

COST Action CA22103

3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting

**Net4Brain**

*Istanbul*



**JUNE 1-3, 2026**

**Koç Üniversitesi, İstanbul, Türkiye**



Scan the QR code to access online resources,  
including speaker and poster abstracts







# ABOUT NET4BRAIN · WORKING GROUPS

## COST ACTION CA22103

### A Comprehensive Network Against Brain Cancer

Net4Brain is a pan-European, multidisciplinary COST Action network uniting researchers, clinicians, and institutions across Europe to accelerate breakthroughs in brain cancer research and treatment. Launched in 2023 and running through 2027, the Action connects the continent's leading neuroscientists, oncologists, data scientists, and biomedical engineers under a single shared mission.

<b>38+</b> Countries	<b>635+</b> Membership	<b>6</b> Working Groups	<b>4</b> Years
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 <b>Neuroscience</b>	 <b>Molecular Biology</b>	 <b>AI &amp; Big Data</b>
 <b>Clinical Translation</b>	 <b>Genomics &amp; Omics</b>	 <b>Neuroimaging</b>

### Working Groups WG1 – WG6 Overview

<b>WG1</b>	Non-invasive Biomarker Discovery	<b>Chairs:</b> <a href="#">Aida Hajdarpasic</a> , <a href="#">Thomas C Booth</a> Imaging biomarkers and AI tools for glioma diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment response.
<b>WG2</b>	Preclinical Modelling	<b>Chairs:</b> <a href="#">Anna Golebiewska</a> , <a href="#">Barbara Breznik</a> Preclinical glioma models — 3D organoids, patient-derived cells, zebrafish.
<b>WG3</b>	Pathogenesis and Tumour Profiling	<b>Chairs:</b> <a href="#">Tuğba Bağcı Önder</a> , <a href="#">Yasin Kaymaz</a> Glioma–microenvironment interactions via single-cell multiomics and spatial transcriptomics.
<b>WG4</b>	Mathematical & Computational Modelling	<b>Chairs:</b> <a href="#">Claudio Angione</a> , <a href="#">Milana Frenkel-Morgenstern</a> Mechanism-aware deep learning and multi-omics integration for novel drug target discovery.
<b>WG5</b>	Clinical Treatment Recommendation	<b>Chairs:</b> <a href="#">Alkinoos Athanasiou</a> European consensus building in brain tumour radiotherapy and translational pipelines.
<b>WG6</b>	Dissemination and Exploitation	<b>Chairs:</b> <a href="#">Aylin Toplu-Hocaoğlu</a> , <a href="#">Claudia Mazo</a> Communicating Net4Brain's science to public, patients

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

### SPEAKERS SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME 2026

This year's meeting features world leading keynote lectures spanning AI in oncology, bioengineering, and translational brain cancer research

#### Day 1• June 1, 2026 •10:15–10:40

Keynote: *Shaping Careers Across Academia and Clinical Practice*



**Milica Pešić**

Institute for Oncology  
and Radiology, Serbia



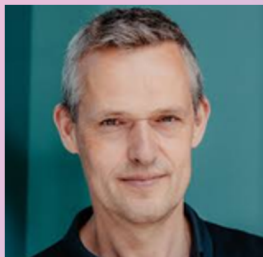
**Radim Jančálek**

St. Anne's University  
Hospital, Czechia



**Claudio Angione**

Teesside University,  
United Kingdom

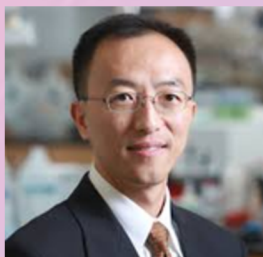


**Bart Westerman**

Cancer Center Amsterdam, Netherlands

*Towards consolidation of mutation-driven cancer progression and drug pharmacokinetics for combination therapies*

**Day 2 Keynote• Chair: Tuğba Bağcı Önder**



**Guohao Dai**

Northeastern University, USA

*Bioengineered perfused human brain microvasculature to model brain tumor and neurodegenerative diseases*

**Day 2 Keynote• Chair: Xinzhong Li**



**Ömer Bayraktar**

Wellcome Sanger Institute, United Kingdom

*Mapping the rules of glioblastoma using single cell and spatial genomics*

**Day 3 Keynote• Chair: Radim Jancalek**

**All keynote lectures will be held in the Main Saloon (-2. Floor).**

Questions welcome from all participants following each lecture.

