



Academy of thoracic oncology

21-23 October, 2026 - Zurich, Switzerland

Multidisciplinary update on diagnostic and treatment pathways translated into real world practice with expert contributions from ESTS, ESTRO, and ESR

Wednesday 21 October

08:00–08:30 **Registration**

08:30–08:45 **Welcome and introduction**

G. Hardavella, T. Blum, I. Opitz, N. Novoa, N. Rahman

Session 1 – Lung Cancer Screening (LCS)

Chairs: *T. Blum, T. Frauenfelder*

08:45–09:00 The next frontier in lung cancer screening: AI, biomarkers, and transformative technologies – *M.P. Revel, T. Frauenfelder*

09:00–09:15 Designing smarter lung cancer screening: Risk models, guidelines, and real-world delivery – *D. Baldwin*

09:15–09:30 From detection to decision: Hot questions on the modern management of positive findings from LCS – *W. van Geffen*

09:30–09:45 Precision prevention: Using airway biology to predict lung cancer before it appears – *S. Janes*

09:45–10:00 Discussion

Session 2 – Cracking the code of lung cancer: molecular insights, modern staging and early detection

Chairs: *D. Baldwin, M.J. Catarata*

10:00–10:15 Decoding lung cancer: Modern diagnostic pathology and the power of molecular biomarkers – *A. Romero*

10:15–10:30 Liquid biopsy in lung cancer: Current evidence, clinical integration and what's coming next – *J. Chorostowska-Wynimko*

10:30–10:45 TNM revamped: How the latest revisions are reshaping lung cancer staging – *G. Hardavella*



10:45–11:00	Optimising lung cancer diagnostic pathways: Integrating screening, rapid assessment, and early-stage detection – <i>T. Blum</i>
11:00–11:15	Discussion

11:15–11:45 Coffee break

Session 3 – Novel staging and diagnostic approaches in lung cancer

Chairs: *J. Annema, G. Hardavella*

11:45–12:00	PET/CT as a precision tool: Redefining diagnosis, staging, and (re)treatment selection in lung cancer – <i>U. Nestle (joining online)</i>
12:00–12:15	Radiogenomics of lung adenocarcinoma: Uncovering imaging signatures that matter – <i>M.P. Revel, T. Frauenfelder</i>
12:15–12:30	Old and new kids on the block: EBUS, autofluorescence, ENB, CBCT, robotic bronchoscopy – <i>A. Rozman</i>
12:30–12:45	Discussion

12:45–13:45 Lunch break

Session 4 – Early-stage lung cancer

Chairs: *I. Opitz, N. Novoa*

13:45–14:00	Optimisation of fitness assessment for surgery: Do's and don'ts – <i>L. Depypere</i>
14:00–14:15	The 2026 indications for sublobar resection-segmentectomy +/- wedge resection – <i>R. H. Petersen</i>
14:15–14:30	Robotic surgery vs. VATS vs. thoracotomy: Pros and cons – <i>B. Bottet</i>
14:30–14:45	Molecular and genomic profiling in early-stage lung cancer: Implications for surgery – <i>O. Lauk</i>
14:45–15:00	Discussion

Session 5 – The lung cancer 360° skills lab: interactive hands-on practical workshops & Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) discussions

Participants are divided into 4 groups and rotate between the workshops.

Breakout I Targeting with confidence: Navigation bronchoscopy and EBUS-guided diagnosis – *M.J. Catarata, T. Blum, J. Annema*

Breakout II Cutting-edge resection: VATS, RATS and airway intervention skills – *I. Opitz, N. Novoa, G. Monsch, R. H. Petersen*



Breakout III Next-Gen Airway Intervention: Robotics, Cryotechnology & APC – C. Steinack, A. Rozman, O. Lauk, S. Janes

Breakout IV Inside the case-multidisciplinary team (MDT) decision lab – G. Hardavella, M. Heuvelmans, W. van Geffen, I. Tietzova, D. Baldwin, C. Hertler, B. Bottet

15:00–15:45 Round 1

15:45–16:30 Round 2

16:30–17:15 Round 3

17:15–18:00 Round 4



Thursday 22 October

Session 6 – Pro/Con debate in local treatment for inoperable patients

Chairs: *J. Chorostowska-Wynimko, T. Frauenfelder*

- 08:30–08:45 Consider MWA / RFA over SBRT – *K. Stefanidis* (**joining online**)
08:45–09:00 Consider SBRT over MWA / RFA – *J. Willmann*
09:00–09:15 Discussion

Session 7 – Pro/Con debate and the surgeon’s cut about perioperative treatment in stage IB, IIA lung cancer

Chairs: *R. H. Petersen, I. Opitz*

- 09:15–09:35 Consider perioperative treatment in stage IB, IIA – *L. Boos*
09:35–09:55 Do not consider perioperative treatment in stage IB, IIA – *M. Migliore*
09:55–10:15 The surgeon’s cut in perioperative treatment in stage IB, IIA – *N. Novoa*
10:15–10:30 Discussion

10:30–11:00 Coffee break

Session 8 – MDT live: The lung screening and cancer decision arena

Chairs: *G. Hardavella, J. Chorostowska-Wynimko*

Participants are divided in round tables under the lead of an expert.

