

Berlin

BRAIN TUMOR MEETING 2026

12th 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

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HELMHOLTZ

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

Glioma Cell Intrinsic Biology

CHAIR
Pilar Sanchez-Bailon

14:00-14:20	Ashraf Zaman , <i>Garvan Institute of Medical Research, Sydney, Australia</i> A Conserved Astrocyte-Like Parental Cell Defines the Phylogenetic Root of Adult-Type Diffuse Glioma
14:20-14:40	Kevin Johnson , <i>Yale University, USA</i> Acquired Genetic and Cell State Changes in IDH-Mutant Glioma Progression
14:40-14:50	Tuğba Bağcı-Önder , <i>Koç University, Turkey</i> Defining Epigenetic Vulnerabilities and Response Programs in IDH-Mutant Gliomas
14:50-15:00	Elisabetta Stanzani , <i>CNR - Istituto di Neuroscienze / Humanitas Research Hospital, Italy</i> 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	KEYNOTE Berta López Sánchez-Laorden , <i>Alicante, Spain</i> Microenvironmental Regulation of Melanoma Brain Metastases
16:25-16:45	Pedro García-Gómez , <i>CNIO, Spain</i> A Transient MXD4-Dependent Proliferative Pause Enables Survival of Brain Micrometastases
16:45-17:05	Jan Remsik , <i>VIB, Belgium</i> 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

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

Brain Tumor Microenvironment

CHAIR
Charlotte Flüh

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

The brain tumor ecosystem

IMMUNOLOGY · MICROENVIRONMENT



Pediatric, Low-grade and Rare CNS Tumors

CHAIR
Ilon Liu

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

Functional Genetics and Next-generation Brain Tumor Models

CHAIR
Matthias Schmitt

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



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



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18:00 – 19:30 Uhr

 **Live-Online-Veranstaltung**

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