

Berlin

# BRAIN TUMOR MEETING 2026

12<sup>th</sup> Edition

**MAX  
DELBRÜCK  
CENTER**

Robert-Rössle-Str. 10  
13125 Berlin  
Germany

## SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

OCTOBER 14-15 · BERLIN

**OCTOBER 14-15, 2026**

Max Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine · Berlin

Robert-Rössle-Str. 10 · 13125 Berlin · Germany

[www.mdc-berlin.de/BTM2026](http://www.mdc-berlin.de/BTM2026)

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DAY 1

Wednesday, 14 October 2026

MDC.C · BUILDING 83 · MAX DELBRÜCK CENTER

## Brain Tumor Origin, Plasticity and Evolution

CHAIR  
Rainer Glass

|             |                                                                                                                                               |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 09:30-13:10 | REGISTRATION, MDC.C (BUILDING 83) AND POSTER SETUP                                                                                            |
| 11:00-11:05 | <b>Welcome address</b><br><i>Gaetano Gargiulo, on behalf of the Scientific Committee</i>                                                      |
| 11:10-11:50 | <b>KEYNOTE</b> <b>Jeremy N. Rich</b> , <i>University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill</i><br>Brain Cancer Through the Lens of Stem Cell Biology |
| 11:50-12:30 | <b>KEYNOTE</b> <b>Jeong Ho Lee</b> , <i>KAIST, South Korea</i><br>Somatic Mosaicism in Brain Tumor Evolution                                  |
| 12:30-13:10 | <b>KEYNOTE</b> <b>Ghazaleh Tabatabai</b> , <i>Tübingen, Germany</i><br>Mapping and Targeting Functional Vulnerabilities in Glioblastoma       |
| 13:10-14:00 | LUNCH BREAK & POSTER SESSION                                                                                                                  |

## Glioma Cell Intrinsic Biology

CHAIR  
Pilar Sanchez-Bailon

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|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 14:00-14:20 | <b>Ashraf Zaman</b> , <i>Garvan Institute of Medical Research, Sydney, Australia</i><br>A Conserved Astrocyte-Like Parental Cell Defines the Phylogenetic Root of Adult-Type Diffuse Glioma                      |
| 14:20-14:40 | <b>Kevin Johnson</b> , <i>Yale University, USA</i><br>Acquired Genetic and Cell State Changes in IDH-Mutant Glioma Progression                                                                                   |
| 14:40-14:50 | <b>Tuğba Bağcı-Önder</b> , <i>Koç University, Turkey</i><br>Defining Epigenetic Vulnerabilities and Response Programs in IDH-Mutant Gliomas                                                                      |
| 14:50-15:00 | <b>Elisabetta Stanzani</b> , <i>CNR - Istituto di Neuroscienze / Humanitas Research Hospital, Italy</i><br>Beyond Oncogenic Mutations: Identifying Actionable Vulnerabilities in BRAF-wt Glioblastoma Resistance |
| 15:00-15:45 | COFFEE BREAK & POSTER SESSION                                                                                                                                                                                    |

## Brain Metastasis

CHAIR  
Michela Serresi

|             |                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 15:45-16:25 | <b>KEYNOTE</b> <b>Berta López Sánchez-Laorden</b> , <i>Alicante, Spain</i><br>Microenvironmental Regulation of Melanoma Brain Metastases   |
| 16:25-16:45 | <b>Pedro García-Gómez</b> , <i>CNIO, Spain</i><br>A Transient MXD4-Dependent Proliferative Pause Enables Survival of Brain Micrometastases |
| 16:45-17:05 | <b>Jan Remsik</b> , <i>VIB, Belgium</i><br>How Dendritic Cell Maturation Instructs Leptomeningeal Anti-Tumor Immunity                      |
| 17:05-18:30 | COFFEE BREAK & POSTER SESSION                                                                                                              |

## Extended Symposium

Stadtgut historic  
wooden barn

19:00-20:00

### Flash-oral

Francesca Lessi, Fondazione Pisana per la Scienza  
Chiara Maria Mazzanti, Fondazione Pisana per la Scienza  
Mariangela Morelli, Fondazione Pisana per la Scienza  
Giuseppina Catanzaro, Link University  
Sukrit Mahajan, TU Dresden  
Adrián Sanz Gálvez, Universidad Complutense de Madrid

20:00-21:45

### **Social Dinner**

21:45-23:00

### Late-breaking Flash-oral

## *The brain tumors*

PRIMARY AND METASTATIC BRAIN TUMORS



## Brain Tumor Immunology

CHAIR  
Gaetano Gargiulo

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|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 09:30-09:50 | <b>Ahmed Sadik</b> , DKFZ/DKTK, Heidelberg, Germany<br>The Spatial Distribution of Tryptophan Metabolic Fields Promote Niche-Specific Immunosuppressive Programs in Gliomas                                         |
| 09:50-10:00 | <b>Aso Omer Mohammed</b> , Universitätsklinikum Freiburg / University Hospital Zurich, Germany/Switzerland<br>Human Glioma-Infiltrated Brain Slices Reveal Payload-Specific Remodeling by Cytokine-Armored CAR-PBMC |
| 10:00-10:10 | <b>Laurens Zschke</b> , Charité, Berlin, Germany<br>Dexamethasone Induces Immunosuppressive Remodeling of the Brain Tumor Microenvironment Associated with Poor Prognosis                                           |
| 10:10-10:50 | <b>KEYNOTE Björn Scheffler</b> , DKTK/DKFZ, Heidelberg & University Duisburg-Essen, Germany<br>Glioblastoma at the Brain-Skull Marrow Interface: From Neuroimmune Crosstalk to Clinical Translation                 |
| 10:50-11:15 | <b>COFFEE BREAK &amp; POSTER SESSION</b>                                                                                                                                                                            |

