

EU Cancer Mission Cluster
Understanding **tumour-host interactions** Cluster

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Horizon Europe **Cancer Mission**

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WELCOME

We are pleased to welcome you to the first issue of the **Understanding (tumour-host interactions) Cluster Newsletter.**

The Cluster brings together six EU Cancer Mission projects funded under the **EU Cancer Mission - HIT-GLIO, THRIVE, GLIOMATCH, MULTIR, ARTURO and SPACETIME** - exploring tumour-host interactions across different cancer types and research approaches. By sharing knowledge, expertise and resources, the projects are building connections that can help advance our understanding of cancer and contribute to better approaches to prevention, diagnosis and treatment.

In this first issue, discover recent scientific developments, publications, meetings and other highlights from each project, as well as collaborative activities involving patients and stakeholders across the Cluster.

Stay connected as we continue to share knowledge, build collaborations and advance our understanding of tumour-host interactions.

Over the past year, HIT-GLIO has continued to grow through inspiring scientific collaboration, knowledge exchange and engagement with the wider public.

On 23 March 2026, HIT-GLIO hosted the second annual U-THI Cluster meeting at the Nencki Institute of Experimental Biology in Warsaw. The hybrid meeting brought together representatives from all six Cluster projects, ARTURO, GLIOMATCH, HIT-GLIO, MULTIR, SPACETIME and THRIVE, as well as colleagues from the European Commission and HaDEA. Participants shared experiences, discussed data management and sharing, and explored opportunities for joint communication. They also addressed health inequalities and evidence-based policymaking, while planning future activities for 2026 and 2027 and strengthening collaboration across the Cluster. For more information, please see the press release.

On 18 and 19 May 2026, the HIT-GLIO consortium met in Marseille for its annual meeting, hosted by Professor Ling Peng and the CNRS team. Partners had the opportunity to exchange ideas, discuss the progress of work packages, and reflect on the achievements and challenges across the project. These in-person discussions are invaluable for aligning the efforts, strengthening collaborations, and identifying new opportunities to advance shared goals. For the research update and **HIT-GLIO work so far please check the following publications (PMIDs):** 39921567, 40994151, 40695778, 40911414, 41803879, 41365374, 42458028, 42523056, 42084057, 41612972, 40561017, 41229216, 39699216, 38865273.





On 8 June 2026 Bozena Kaminska presented HIT-GLIO goals during an event marking World Brain Tumor Day at the National Institute of Oncology, Warsaw. The whole day event, bringing clinicians, researchers, media and patient representatives was organised by the Polish Cancer Mission Hub.

Bozena Kaminska presented challenges of brain tumour therapy at the inaugural meeting of the "Medical Reason of State" Expert Council on Brain Diseases, held on March 3, 2026. The event was under the honorary patronage of Adam Jarubas, Chair of the European Parliament's Subcommittee on Public Health. The statement was included in the report from the meeting of the Council of Experts on Brain Diseases of the "Medical Reason of State" initiative, and submitted to the Polish parliament.

The project was also featured in the "Leaders in Horizon" interview produced by the Polish National Contact Point for Horizon Europe. Katarzyna Leszczyńska and Marta Rucińska discussed international project coordination, Horizon Europe funding, and opportunities for Polish researchers to participate in European projects. The interview is available online in Polish: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z-lKReFlzw4

Conference update: Bozena Kaminska presented the project's results in the session **OS03 "Spatial and temporal heterogeneity in the (inflammatory) microenvironment of gliomas"** at the EANO 2026 in Rome, Italy (September 25, 2026).

THRIVE: From understanding the biology of liver cancer to improving prevention, diagnosis and treatment

Liver cancer remains a major health challenge, with substantial unmet needs in prevention, early detection and treatment. The **THRIVE project** brings together multidisciplinary expertise to address these challenges across the liver cancer continuum, from understanding populations at risk and tumour–host interactions to developing biomarkers and identifying innovative, affordable and societally acceptable therapeutic strategies.

Importantly, THRIVE's contribution extends beyond the consortium itself. Through active engagement with the **EU Cancer Mission Understanding Cluster,** the project is helping to connect research programmes, share knowledge and build synergies between European initiatives working towards a better understanding of cancer.

Advancing our understanding of liver cancer

Recent studies arising from the project have provided important new insights into the mechanisms that drive liver cancer development, progression and treatment response.