# DAY 1 PROGRAMME

## JUNE 1, 2026 ECR, CG & MC

**09:00 – 10:00**      **Welcome & Opening Remarks**      **-2. FLOOR**

**Early Career Researcher (ECR) Meeting**      **-2. FLOOR**

Time	Session	Speaker
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10:00–10:15	Opening & Introduction	Annalisa Occhipinti, Xinzhong Li
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10:15–10:40	Keynote: Shaping Careers Across Academia and Clinical Practice	Milica Pešić, Radim Jančálek Claudio Angione
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10:40–10:50	STSM Talk 1 <i>Adamantane–sclareol hybrid inhibits tumor growth in U87 glioblastoma xenografts</i>	Ema Lupšić
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10:50–11:00	STSM Talk 2 <i>Integrated in silico strategies for the rational design of isoform-selective sirt2 inhibitors: 3d-qsar, molecular docking and machine learning</i>	Aleksandra Ilić
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11:00–11:10	STSM Talk 3 <i>EPIKOL, a chromatin-focused CRISPR/Cas9 screening platform, identifies RBBP7 as a selective epigenetic vulnerability in IDH1-mutant gliomas.</i>	Sedef Saraç-Yalçinkaya
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11:10–11:20	STSM Talk 4 <i>Identifying and creating deep learning models on brain tumour data (MRI) that determine patient survival time and the probability of tumour recurrence</i>	Khuraman Sayin
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11:20–11:30	STSM Talk 5 <i>A diagnostic/prognostic miR-1/-26a-1/-487b signature orchestrates GBM progression by regulating TME and stemness via the SH3PXD2B/EFHD2 axis</i>	Ana Belén Díaz Méndez
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**11:30 – 12:00**      **Coffee Break & Networking**      **-2. FLOOR**

**ECR Continued**      **-2. FLOOR**

Time	Session
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12:00–13:00	Interactive Networking Session 1 Meet & Connect
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**Core Group (CG) Meeting**      **5. FLOOR**

Time	Session
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10:00–13:00	Closed session – Core Group members only
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**DAY 1 PROGRAMME**  
**JUNE 1, 2026 ECR, CG & MC**

**13:00 – 14:00**      **Lunch**

**Early Career Researcher (ECR) Meeting Continues**

**-2. FLOOR**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Session</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
14:00–14:50	Panel Discussion: Navigating the Early Career Path	
14:50–15:00	Short Talk Programming glioblastoma subtype identity by utilizing synthetic genetic tracing	Maria Pilar Sanchez-Bailon
15:00–15:30	Sponsor Talks	AKA Biotechnology Teknogem imte

**15:30 – 16:00**

**Coffee Break & Interactive Networking Session 2**

Collaborative Ideas

**ECR & MC Parallel Sessions**

**-2. FLOOR**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Session</b>
16:00–16:40	Workshop / Open Discussion – Scientific Communication & Publishing
16:40–17:00	Open Floor & Closing Remarks

**Management Committee (MC) Meeting**

**5. FLOOR**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Session</b>
15:30–17:00	Closed session – MC members only

**After 17:00**

**Networking**

5. FLOOR  
Networking Event (MC + CG + ECR)

# DAY 2 PROGRAMME

## JUNE 2, 2026 WG SESSIONS & KEYNOTES

**08:00 – 09:00**      **Registration & Welcome Coffee**      -2. FLOOR

**09:00 – 09:30**      **Welcome Speeches**      -2. FLOOR

**Funda Yağcı Acar**      Koç University, Vice President for Academic Affairs

**Xinzhong Li**      Net4Brain COST Action Chair

**09:30 – 10:00**      **Keynote** Chair: Tuğba Bağcı Önder      -2. FLOOR

**Bart Westerman** (Cancer Center Amsterdam, Netherlands)

*Towards consolidation of mutation-driven cancer progression and drug pharmacokinetics for combination therapies*