- 11:00–12:30 Interactive Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) discussions – *M. Heuvelmans, M. Migliore, A. Scherpereel, L. Boos, M. J. Catarata, I. Tietzova, W. van Geffen, T. Blum, N. Novoa, O. Lauk, M. Haberecker, J. Annema*

12:30–13:30 Lunch break

Session 9 – Locally advanced lung cancer stage III

Chairs: *J. Willmann, N. Novoa*

- 13:30–13:45 Resectable stage III disease: Define the boundaries – *I. Opitz*
13:45–14:00 Neoadjuvant and adjuvant systemic treatment/IO in stage III: Selection criteria – *T. Blum*



14:00–14:15 Neo- and adjuvant radiotherapy in stage III: Changing the scenery – S. Ramella (**joining online**)

14:15–14:30 Discussion

Session 10 – Lung cancer decisions that matter: Planning, technology and MDT excellence (interactive practical workshops)

Participants are divided into 3 groups and rotate between the workshops.

Breakout I RT planning simulators and delivery in stage III patients and MWA design and delivery – J. Willmann, O. Riesterer

Breakout II Expert MDT discussions on stage I and II lung cancer cases – G. Monsch, G. Hardavella, S. Janes, J. Annema

Breakout III Expert MDT discussion on stage III lung cancer cases – R. H. Petersen, M. Migliore, A. Charpidou, M. Haberecker

14:30–15:30 Round 1

15:30–16:00 *Coffee break*

16:00–17:00 Round 2

17:00–18:00 Round 3



Friday 23 October

Session 11 – Stage IV lung cancer

Chairs: *M. Heuvelmans, M. J. Catarata*

- 08:30–08:45 Surgery in oligometastatic disease: Choose wisely – *R. Werner*
08:45–09:00 Systemic treatment and immunotherapy – *V. Haakensen* (**joining online**)
09:00–09:15 Targeted treatments: Where and when – *L. Boos*
09:15–09:30 Antibody drug conjugates: Their place on the lung cancer treatment pathway – *J. Naidoo* (**joining online**)
09:30–09:45 Discussion

Session 12 – Palliative care in lung cancer

Chairs: *C. Hertler, M. Parsonage*

- 09:45–10:00 Managing breathlessness in lung cancer: Practical algorithms for compassionate, effective care – *D. Jovanovic*
10:00–10:15 Pain in lung cancer: Practical palliative algorithms for better patient outcomes – *I. Tietzova*
10:15–10:30 Transforming care for malignant pleural effusions: Evidence, innovation, and evolving practice – *N. Rahman*
10:30–10:45 Discussion

10:45–11:15 *Coffee break*

Session 13 – Navigating critical choices: Resuscitation and end-of-life care in lung cancer

Chairs: *N. Rahman, M. Parsonage*

- 11:15–11:30 Resuscitation decisions in lung cancer patients: Who, when, why – *C. Chelazzi* (**joining online**)
11:30–11:45 Decisions on end-of-life care: Management algorithms – *D. Jovanovic*
11:45–12:00 Thinking beyond the final conversation: End-of-life and resuscitation through the patient's eyes – *D. Montague*
12:00–12:15 Discussion



Session 14 – MDT live: Resuscitation status and end of life care decisions in lung cancer patients

Chairs: *D. Montague, D. Jovanovic*

Participants are divided in round tables under the lead of an expert.

12:15–13:30 Interactive Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) discussions – *M. Parsonage, D. Montague, J. Willmann, M. Migliore, I. Tietzova, C. Hertler, C. Steinack, A. Scherpereel, A. Rozman, O. Riesterer*

13:30–14:30 *Lunch break*

Session 15 – Double “M”: Mesothelioma and Mediastinum

Chairs: *N. Rahman, A. Scherpereel*

14:30–14:45 Mesothelioma diagnosis: Thoracoscopy, CT guided biopsy, cytology or VATS? – *N. Rahman*

14:45–15:00 Updates on mesothelioma imaging and staging – *K. Blyth*

15:00–15:15 Mesothelioma: Currently-available treatment options at diagnosis, first recurrence, second recurrence, and beyond – *A. Scherpereel*

15:15–15:30 Mesothelioma: The role and timing of surgical intervention – *O. Lauk*

15:30–15:45 Thymoma and thymic cancer: The pathologist’s eye – *M. Haberecker*

15:45–16:00 Thymoma and thymic cancer. Multimodal treatment options – *N. Girard*
(joining online)

16:00–16:15 Discussion

16:15–16:30 **Closing remarks**

G. Hardavella, T. Blum, I. Opitz, N. Novoa, N. Rahman