



# THE PATH TO LEADING INNOVATION IN LIQUID BIOPSY

International Society  
of Liquid Biopsy  
Workshop

**22 – 23 May 2026**

Event Venue: HABITA79 MGallery Pompeii 10 Via Roma, 80045 Pompei (NA), Italy

Chairs: Umberto Malapelle & Christian Rolfo



# SCIENTIFIC RATIONALE

The integration of liquid biopsy into routine clinical practice **marks a transformative advancement** in the management of cancer patients, enabling a **multidisciplinary and dynamic** approach to diagnosis, treatment selection, and disease monitoring. By analyzing circulating tumor DNA (ctDNA) from a simple blood draw, liquid biopsy offers a **minimally invasive alternative to conventional tissue biopsies**, delivering real-time insights into tumor genetics and heterogeneity.

Tumor cells, **due to their high proliferative activity**, undergo apoptosis and necrosis, **releasing fragments of tumor-derived DNA into the bloodstream**. **Thanks to advances in DNA sequencing technologies**, these ctDNA fragments can now be detected and characterized with high sensitivity and specificity. This **facilitates the identification of actionable mutations, the monitoring of treatment response, and the early detection of resistance mechanisms**.

By enabling the **non-invasive tracking of tumor evolution**, liquid biopsy supports timely and personalized therapeutic decisions, potentially improving patient outcomes while **minimizing the need for repeated invasive procedures**. This approach is **fully aligned with the principles of precision oncology**, allowing treatment strategies to be rapidly adapted based on the tumor's molecular profile at various stages of the disease.

**This session will explore the latest evidence and practical considerations for implementing** liquid biopsy in clinical oncology. Discussions will address **technical, clinical, and organizational aspects essential for the effective integration** of this tool into multidisciplinary cancer care pathways.

# PROGRAM 22 May 2026



- 12.30 - 13.30** *Light lunch*  
**13.30 - 13.45** Welcome by the authorities  
**Giancarlo Troncone, Giovanni Esposito, Matteo Lorito**  
**13.45 - 14.00** Welcome - **Umberto Malapelle, Christian Rolfo**  
*Introduced by: Umberto Malapelle*  
**14.00 - 14.20** Opening Lecture I: 10 years of evolution in liquid biopsy  
**David Gandara**  
*Introduced by: Natasha Leighl*  
**14.20 - 14.40** Opening Lecture II: The next 10 years - **Christian Rolfo**  
**14.40 - 15.00** Opening Lecture III: How to implement liquid biopsy in clinical practice in a Comprehensive Cancer Center  
**Fabrice Barlesi**

## I SESSION: HOW TO IMPROVE ACCESS OF LIQUID BIOPSY

*Chairs: Umberto Malapelle & Christian Rolfo*

- 15.00 - 15.20** Minimal requirements for liquid biopsy implementation in clinical practice - **Nicola Fusco**  
**15.20 - 15.40** Liquid Biopsy: How to overcome the barriers in low-income countries - **Ola Khorshid**  
**15.40 - 16.00** The relevance of External Quality Assurance Programs  
**Victoria Williams**  
**16.00 - 16.30** Panel Discussion - *led by Paul Hofman*  
**16.30 - 16.50** *Coffee break*

## II SESSION: BEYOND ctDNA AND BEYOND BLOOD

*Chairs: Evi Lianidou & Maria José Serrano*

- 16.50 - 17.10** Beyond ctDNA: focus on CTC - **Massimo Cristofanilli**  
**17.10 - 17.30** Extracellular vesicles: perspective from ISEV - **Kenneth Witwer**  
**17.30 - 17.50** Beyond blood: the other body fluids - **Marta Dueñas**  
**17.50 - 18.20** Panel Discussion - *led by Evi Giannakakou & Clara Mayo*  
**18.20 - 18.30** Closing Remarks - **Umberto Malapelle, Christian Rolfo**

