

2026

International Chordoma Research Workshop

 Boston Marriott Cambridge Hotel | 50 Broadway, Cambridge, MA

Wednesday, September 16

5:30 – 7:30 PM
♀ Foyer

Reception and registration

Thursday, September 17

7:00 AM
♀ Salon 4 and Foyer

Continental breakfast and registration

8:00 – 11:45 AM
♀ Salon 3

Morning plenary session

8:00 AM

Opening

Josh Sommer, Executive Director, Chordoma Foundation
Welcome

Susie Rinehart
Patient perspective

Paul Gardner, NYU Langone Health
Chordoma: Past progress and future directions, a clinician’s perspective

8:25 AM

Dilys Parry memorial keynote lecture

Alisa Goldstein, National Cancer Institute, US
A tribute to Dilys Parry

Stefan Fröhling, DKFZ & National Center for Tumor Diseases Heidelberg, DE
Toward a molecular classification of chordoma: Progress, discrepancies, and the path to better treatment

9:10 AM ♀ Salon 3	Session A Molecular subtyping and tumor heterogeneity Revealing potentially clinically meaningful molecular subtypes, cell-state-specific therapeutic targets, and prognostic biomarkers Moderator: Stefan Fröhling, DKFZ & National Center for Tumor Diseases Heidelberg, DE
9:10 AM	Kadir Akdemir, MD Anderson Cancer Center, US Multi-omic insights into chordoma evolution and treatment resistance
9:35 AM	Jingye Wang, New York University, US Understanding developmental and chromatin constraints in chordoma cell state transitions under targeted therapy
10:00 – 10:20 AM	Coffee break
10:20 AM	Jiwei Bai, Beijing Tiantan Hospital, CN A single-cell chordoma atlas reveals a primitive malignant state linked to immune remodeling and clinical risk
10:45 AM	Mateusz Bujko, Maria Skłodowska-Curie National Cancer Institute, PL A multi-omic perspective on the heterogeneity of skull base chordoma
11:10 AM	Discussion
11:45 AM – 1:00 PM ♀ Salon 4 and Foyer	Lunch and group photo
1:00 – 5:00 PM	Afternoon breakout sessions Concurrent sessions with presentations, group discussion and action planning around key topics and questions
1:00 PM ♀ Salon 1-2	Session B Tumor microenvironment and immunobiology Illuminating how chordoma’s stromal architecture and immune milieu inhibit effective antitumor immune responses—and identifying potential strategies to overcome these barriers Moderator: Catalina Lee-Chang, Northwestern University, US
1:05 PM	Catalina Lee-Chang, Northwestern University, US Immune evasion by design: Fibrotic septa trap tumor-reactive lymphocytes in chordoma
1:30 PM	Jiuhui Xu, Peking University People's Hospital, CN Fibrous septa in chordoma: Formation mechanisms and their role in immune exclusion
1:55 PM	Christopher Alvarez-Breckenridge, MD Anderson Cancer Center, US Spatial transcriptomic profiling reveals therapy-associated immune remodeling and stromal constraints in immunotherapy-treated chordoma

2:20 PM	Discussion
2:40 – 3:00 PM	Coffee break
3:00 PM	Aurélie Dutour, Centre Léon Berard, FR Multi-omic immune profiling of chordoma to identify candidate biomarkers for immunotherapy response: From the IMCORPORAIT discovery program to prospective clinical validation
3:25 PM	Siddh van Oost, Leiden University Medical Center, NL Charting the spatial landscape of tumor immunity in chordoma
3:50 PM	Sergei Koralov, New York University, US Single-cell profiling of chordoma reveals an immunosuppressive tumor microenvironment shaped by tumor–myeloid complement crosstalk and lymphocyte dysfunction
4:15 PM	Discussion
5:00 PM	Adjourn
1:00 PM ♀ Salon 5-7	Session C Enabling clinical development Emerging datasets, trial infrastructure, prospective studies and regulatory frameworks designed to streamline and de-risk the clinical development of new systemic therapies for chordoma Moderator: Gregory M. Cote, Mass General Brigham Cancer Institute, US
1:10 PM	Abha Gupta, Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, CA Real-world evaluation of tyrosine kinase inhibitors in adults with chordoma: a CanSaRCC study
1:25 PM	Juan Zuluaga, MD Anderson Cancer Center, US Systemic therapy for advanced chordoma: A 30-year single-institution experience at MD Anderson Cancer Center
1:40 PM	Myrsini Ioakeim-Ioannidou, Mass General Brigham Cancer Institute, US Four decades of systemic therapy in conventional chordoma: The MGH experience
1:55 PM	Anthony Conley, MD Anderson Cancer Center, US A phase 2 trial of cetuximab for patients with locally advanced/metastatic chordoma
2:10 PM	Discussion
2:30 – 2:50 PM	Coffee break
2:50 PM	Gregory M. Cote, Mass General Brigham Cancer Institute, US Paving the way for chordoma clinical development

3:00 PM	Corrine Elliott, Berry Consultants, US Evolution of a platform trial in chordoma
3:20 PM	Silvia Stacchiotti, Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori, IT Leveraging the PUSH Platform to generate real-world evidence and accelerate drug development for chordoma
3:40 PM	Pierre Denis Démolis, Icelandic Medicines Agency, FR Necessary regulatory trade-offs: Giving access with acceptable uncertainties
4:00 PM	Martha Donoghue, US Food and Drug Administration, US Rare cancer drug development–FDA perspectives
4:20 PM	Discussion
5:00 PM	Adjourn
5:00 – 7:00 PM ♀ Salon 4 and Foyer	Poster session and reception Hors d'oeuvres and cash bar