Research published in **Nature Genetics** demonstrated that different **CTNNB1 mutations** can have distinct effects on activation of the Wnt/β-catenin signalling pathway and on immune responses in hepatocellular carcinoma (Krishna et al., Nature Genetics, 2026). These findings add to our understanding of the molecular heterogeneity of liver cancer and may contribute to the development of more precise approaches to patient stratification and treatment.

In a study published in **Cancer Cell**, THRIVE researchers identified **two evolutionary trajectories of early hepatocarcinogenesis**. One was characterised predominantly by copy-number alterations, while the other involved early immune evasion. The findings provide new insights into the earliest stages of liver cancer development and highlight the potential relevance of immunotherapy as an early intervention strategy (Zhang et al., Cancer Cell, 2026).

Further work has identified **persistent activation of ATF6α as a driver of hepatocellular carcinoma** and as a potential marker for stratifying patients according to their response to immunotherapy (Li et al., **Nature**, 2026). Complementing these findings, research characterising distinct patterns of tumour ploidy evolution has provided new insights into the biological processes associated with liver cancer progression (Cordier et al., **Journal of Hepatology**, 2025).

THRIVE is also addressing the specific challenges of childhood liver cancer. Research published in **Molecular Oncology** has identified targeted suppression of the **Wnt signalling pathway** as a promising therapeutic strategy for hepatoblastoma (Balaseviciute et al., Molecular Oncology, 2025).
Together, these studies illustrate THRIVE's research, from the earliest stages of tumour development to mechanisms of treatment response.

From scientific discovery to European collaboration

Scientific progress depends not only on discoveries, but also on the ability to share knowledge and build on complementary research. THRIVE has contributed to **joint activities with projects from the Understanding Cluster,** creating opportunities to exchange research findings, discuss common challenges and identify areas for collaboration. In this context, THRIVE has participated in the development of several shared communication materials and a cluster video showcasing the links and synergies between projects. Watch the Understanding Cluster video.
Further, THRIVE's own communication activities complement these cluster-wide efforts. A project video introducing THRIVE's objectives, partners and expected impact is available on the project website, alongside project news, publications and other resources. **Discover** THRIVE

Engaging patients, policymakers and the wider community

For THRIVE, advancing research also means ensuring that scientific progress is connected to the needs of **patients, citizens, healthcare professionals and policymakers.**

Through the involvement of the **European Liver Patients' Association (ELPA)**, THRIVE supports activities aimed at increasing awareness of liver disease and liver cancer and strengthening the patient perspective in prevention and research. Among these activities were **high-level policy meetings at the European Parliament**, addressing fatty liver disease, non-communicable diseases and liver cancer prevention. ELPA also organised the Liver Screening Week, the European Liver Screening Tour and the ELPA Prevention Village. These initiatives helped raise awareness of liver health and the importance of identifying underlying liver disease at an early stage.

Engagement with stakeholders has also been supported through activities facilitated by European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL), bringing together healthcare professionals, researchers, industry representatives, patient organisations and the THRIVE consortium at the renowned international meetings organised by the society. [Learn more about THRIVE stakeholder engagement]

Building capacity and sharing knowledge

THRIVE is also contributing to the development of a more open and connected European cancer research ecosystem through **training and capacity building**. THRIVE recently delivered the successful training course **"Management and Policies in Cancer Research: Open Access and FAIR Data Principles"**. The course provided practical guidance on Research Data Management, Open Science and FAIR Data principles, bringing together members from the **THRIVE Consortium** and from other projects of the **EU Cancer Mission Understanding Cluster.**

Bringing research to the international stage

THRIVE researchers have presented project findings at major international scientific meetings, including the EASL Annual Meeting, EASL Liver Cancer Summit and the ILCA Annual Conference, among other leading meetings in the field. Through oral and poster presentations, invited talks and keynote contributions, they have shared project findings with the international liver cancer community, fostering scientific exchange and new collaboration opportunities.

Stay connected

GLIOMATCH

The malignant Glioma immuno-oncology matchmaker: towards data-driven precision medicine using spatially resolved radio-multiomics

GLIOMATCH aims to improve outcomes for adults and children with malignant gliomas by identifying which immunotherapy approach is best suited to each patient. By integrating spatial single-cell multiomics, MRI and clinical data from multicentre studies, the project is developing innovative biomarkers and a digital matchmaker to support more personalised treatment selection and monitoring.