# PROGRAM

## 23 May 2026

08.45 - 09.00 Opening remarks – **Umberto Malapelle, Christian Rolfo**

### III SESSION: CLINICAL IMPLEMENTATION OF LIQUID BIOPSY

*Chairs: Marcello Tiseo & Silvia Novello*

09.00 - 09.15 Lung Cancer - **Natasha Leighl**  
09.15 - 09.30 Breast Cancer - **Nicola Fusco**  
09.30 - 09.45 Colon Cancer - **Clara Montagut**  
09.45 - 10.00 Ovarian Cancer - **Sergio Marchini**  
10.00 - 10.20 Panel Discussion - *led by* **Marcello Tiseo**  
10.20 - 10.40 *Coffee break*  
10.40 - 10.55 Cholangiocarcinoma - **Matteo Fassan**  
10.55 - 11.10 Prostate Cancer - **Gunsagar S. Gulati**  
11.10 - 11.25 Head and Neck - **Lillian Siu**  
11.25 - 11.40 Pediatric - **Elaine Mardis**  
11.40 - 12.00 Panel Discussion - *led by* **Silvia Novello**

### IV SESSION: TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH IN LIQUID BIOPSY

*Chairs: Giuseppe Curigliano & Roberto Bianco*

12.00 - 12.20 3D Biology in Liquid Biopsy - **Umberto Malapelle**  
12.20 - 12.40 What ctDNA Really Measures: Dynamic MRD Stases and the Translational Path from PEGASUS to SAGITTARIUS - **Silvia Marsoni**  
12.40 - 13.00 Adaptative Trial design in Liquid Biopsy  
**Valsamo Anagnostou**  
13.00 - 13.20 Epigenetics & Liquid Biopsy - **Manel Esteller**  
13.20 - 13.40 Circulating biomarkers for Immunotherapy - **David Carbone**  
13.40 - 14.45 *Light Lunch*

### V SESSION: STAKEHOLDERS ROUNDTABLE

*Chairs: Christian Rolfo & Umberto Malapelle*

Scientific Societies perspectives on Liquid Biopsy

14.45 - 15.45 Round Table: Minimal requirement in Liquid biopsy - *led by* **Klaus Pantel, Chaterine Alix-Panabieres, Kenneth Witwer, Victoria Williams, Nicola Normanno & Raffaella Casolino**

*Chairs: Eloisa Jantus Lewintre & David Gandara*

15.45 - 16.45 Round Table: Bridge the gap in Liquid biopsy implementation in clinical practice – *led by* **Kenneth Witwer, Giuseppe Curigliano, Murry Wynes, Massimo di Maio, Filippo Fraggetta, Angelo Paolo Dei Tos, Paul Hofman, Lillian Siu, Silvia Novello, Stefania Vallone, Denis Horgan, Esther Diana Rossi**

16.45 - 17.00 Sum up and conclusion – **Umberto Malapelle, Christian Rolfo**

# STEERING COMMITTEE AND FACULTY

## STEERING COMMITTEE

**Umberto Malapelle** Associate Professor, Department of Public Health, University Federico II of Naples  
**Christian Rolfo** MD, PhD, MBA, Dr.hc. Diane Nye and Michael Rayden Chair in Innovative Cancer Research, Professor of Internal Medicine Director Division of Medical Oncology, Associate Director for Early Clinical Trials, OSUCCC-James, Division of Medical Oncology, The Arthur G. James Comprehensive Cancer Center, Columbus, OH

