated on numerous European, American, and Asian research projects. Her most significant contribution is the demonstration of the clinical utility of CTCs in breast cancer. She has been the recipient of numerous accolades in France and abroad, including the "Gallet et Breton" prize in 2012 and the "Berthe Péan, Antoine et Claude Béclère" prize in 2023, bestowed by the Académie Nationale de Médecine. In 2022, she played a pivotal role in the cancer exhibition at the Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie (Paris), which was curated by the National Institute of Cancer (INCa). Furthermore, the esteemed journal Nature, in its December 2020 issue, acknowledged the significance of liquid biopsy as a pivotal advancement in cancer research over the past two decades and showcased the contributions of Prof. Alix-Panabières throughout her career.
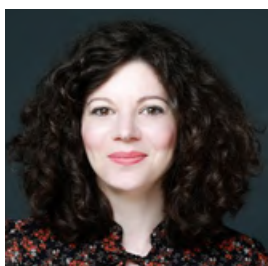
Mihaela ALDEA

Dr. Aldea serves as Assistant Professor at Paris Saclay University and Medical Oncologist in the Thoracic Cancer and Precision Medicine Group at Gustave Roussy, Villejuif, France. Her research interests focus on liquid biopsy, cancer resistance, and RET+ lung cancer, and she leads the RET MAP international registry for lung cancer patients with RET fusions. Dr. Aldea served on the IASLC Communication Committee, and currently contributes to its Education Committee. She is also a recipient of the L'Oréal UNESCO for Women in Science Award and of the IASLC Young Investigator Award.

Paul HOFMAN

Paul Hofman is PU-PH in Pathology at the Université Côte d'Azur, Nice. He is head of the Clinical and Experimental Pathology Laboratory at Nice University Hospital. He is head of Team 4 of the Inserm U1081 (Cancer and Ageing Research Centre) at Nice University Medical School. He is Director of the OncoAge2 FHU and the IHU RespirERA in Nice.

Ignacio WISTUBA

Ignacio I. Wistuba, MD, is Professor and Chair of the Department of Translational Molecular Pathology with Joint appointment in the Department of Thoracic/Head and Neck Medical Oncology at the Moffitt Cancer Center. Dr. Wistuba's major research interest is the elucidation of the molecular abnormalities involved in the pathogenesis and progression of lung cancer and other solid tumors. He has co-authored over 850 papers in peer-reviewed journal and several book chapters. His research interests also include identifying new molecular targets, validating biomarkers for targeted therapy and immunotherapy, and identifying molecular markers associated with lung cancer and other solid tumors development, progression and metastasis development using annotated human specimens. He is principal investigator (PI) and co-PI on several molecular pathology and biomarker projects supported by multi-investigators and multi-institutional grants, and research translational agreements.
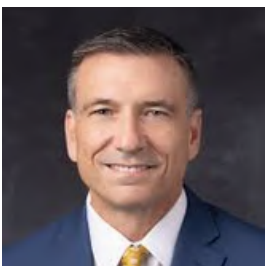
John V. HEYMACH

John V. Heymach, MD, PhD is Chair of the Department of Thoracic/ Head and Neck Medical Oncology at MD Anderson Cancer Center. He holds the David Bruton, Jr. Chair in Cancer Research. He is a co-leader of the Lung Cancer Moon Shot™ at MD Anderson and the institution's primary investigator on the Stand Up to Lung Cancer Dream Team. He attended Harvard College, where he graduated magna cum laude with a Chemistry B.A. degree and received his MD and PhD from Stanford. His laboratory focuses on developing new therapies and biomarkers for lung cancer and understanding the mechanism of drug resistance. Dr. Heymach has led several clinical trials of targeted agents for lung cancer and is a member of the American Society for Clinical Investigation. He earned multiple honors at MD Anderson, including the Finneran Family Prize which recognizes extraordinary achievements and continued efforts to provide hope to cancer patients worldwide.

SPEAKERS

Natalie VOKES

Natalie Vokes is a thoracic oncologist with expertise in the application of computational approaches to clinical oncology to dissect the molecular features of differential response. She received her Bachelor's in Chemistry from Williams College, graduating summa cum laude, and an MPhil in History and Philosophy of Science from Cambridge University. She attended Harvard Medical school before completing her residency in internal medicine at the Brigham and Women's Hospital and her fellowship in medical oncology in the Dana-Farber/Partners Cancer Care Oncology fellowship. Her post-doctoral research focused on genomic predictors of response to immune and targeted therapies. She is now an assistant professor at MD Anderson in the Department of Thoracic/Head and Neck Oncology with a joint appointment in Genomic Medicine. Her research focuses on understanding tumor intrinsic determinants of the tumor immune microenvironment, the integration of blood-based biomarkers into clinical decision-making, development of novel predictive algorithms for immunotherapy response, and dissecting the evolution of resistance to therapy. An R01-funded investigator, she is a former Mark Foundation Damon-Runyon Physician-Scientist Scholar.
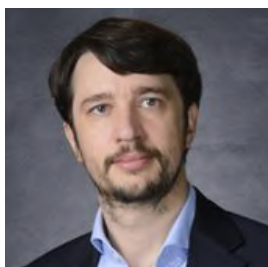
Simon HEEKE

Dr. Heeke is the head of the Liquid Biopsy Translational Working Group and Assistant Professor in the Department of Thoracic Head & Neck Medical Oncology at the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas. He received his BSc and MSc degree (with distinction) in Molecular Medicine from the Medical University in Innsbruck, Austria, followed by a PhD in Cell Biology from the University Côte d'Azur in Nice, France. His research focuses on oncogene-driven lung cancer (such as with ALK, RET or EGFR alterations), lung cancer interception, small cell lung cancer subtypes and adenoid cystic carcinoma, and the development of associated tissue and liquid biopsy-based biomarkers through the integration of multimodal data and the use of machine learning methods for clinically applicable predictive models. He has contributed to >60 peer reviewed publications published in various high impact journals, including CA:A Cancer Journal, Nature, Cancer Cell, Annals of Oncology, JCO and JTO. Furthermore, he serves as co-chair of the NIH Liquid Biopsy Scientific Interest Group.