Leading on data across the cluster

On 23 March 2026 GLIOMATCH joined the second U-THI-Clust annual meeting in Warsaw, hosted by HIT-GLIO at the Nencki Institute. As leader of the Data Management and Sharing working group, the project presented a cluster-wide survey of data practices and brought UNCAN-Connect and CANDLE into the discussion on connecting cluster data to the wider European cancer data ecosystem.

Read the news piece



Fifth consortium meeting in Barcelona

On 28–29 April 2026 the consortium met in Barcelona, hosted by project partners Sant Joan de Déu Barcelona Children's Hospital and the Fundació de Recerca Sant Joan de Déu. Partners aligned priorities for the second half of the project: retrospective and prospective clinical studies, tumour microenvironment research, radio-multiomics integration, data management and exploitation.

Read the news piece



Brain cancer research on the EU policy agenda

On World Brain Tumour Day, 8 June 2026, GLIOMATCH took part in the European event "Advancing Brain Cancer Research: From policy action to scientific breakthroughs" at the European Parliament, opened by Commission President Ursula von der Leyen. Coordinator Prof. Frederik De Smet and Prof. Dr. Steven De Vleeschouwer (KU Leuven / UZ Leuven) represented the project.
Read the news piece



"GLIOMATCH: Explained" video and interview series

Three episodes of our video interview series are online, with coordinator Prof. Frederik De Smet, neurosurgeon Prof. Dr. Steven De Vleeschouwer (KUL-UZL) and paediatric haemato-oncologist Prof. Dr. Sandra Jacobs (KUL-UZL). Two further interviews are already published in writing and will be added to the video series soon, one on an upcoming KUL-LISCO publication with the authors and another with Dr. Kathrin Cresswell, Professor of digital innovations in health and care (UEDIN). Our teams also feature in the Glioblastoma Research Organisation's GBM podcast (season 4, episode 4). Watch the series or read the interviews on our news page.

What patients told us

83 respondents | 6 countries

Cancer Patients Europe and KU Leuven surveyed patients, relatives and carers affected by glioblastoma across six European countries. 93% would be willing to use immunotherapy if it improved prognosis and 82% would be likely to join an immunotherapy trial. Survival was the main treatment priority (62%), while impact on quality of daily life was the leading concern (67%).
See all survey findings

Results and dissemination so far

7 | 8 | 16+

public deliverables | peer-reviewed publications | conference contributions

All public deliverables and peer-reviewed publications are listed and downloadable on our results page, covering the prospective trial design, the legal basis for sample and data sharing, cluster collaboration and policy work. Two further publications are in the pipeline.
Browse our results

Recent events

Five Years EU Cancer Mission: Stronger Through Connection, Brussels, 29 September – 1 October 2026 – coordinator Prof. Frederik De Smet showcased GLIOMATCH at the project exhibition and participated in a panel discussion on connected cancer data.

SIOPE BTG Annual Meeting, Athens, 15–19 September 2026 – Dr. Julie Morscio (KU Leuven) presented work on radiotherapy resistance in highly aggressive paediatric brain tumours, in particular diffuse midline glioma.

GLIOMATCH partners at the European Association of Neuro-Oncology (EANO 2026) – FINCB, KUL-UZL and KUL-LISCO joined and shared their research at the meeting from 24-27 September 2026 in Rome.

Over the past months, the MULTIR project has made significant progress towards its objective of improving our understanding and prediction of patient response to cancer immunotherapy.

From patient samples to AI-based prediction

A major focus of the project has been the generation of comprehensive biological datasets to investigate the complex interactions between the tumour, the immune system and the host.

All patient samples collected within MULTIR are currently undergoing analysis using complementary molecular and biological approaches across the consortium. Over the coming months, the resulting datasets will enter the next key phase of MULTIR: integration and analysis using AI and machine-learning approaches. The aim is to identify combinations of biological features associated with patient outcome and treatment response across skin, bladder and lung cancers, ultimately contributing to the development of interpretable predictive models.

In parallel, the first experimental validation studies have been initiated. Several biological hypotheses and candidate mechanisms are now being investigated experimentally, bridging computational predictions, biological mechanisms and future translational applications.

A growing scientific contribution

Since the launch of MULTIR, the consortium has already contributed to 17 scientific publications, reflecting the active scientific collaboration across the project and its growing contribution to research in cancer immunology, precision oncology and AI-driven cancer research. Explore our publications

Bringing the patient perspective into AI development

Patient involvement remains an important component of MULTIR. A recent consortium study explored patient advocates' perspectives on the opportunities, risks and conditions associated with the use of AI in cancer care.