## FACULTY

**Giancarlo Troncone** Head of Cytopathology and Predictive Molecular Pathology Unit, Department of Public Health, University Federico II of Naples  
**Giovanni Esposito** President of the School of Medicine and Surgery of the University of Naples Federico II  
**Matteo Lorito** Rector of University Federico II of Naples  
**Valsamo Anagnostou** MD-PhD, Alex Grass Professor of Oncology, Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine  
**David Gandara** Professor of Medicine Emeritus, University of California, Davis UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center, Sacramento, CA  
**Natasha Leighl** MD MSc FRCPC FASCO FCAHS Head, Division of Medical Oncology and Hematology Daniel E. Bergsagel, Professor of Medicine, University of Toronto Adjunct Professor, IHPME, University of Toronto  
**Fabrice Barlesi** Directeur Général / CEO, Dpt de Cancérologie / Med. Oncology Dpt, Gustave Roussy / Univ. Paris Saclay  
**Nicola Fusco** MD, Head of Pathology, European Institute of Oncology IRCCS, Associate Professor of Pathology, Department of Oncology and Hemato-Oncology, University of Milan - Chair of the Quality Control and Accreditation Committee International Society of Liquid Biopsy (ISLB)  
**Ola Khorshid** Professor and Department Chair of Medical Oncology, NCI Cairo University - President of the OncoThoracic International Association  
**Victoria Williams** Scientific Director EMQN CIC, Salford  
**Paul Hofman** MD PhD, Director IHU RespirERA  
**Evi Lianidou** Professor of Analytical Chemistry and Clinical Chemistry Analysis of Circulating Tumor Cells (ACTC) Lab Dept of Chemistry, University of Athens, Athens, Greece  
**María José Serrano** PhD Liquid Biopsies & Cancer Interception Group Head of the Molecular Pathology Lab., University Hospital Virgen de las Nieves Vice-president of the International Society of Liquid Biopsy (ISLB), Coordinator of Innovative Public Procurement in Health, Andalucia, Spain

## STEERING COMMITTEE AND FACULTY

**Massimo Cristofanilli** Professor of Medicine, Associate Director of Precision Medicine, Sandra and Edward Meyer Cancer Center at Weill Cornell Medicine, Co-Founder and Past President of the International Society of Liquid Biopsy (ISLB), Department of Medicine, Division of Hematology-Oncology, New York

**Kenneth Witwer** Associate Professor, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

**Marta Dueñas** PhD. Head of the Genitourinary and Molecular Oncology Unit, FIB 12 de Octubre University Hospital. Liquid Biopsy PI at Translational Oncology Division of Biomedical Innovation Department at CIEMAT. Founder of Danae Urogenomics S.L. Madrid, Spain

**Evi Giannakakou** Professor of Pharmacology in Medicine Director of Laboratory Research, Hematology and Medical Oncology Weill Cornell Medicine, Department of Medicine Division of Hematology & Medical Oncology, New York

**Clara Mayo** Laboratory Operator Director, Pangaea Oncology Laboratory, Hospital Dexeus. Barcelona, Spain

**Marcello Tiseo** Full Professor of Medical Oncology, University of Parma and Director of Medical Oncology Unit, University Hospital of Parma

**Silvia Novello** MD, PhD Full Professor of Medical Oncology at the Dept of Oncology, University of Turin, AOU San Luigi Orbassano (TO), Italy

**Clara Montagut** Head of the Gastrointestinal Cancer Unit and leads a team of clinical and translational research in novel therapies and biomarkers in colorectal cancer, Hospital del mar Barcelona

**Sergio Marchini** PhD, Head, Translational Genomic Unit/Cancer Pharmacology Group Head, Humanitas Genomic Facility (HuGe), IRCCS, Humanitas Research Hospital

**Matteo Fassan** Professor of Pathology, University of Padua, Director, Department of Pathology, Ca' Foncello Hospital, ULSS2 Marca Trevigiana, Educational Dean of the Degree Course in Biomedical Laboratory Techniques, School of Medicine and Surgery, University of Padua

**Gulati Günsagar S.** MD, PhD, Hematology/Oncology Fellow, Department of Medical Oncology, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

**Lillian Siu** MD, FRCPC, Professor, University of Toronto, Director of Phase I Clinical Trials Program, Princess Margaret Cancer Centre