## Brain Tumor Microenvironment

CHAIR  
Charlotte Flüh

|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 11:15-11:55 | <b>KEYNOTE Leila Akkari</b> , NKI, Amsterdam, Netherlands<br>From Diversity to Dependency: Plasticity of Myeloid Cells in Brain Tumors                                                         |
| 11:55-12:35 | <b>KEYNOTE Simona Parrinello</b> , UCL, London, UK<br>The Role of Injury Programs in Gliomagenesis                                                                                             |
| 12:35-12:55 | <b>Alexander Pietras</b> , Lund, Sweden<br>Phenotypic Screening Identifies Flunarizine as an Inhibitor of Radiotherapy-Induced Astrocyte Reactivity with Therapeutic Potential in Glioblastoma |
| 12:55-13:05 | <b>Felix C. Nebeling</b> , University Hospital Bonn / DZNE, Germany<br>Microglial Regulation of Glioblastoma Dissemination at the Far Infiltration Zone                                        |
| 13:05-14:00 | <b>LUNCH BREAK &amp; POSTER SESSION</b>                                                                                                                                                        |

*The brain tumor ecosystem*

IMMUNOLOGY · MICROENVIRONMENT



## Pediatric, Low-grade and Rare CNS Tumors

CHAIR  
Ilon Liu

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|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 14:00-14:20 | <b>Sina Neyazi</b> , Dana-Farber, Boston, USA<br>Project HOPE: A Longitudinal Multidimensional Profiling of High-Grade Gliomas in Children, Adolescents and Young Adults                                              |
| 14:20-14:40 | <b>Simon Zeuner</b> , DKFZ/KiTZ, Heidelberg, Germany<br>Repurposing Statins as Senolytics in Pediatric Low-Grade Glioma Leverages Mevalonate Pathway Dependency in Oncogene-Induced Senescence                        |
| 14:40-15:00 | <b>Kevin Lu</b> , Dana-Farber, Boston, USA<br>Co-Targeting Gangliosides to Overcome Antigen Heterogeneity in H3-Wildtype Pediatric High-Grade Glioma                                                                  |
| 15:00-15:10 | <b>Simay Çelikyürekli</b> , DKFZ/KiTZ, Heidelberg, Germany<br>Combined CDK9 and BET Inhibition Induces Apoptosis in H3K27M Pediatric Diffuse Midline Gliomas through Translational Suppression and Replication Stress |
| 15:10-15:20 | <b>Klejdi Nurellari</b> , Universitätsklinikum Freiburg, Germany<br>Integrated Spatial Profiling Identifies a Recruitment-Deficient Lymphocyte-Cold State in Meningioma                                               |
| 15:20-16:20 | <b>COFFEE BREAK &amp; POSTER SESSION</b>                                                                                                                                                                              |

## Functional Genetics and Next-generation Brain Tumor Models

CHAIR  
Matthias Schmitt

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|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 16:20-17:00 | <b>KEYNOTE Daniel Schramek</b> , Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum, Toronto<br>Decoding Aneuploidies in Glioma - Using CRISPR Technologies in Mice to Unravel Novel Cancer Driver Genes and Vulnerabilities in Recurrent CNA |
| 17:00-17:30 | <b>Poster prize and closing remarks</b><br>Scientific Committee                                                                                                                                                |

*The brain tumor diversity*

PEDIATRIC AND LOW-GRADE GLIOMAS



## Venue & registration

MAX DELBRÜCK CENTER FOR MOLECULAR MEDICINE

### Main venue

MDC.C (Building 83)  
Robert-Rössle-Str. 10  
13125 Berlin, Germany  
Extended symposium: Stadgut historic wooden barn

MEETING WEBSITE  
[www.mdc-berlin.de/BTM2026](http://www.mdc-berlin.de/BTM2026)



PROGRAM & UPDATES

## Committees

### Scientific Program Committee

**Charlotte Flüh** — clinician, neurosurgery  
**Gaetano Gargiulo** — GBM, biology  
**Rainer Glass** — GBM, biology  
**Ilon Liu** — GBM, clinician, neuro-oncology  
**Michela Serresi** — metastasis, biology

### Organizing Committee

**Gaetano Gargiulo** — MDC  
**Matthias Runow** — MDC  
**Matthias Schmitt** — MDC  
**Pilar Sanchez-Bailon** — MDC  
**Michela Serresi** — MDC



*Finding paths through brain tumor complexity*