The study involved 18 representatives from 16 patient organisations, covering the MULTIR scope and broader cancer advocacy. Through interviews and consultations, participants contributed to recommendations for a trustworthy, equitable and patient-centred implementation of AI in oncology.

The resulting paper, "Governing artificial intelligence in cancer care: Perspectives and recommendations from patient organizations and the MULTIR consortium," identifies six priorities: clear communication, education and training, demonstration of clinical benefits, robust data infrastructures, appropriate ethical and regulatory frameworks, and meaningful patient involvement throughout AI development and implementation.

These findings reinforce a central principle of MULTIR: the clinical value of AI will depend not only on model performance, but also on transparency, interpretability, trust and the integration of patient perspectives.
Read the study, now published in the Journal of Cancer Policy.

The MULTIR Patient & Caregiver Survey is still open



MULTIR continues to collect perspectives from patients and caregivers through its European survey on AI in cancer care.
The survey explores expectations, concerns and opinions about the use of AI in cancer care and research, helping ensure that future MULTIR approaches reflect the perspectives of those most directly affected.
Patients and caregivers are still invited to participate and help disseminate the survey across Europe.
More information and access to the survey are available on the MULTIR website. Find out more

Annual Meetings



On 2–3 October 2025, the MULTIR consortium gathered in Hannover, Germany, for its 2nd Annual Meeting. The meeting provided an important opportunity to review progress, exchange ideas, and agree on key next steps for the project. Read more about our 2nd Annual Meeting.

On 1–2 October 2026, the consortium gathered in Aarhus, Denmark, for its 3rd Annual Meeting to discuss project progress, ongoing activities, and priorities for the next phase. Read more about our 3rd Annual Meeting.

Stay connected

Over the past months, the ARTURO consortium has continued its efforts to understand how intratumoral microbiota influence cancer therapy responses. Following the establishment of key protocols and technologies, the project has now entered a new phase focused on patient samples and patient-derived Tumour-on-Chip models.

Research Progresses:

- **Characterisation of the microbiome:** Identification of bacteria (at genus or species level) composing the microbiome associated with invasive lobular breast cancer, a very poorly understood type of breast cancer.
- **Development of a Tumour-on-Chip platform:** Development of a new Tumour-on-Chip device that can be generated from small patient biopsy sample, opening potential for routine clinical application and personalised medicine approaches.
- **Rapid prediction for treatment response:** Demonstration of the feasibility of using Tumour-on-Chip models to assess drug sensitivity and resistance within just four days, a time frame compatible with clinical decision timelines, and to support more personalised treatment strategies.
- **Tumour-on-Chip infection:** Beginning of the phase of Tumour-on-Chips infection with bacterial candidates, enabling functional investigations.

Participation at the EU Cancer Mission conference "Advancing cancer care: Personalised treatment and innovation for all Europeans" in Copenhagen, Denmark

On 4 December 2025, ARTURO coordinator Dr. Maria Carla Parrini participated in a panel on cutting-edge diagnostics in precision cancer care, highlighting the role of AI-enhanced imaging, molecular profiling and novel patient-derived 3D cancer models in personalised oncology.

The event gathered key stakeholders from across Europe to discuss innovation and equitable access to advanced cancer therapies. Watch the replay of the conference session here.



ARTURO featured in the French Society of Tumour Microenvironment (FSTM) Podcast

An ARTURO publication was showcased in Episode 2 of the FSTM Podcast, which explores how the tumour microenvironment influences treatment response and chemotherapy resistance in triple-negative breast cancer. Listen in French here.

ARTURO in the media: article in L'Express:

ARTURO was featured in the 27 November 2025 issue of L'Express in an article on major scientific breakthroughs in cancer research, highlighting the project's contribution to innovative cancer studies. Read here

Publications

Lansche et al. (2025). Bioengineering a Patient-Derived Vascularized Lung Tumor-on-Chip Model to Decipher Immunomodulation by the Endothelium. **Advanced Healthcare Materials.** https://doi.org/10.1002/adhm.202403446

Nurmik et al. (2025). Protocol for the biofabrication of immunocompetent tumor-on-chip models from patient solid tumors for assessment of anticancer therapies. **STAR Protocols.** https://doi.org/10.1016/j.xpro.2025.103895