**Elaine Mardis** PhD, FAACR, The Steve and Cindy Rasmussen Nationwide Foundation Endowed Chair in Genomic Medicine, Co-Executive Director, The Steve and Cindy Rasmussen Institute for Genomic Medicine at Nationwide Children's Hospital, Professor of Pediatrics and Neurosurgery, The Ohio State University College of Medicine, Columbus, OH

**Giuseppe Curigliano** President-Elect of the European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) 2025, Professor of Medical Oncology, Department of Oncology and Hemato-Oncology, University of Milano La Statale, Clinical Director, Division of Early Drug Development, European Institute of Oncology IRCCS, Milan, Italy

## STEERING COMMITTEE AND FACULTY

**Roberto Bianco** Full Professor of Medical Oncology University of Naples Federico II, Head of Medical Oncology Department at the Federico II University Hospital in Naples, Italy

**Silvia Marsoni** MD, PhD, IFOM, Principal Investigator, Precision Oncology Lab, IFOM ETS - The AIRC Institute of Molecular Oncology, Milan, Italy

**Manel Esteller** MD, PhD, Group Leader, Cancer Epigenetics, Sant Pau Research Institute (IRSantPau), Sant Quintí, Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain

**Eloisa Jantus Lewintre** Full Professor of Cell Biology at Universitat Politècnica de València; Valencia, Spain. ISLB Vice-President

**Klaus Pantel** Professor and Chairman of the Institute of Tumor Biology at the University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf (UKE) and President of ELBS

**Chatherine Alix-Panabieres** Professor of Cancerology, Director of the Laboratory of Rare Human Circulating Cells & Liquid Biopsy (LCCRH), University Medical Center of Montpellier, France

**Murry Wynes** PhD, Senior Advisor Scientific Affairs, Denver, CO, USA

**Massimo Di Maio** Professor of Medical Oncology, Department of Oncology, University of Turin; AIOM president

**Filippo Fraggetta** past President SIAPEC, Pathology Unit, Gravina Hospital of Caltagirone, ASP Catania, Italy

**Angelo Paolo Dei Tos** MD, Professor of Pathology, Department of Medicine, University of Padua, Director, Department of Integrated Diagnostics, Azienda Ospedale-Università Padova, Dean, University of Padua School of Medicine, President, SIAPEC-IAP

**Stefania Vallone** Executive Office and International Relations WALCE APS

**Denis Horgan** Executive Director of the European Alliance for Personalised Medicine (EAPM)

**Nicola Normanno** MD Scientific Director, IRCCS Istituto Romagnolo per lo Studio dei Tumori (IRST) "Dino Amadori", Meldola, Italy

**Raffaella Casolino** MD, PhD, Honorary Senior Lecturer, School of Cancer Science, University of Glasgow

**Esther Diana Rossi** MD, PhD, MIAC, Associate Prof Anatomic Pathology, President-elect Papanicolaou Society of Cytopathology, Associate Editor Cancer Cytopathology, USCAP Ambassador, Co-head of the Head and Neck Committee for the Italian Society of Anatomic Pathology-SIAPEC, Head of the Endocrine and Cytology Units, Fondazione Policlinico universitario A. Gemelli-IRCCS, Rome, Italy

**David Carbone** MD, PhD Director, James Thoracic Oncology Center, Professor of Medicine, Columbus, OH





# REGISTRATION PROCEDURES FOR PARTECIPANTS

To register, participants have to:

- click on the following link: <https://workshopislb.it/>
- on the HOME PAGE, click the “REGISTER” button
- enter personal details
- **upload a short cover letter in Word or PDF explaining the motivations for attending the event**

Once the request has been submitted, participant will receive feedback within a few weeks. If the outcome will be positive, participant will be able to proceed with the event registration according to the instructions that will be provided by the organizer Medica Editoria.

The cover letter must be submitted no later than April 24th, 2026.

No logistical reimbursement is provided.

Participants must independently arrange their travel and accommodation for 22nd and 23rd May 2026 in Pompeii.

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