Friday, September 18

7:00 AM ♀ Salon 4 and Foyer	Continental breakfast and registration
8:00 AM – 12:30 PM ♀ Salon 3	Morning plenary session
8:00 AM	Opening Josh Sommer, Executive Director, Chordoma Foundation Welcome Alex Cherucheril Patient perspective
8:10 AM ♀ Salon 3	Session D Emerging therapeutic concepts — Drug repurposing Preclinical and early clinical findings pointing to new systemic therapy approaches, including targeted agents that exploit genetic and metabolic vulnerabilities Moderator: Dan Freed, Chordoma Foundation
8:15 AM	Naveed Wagle, Pacific Neuroscience Institute, US Preliminary results of a phase II study of pembrolizumab and high-dose pemetrexed for the treatment of patients with progressive chordoma
8:30 AM	Qilin Zhang, Huashan Hospital, Fudan University, CN Clinical activity of afatinib in skull base chordoma and integrated proteomic–organoid biomarker discovery

8:45 AM	David B. Lombard, Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, US Targeting metabolic rewiring in chordoma
9:05 AM	Dan Freed, Chordoma Foundation Targeting oncogenic transcription and replication stress in chordoma
9:30 AM	Ron Firestein, Hudson Institute of Medical Research, AU An integrated platform for therapeutic target and combination discovery in chordoma
9:55 AM	Discussion
10:15 – 10:30 AM	Coffee break
10:30 AM ♀ Salon 3	Session E Emerging therapeutic concepts — Drugging cell surface targets Identifying druggable cell surface targets and developing cell-surface-directed therapies Moderator: Rob Magin, Mark Foundation for Cancer Research, US
10:35 AM	Moony Tseng, Broad Institute, US Cracking the chordoma surface: Discovering single and dual targets for next-generation cancer therapies
11:00 AM	Xiaowen Hu, University of Pennsylvania, US Pan-cancer mapping of actionable antibody targets enables precision target prioritization and therapeutic repurposing in chordoma
11:20 AM	Rachel Yamin, New York University, US Peptide-centric CAR T cells enable targeting of the intracellular lineage driver TBXT in chordoma
11:45 AM	Cassian Yee, MD Anderson Cancer Center, US Brachyury REdux: Immunopeptidome-guided epitope discovery revives an untargetable target
12:10 PM	Discussion
12:30 – 1:30 PM ♀ Salon 4 and Foyer	Lunch and poster awards
1:30 – 5:00 PM	Afternoon breakout sessions Concurrent sessions with presentations, group discussion, and action planning around key topics and questions

1:30 PM ♀ Salon 1-2	Session F Brachyury biology and therapeutic opportunities New insights into noncanonical functions of brachyury, including its roles in metabolism and chromatin remodeling, and emerging opportunities to target its expression or function in chordoma and other cancers Moderator: Yaguang Si, Chordoma Foundation
1:35 PM	Sebastian Arnold, University of Freiburg, DE Physiological TBXT functions as chromatin modifier during development and potential roles in chordoma
1:55 PM	Claudia Scholl, DKFZ, DE Time-resolved mapping of the TBXT-driven transcriptional and proteomic landscape in chordoma
2:15 PM	Bo Xia, Massachusetts General Hospital & Broad Institute, US Deciphering TBXT gene regulation mechanisms in chordoma
2:35 PM	Kevin Mellert, University Hospital Ulm, DE Fueling chordoma: Brachyury-CAD interaction boosts pyrimidine biosynthesis
2:55 – 3:15 PM	Coffee break
3:15 PM	Yaguang Si, Chordoma Foundation Therapeutic opportunities for targeting TBXT
3:30 PM	Chi Zhu, University of California, Berkeley, US LNA ASO-based anti-TBXT therapeutics for chordoma
3:50 PM	Charles Johannes, EPOC Scientific, US Peptide approaches to challenging intracellular targets
4:10 PM	Liron Bar-Peled, Massachusetts General Brigham Cancer Institute, US Identification of druggable and redox vulnerabilities in cancer
4:30 PM	Discussion
5:00 PM	Adjourn
1:30 PM ♀ Salon 5-7	Session G Optimizing care Advances that could change the standard of care for chordoma and improve patient outcomes. Discussion will identify key evidence gaps, areas of differing clinical practice or opinion, and priorities for future research and consensus building Moderator: Alessandro Gronchi, Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori, IT
1:35 PM	Georgios Zenonos, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, US Defining actionable resection thresholds in skull base chordoma using volumetric cutpoint analysis of extent of resection and residual tumor volume

1:55 PM	Myrsini Ioakeim-Ioannidou, Mass General Brigham Cancer Institute, US Lessons from PROC 85 26: Late radiation-related toxicities and survival impact in skull base and cervical chordoma
2:15 PM	Mark Bilsky, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, US Long-term outcomes of stereotactic radiosurgery for the management of chordomas of the spine
2:35 PM	Frank Traub, University Medical Center of the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, DE Intraoperative indocyanine green fluorescence imaging for visualization of chordomas: initial experience in five patients
2:55 – 3:15 PM	Coffee break
3:15 PM	Justin Brown, Paralysis Center, US Restoring bladder function following sacral root resection: Do nerve transfers have a role?
3:35 PM	Mary Frances Wedekind, National Cancer Institute, US Role of chemotherapy in poorly differentiated chordoma and The Childhood Cancer Data Initiative Pediatric, Adolescent, and Young Adult Rare Cancer Study
3:55 PM	Alessandro Gronchi, Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori, IT Optimizing care for primary chordoma: What the new International Consensus settles—and what it doesn't
4:10 PM	Discussion
5:00 PM	Adjourn
5:00 – 7:00 PM ♀ Foyer	Reception
7:00 – 9:00 PM ♀ Salon 4	Dinner with the chordoma community A special evening honoring those in our community who have made a truly uncommon impact

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