Hofer et al. (2025). An Extracellular Matrix-Producing Subset of Cancer-Associated Fibroblasts Drives Chemoresistance in Breast Cancer via SRC Activation and G0S2 Upregulation. **Cancer Research.** https://doi.org/10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-25-0966

Helal et al. (2026) Tumor-on-Chip as a Personalised Platform for Rapid Drug-Testing in Breast Cancer. **Cell Reports Medicine.** Accepted



Recent Events

5 Years EU Cancer Mission: Stronger Through Connection: Represented by Prof. Sandra Martins Pereira (Lead WP8. Ethics and Regulatory Frameworks) and Prof. Pablo Hernández-Marrero (Lead WP7. Co-design and Implementation Science), project ARTURO participated as an exhibitor at the Cancer Mission event on 29 September 2026, exchanging ideas on how to best integrate end-users' perspectives using co-design approaches to develop ethically sound and evidence-based cancer-related innovation and health policies.

Stay connected

Mapping Lung Tumours in Space and Time: SPACETIME After 18 Months

SPACETIME is an EU Mission Cancer project on non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), the most common form of lung cancer. It studies the tumour microenvironment (where different cells sit inside the tumour, how they interact, and how this spatial organisation changes over time) and links these patterns to signals in the blood and environmental exposures. The aim is to develop spatial biomarkers that help doctors predict which patients will benefit from treatments such as immunotherapy.

Building a Shared Foundation

A major achievement has been the creation of a shared patient cohort. Three centres (Amsterdam UMC in the Netherlands, PANGAEA Oncology in Barcelona, and FIMA in Pamplona) have together included 117 people with NSCLC. For each patient, the teams collect tumour tissue, and for a subset also blood samples and sometimes lymph node material. Crucially, the partners have harmonised how samples are collected, stored and moved between hospitals and research labs. Common procedures and legal agreements now allow tumour and blood samples to be sent safely and consistently between centres. This shared approach means that data from Amsterdam, Barcelona and Pamplona can be combined and compared, greatly increasing the value of every sample.

Getting more information from less tissue

Lung biopsies are small, so every bit of tissue is precious. SPACETIME partners have developed new ways to apply several advanced techniques to just a few thin slices of tumour. This allows SPACETIME to study how cancer cells, immune cells and their surroundings are organised and interacting, without asking more from patients than a standard biopsy. Moreover, it has the additional advantage that the results from the different techniques can be more easily combined in the downstream computational analysis. In simple terms, this means we can see **which cells are where in the tumour, check which genes are active in different areas, and capture chemical fingerprints of how cells use energy and how they are coated with sugars.**

From maps to understanding

To make these detailed views of the tumour useful, SPACETIME also develops **smart data analysis tools and lab models.** The tools help recognise patterns in how immune and cancer cells behave and change as the tumour becomes more aggressive. In the lab, patient derived tumour samples and mouse models are used to **test drugs and potential biomarkers** and see whether predicted patterns really change treatment effects. This combination of data and experiments is what will eventually turn spatial maps into **practical tests** that can guide patient care.

A growing scientific contribution

The SPACETIME consortium has contributed to 10 scientific publications to date, demonstrating the collaborative research efforts of its partners and supporting advances in lung cancer research through spatial multi-omics and innovative approaches to understanding the lung tumour microenvironment.
Explore our publications.

People at the centre: patients, experts and open science

SPACETIME has put strong collaboration and openness into practice. A **Patient Advisory Board** has been formed, met several times, and helped co-create lay materials and a patient-focused session at the annual meeting. An **Impact Board** of clinicians, trial experts, national cancer registry specialists and patient representatives has been set up and has started identifying barriers and key questions for future spatial biomarker tests. The project has also joined forces with other Mission Cancer projects in the "Understanding Tumour-Host Interactions" cluster, co-developing a shared brochure, video and policy recommendations, and has started building the TrustBioHub data platform to enable structured sharing of SPACETIME results with the wider research community.

Looking ahead

In the coming period, SPACETIME will start running full multi-omics analyses on the shared patient samples and complete single-cell sequencing for selected tumours. These data will be used to define spatial patterns of cancer and immune cells that are linked to treatment response, and to test these patterns in patient-derived models and mouse models. At the same time, work will continue on linking tumour and blood signals to environmental exposures, so that biological insights can be placed in the real-world context in which patients live.