Jia WU

Jia Wu is an associate professor at MD Anderson. He is NIH-funded principal investigator and a trained computational scientist. He obtained a Ph.D. in bioengineering and civil engineering from the University of Pittsburgh. He was a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Pennsylvania and an instructor at Stanford University. His lab is focused on the development and application of innovative computational and analytical approaches to improve the diagnosis, treatment, early detection, and prevention of cancer.

Jianjun ZHANG

Dr. Zhang obtained his MD and PhD degrees in China with numerous awards for achievement from Tongji Medical University and Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and Peking Union Medical College, respectively. Between 2002 and 2008, he completed a Research Fellowship at Memorial Sloan Kettering. His research focused on cancer genomics, molecular biomarker discovery and experimental therapeutics. Following his Clinical Internship and Residency at Long Island Jewish Medical Center, Dr. Zhang joined MD Anderson Cancer Center in 2011 as a Clinical Fellow and later as a C.G. Johnson Advanced Scholar. Currently, Dr. Zhang is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Thoracic/Head and Neck Medical Oncology with a secondary appointment at the Department of Genomic Medicine. He is a physician-scientist, specializing in lung cancer medical oncology and with a lab investigating cancer genomics and immunogenomics of lung cancer. Dr. Zhang was selected for the T32 Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award Training Grant from 2012-2014. In 2013, he received the A. Lavoy Moore Endowment Fund Award. In 2015, he was awarded an ASCO Young Investigator Award and selected for the MD Anderson Physician Scientist Program and the Khalifa Scholar Award.

Charles-Hugo MARQUETTE

Professor Charles Hugo Marquette is Head of the Pneumology and Thoracic Oncology Department at Nice University Hospital. He is currently responsible for setting up the Lung Cancer Screening Information System in France, and the French National Cancer Institute has established a partnership with the IHU RespirERA to develop this information system and host the health data associated with lung cancer screening. It is more particularly involved in projects relating to lung pathologies leading to the development of lung cancer (COPD, fibrotic lung diseases) and on the links between imaging and artificial intelligence algorithms (lung cancer screening and interception).

Guylène RIGNOL

Guylène Rignol is a scientist with extensive expertise in implementing biomarker assays in clinical trials. She spent eight years working on bone-related diseases before joining Paul Hofman's team to pursue a PhD in clinical research. As part of the Next-Generation Therapies in Lung Cancer team, she specialized in KRAS-mutated non-small cell lung cancers (NSCLC), gaining in-depth knowledge of NSCLC clinical-pathological characterization. After collecting and consolidating data from over 600 KRAS-mutated NSCLC cases, she now aims to explore the relationships between clinical features, molecular pathology, and targetable protein markers. With an integrative pathology perspective, she aspires to analyze large and complex datasets, paving the way for artificial intelligence-driven algorithms in lung oncology research.

SPEAKERS

Hervé DELINGETTE

Hervé Delingette is a Research Director at Inria Sophia Antipolis and Scientific Director of Université Côte d'Azur. A graduate engineer from École Centrale Paris and a Doctor of Science, he conducted research at Carnegie Mellon University and NTT laboratories in Japan. Specializing in artificial intelligence for medicine, his work focuses on medical imaging, cardiac modeling, surgical simulation, and healthcare virtual reality. He leads the CardioSense3D initiative on heart electromechanical modeling and holds a chair at the 3IA Côte d'Azur Institute. A council member of the MICCAI Society, he actively advances digital technologies in interventional medicine.

Marius ILIÉ

Marius ILIÉ is PU-PH at the UFR Médecine de Nice, Université Côte d'Azur and at the Laboratoire de Pathologie Clinique et Expérimentale/Biobanque Côte d'Azur, CHU de Nice, IHU RespirERA. He is co-chair of the Molecular Pathology WG at the European Society of Pathology (ESP). He is particularly interested in thoracic pathology, molecular pathology and biobanking, as well as prognostic and predictive biomarkers in thoracic oncology. He has contributed to several publications in the field of translational research in thoracic oncology (190 articles on PubMed, h-index: 47). He is also involved in teaching as director of the European Master's in Molecular Pathology (Université Côte d'Azur, IHU) and director of the dual MD-PhD course at the UFR Médecine de Nice, EUR Life, Université Côte d'Azur.

Jonathan BENZAQUEN

Jonathan Benzaquen, MD, PhD, is an associate professor at the Université Côte d'Azur, France. He is a member of Inserm U10181/UMR CNRS 7284, Institut de Recherche sur le Cancer et le Vieillissement - Université Nice Sophia Antipolis, France. He is in charge of the medical treatment unit for thoracic tumours, within the Pneumology Department headed by Professor Marquette. He is involved in clinical and translational research, focusing on immunotherapy for thoracic cancers and personalised cancer therapies.

Jacques BOUTROS

Jacques Boutros is a pulmonologist in the Pneumology, Thoracic Oncology and Intensive Care Department at Nice University Hospital, where he is head of the endoscopy unit and oncopneumologist in the oncology day hospital. He is a member of the Institut Hospitalo-Universitaire (IHU) RespirERA. He has supervised medical theses and published over 40 articles (h-index 11), mainly in the fields of lung cancer and COPD.

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