Stay connected

Patient involvement and impact across the cancer research cluster

Patient involvement is helping ensure that cancer research reflects the needs, priorities and lived experiences of people affected by cancer. **GLIOMATCH, SPACETIME** and **MULTIR** have engaged patients, caregivers and advocates through surveys, advisory boards, interviews and educational activities, translating their contributions into research insights, accessible information and recommendations.

GLIOMATCH | Understanding patient priorities in glioblastoma research

In 2025, Cancer Patients Europe (CPE) and KU Leuven conducted a survey with 83 patients, relatives and caregivers affected by glioblastoma across six European countries, exploring their expectations and concerns regarding immunotherapy and clinical trials.

Key findings from the survey

93%
Were willing to consider immunotherapy if associated with a better prognosis.

67%
Identified quality of life as their main concern about immunotherapy.

82%
Were likely to participate in an immunotherapy clinical trial.

67%
Considered potential health benefits the most important factor in trial participation.

62%
Identified survival as their primary treatment priority.

80%
Wanted more information about long-term effects and follow-up care.

The findings demonstrate interest in innovative treatments alongside the need for clear, accessible information about benefits, risks, quality of life and long-term outcomes. These insights are informing GLIOMATCH's research and communication activities, helping ensure that patient priorities remain central to developing personalised immunotherapy approaches.

Read more about GLIOMATCH .

SPACETIME

Integrating patient perspectives into spatial biomarker research

SPACETIME established a Patient Advisory Board (PAB) of five lung cancer patients, advocates and caregivers, actively contributing to communication, dissemination and implementation activities. Through regular meetings and educational sessions with researchers, the PAB supports knowledge exchange and helps ensure that the project considers real-world patient needs.



Jan Clarke
Secretary and Co-Founder of Oncogene Cancer Research, UK



Nicoline Ehrhardt
Co-Founder of ALK Positive Europe and ALKpositiv Deutschland, Germany



Korina Pateli
Founder of Fairlife Lung Cancer Care, Greece



Thanasis Akalestos
Member of FairLife Lung Cancer Care, Scientific expert, Greece



Pilar Muñoz
Co-Founder of ALK Positive Europe, Secretary of AEACaP, Spain

Key achievements include:

- Accessible communication: Co-creation of a lay-language leaflet, bookmark, dedicated website content and scientific glossary.
- Patient-focused events: Dedicated sessions at project Annual Meetings, including “From Cells to Stories: Mapping Human Experience in SPACETIME.”
- Research and implementation: Patient representatives identified communication needs, ethical considerations, trust-related issues and barriers to adopting spatial biomarker technologies. Their contributions informed a review article on implementation barriers and enablers.
- European patient education: A dedicated session at the Lung Cancer Europe Annual Meeting engaged advocates from national lung cancer organisations, raising awareness of spatial biomarker research and its potential contribution to personalised lung cancer care.



MULTIR

Shaping trustworthy and patient-centred AI in oncology

MULTIR involves patients and patient organisations in research, stakeholder engagement and communication to support the responsible use of AI in personalised cancer treatment. Its activities include:

Patient-informed recommendations: Interviews with advocates representing melanoma, lung and bladder cancer communities, followed by webinars to review and refine recommendations on ethical, equitable, trustworthy and patient-centred AI. Read the study

Multilingual patient survey: An anonymous, confidential survey of adults with melanoma, lung or bladder cancer and their caregivers explores experiences and expectations of AI in cancer care. Available in nine languages, results are planned for publication in 2026.

Accessible information: A multilingual patient section of the project website explains tumour–host interactions, AI-supported treatment decisions, data protection and patient involvement in lay language.

Stakeholder engagement: Patient organisations contributed to the October 2024 stakeholder workshop and the 2025 symposium, "Advancing Oncology with AI: Innovative Tools, Better Outcomes." At the symposium, Ernst-Günther Carl (Europa Uomo) presented a multilingual, privacy-preserving cancer chatbot, while Rob White (Melanoma Patient Network Europe) moderated a panel on trust, transparency, equitable access and AI's future in oncology.

Continued patient advocacy: A post-symposium interview with Rob White explored explainability, shared decision-making and the importance of involving patients throughout AI development and implementation.

A shared commitment to meaningful patient involvement

Across the three projects, patient engagement is helping bridge the gap between scientific innovation and the needs of people affected by cancer. Through surveys, advisory boards, interviews, accessible resources and stakeholder events, patients are contributing to research priorities, identifying practical and ethical challenges, and supporting the development of more understandable, inclusive and patient-centred approaches to cancer care.



Understanding tumour-host interactions Cluster

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