**Working Group 1 (WG1) Chairs: Aida Hajdarpasic, Tatjana Mitrovic**      -2. FLOOR

**Time**      **Speaker**

10:00–10:20      Thomas Booth (King's College London, United Kingdom)  
*External validation of AI model for glioblastoma survival prediction (GRASP 2)*

10:20–10:40      Tatiana Novikova (École Polytechnique, France)  
*Polarized light imaging of brain: Insights for tumor neurosurgery*

10:40–11:00      Philipp Tsvetkov (Institut de NeuroPhysiopathologie, France)  
*Plasma denaturation profiles as non-molecular biomarker for brain tumor detection*

11:00–11:10      Short Talk: Nuno Saraiva (CBIOS, Lusófona University, Portugal)  
*Control of glioma cell fate by a Golgi ion channel*

11:10–11:20      WG1 Discussion

**Working Group 2 (WG2) Chairs: Helene Castel, Carla Vitorino**      -2. FLOOR

**Time**      **Speaker**

11:20–11:40      Martine Lamfers (Erasmus MC, Netherlands)  
*Building clinically relevant glioma models from patient tissue to trial*

11:40–12:00      Gaetano Gargiulo (Max Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine, Germany)  
*Synthetic genetic tracing of glioblastoma cell states*

12:00–12:10      Short Talk: Nathalie Jurisch-Yaksi (NTNU, Norway)  
*Probing neural activity and tumor progression in glioma patient-derived zebrafish models*

12:10–12:20      Short Talk: Anuja Lipsa (Luxembourg Institute of Health, LU)  
*Functional precision medicine screening in patient-derived 3D organoids reveals personalized therapeutic vulnerabilities in high grade gliomas*

12:20–12:40      WG2 Discussion

# DAY 2 PROGRAMME

## JUNE 2, 2026 WG SESSIONS & KEYNOTES

**12:40 – 13:40**      **Lunch**      5 FLOOR

**13:40 – 14:10**      **Keynote Lecture** Chair: Xinzhong Li      -2. FLOOR

**Guohao Dai** (Northeastern University, USA)

*Bioengineered perfused human brain microvasculature to model brain tumor and neurodegenerative diseases*

**Working Group 3 (WG3)** Chairs: Tuğba Bağcı Önder, Yasin Kaymaz

Time	Speaker
14:10–14:30	<b>Bozena Kaminska</b> (Nencki Institute, Poland) <i>Characterizing and modelling of pediatric high grade tumor microenvironment with single-cell multiomics and spatial transcriptomics</i>
14:30–14:50	<b>Şevin Turcan</b> ( University of Bonn, Germany) <i>Targeting H3K4 trimethylation programs in IDH1R132H-driven gliomagenesis</i>
14:50–15:00	<b>Short Talk: Kemal Yelekci</b> (Kadir Has University, Türkiye) <i>Discovery of unique peptidomimetic compounds via computational modelling against Tau aggregation</i>
15:00–15:10	<b>Short Talk: Ebru Kocakaya</b> (Ege University, Türkiye) <i>Single-cell molecular profiling in brain cancers: a comprehensive technical review of methodological considerations for patient stratification</i>
15:10–15:20	WG3 Discussion
15:20–15:30	Sponsor Talks      Genoks

**15:30 – 16:40**      **Poster Session (Group 1) & Coffee**      5. FLOOR

**After 17:00**      **Bosphorus Tour** Optional Ticketed Event



# DAY 3 PROGRAMME

## JUNE 3, 2026 SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME & CLOSING DAY

**08:00 – 09:00**      **Registration & Welcome Coffee**      -2. FLOOR

**09:00 – 09:30**      **Keynote Lecture** Chair: Radim Jancalek      -2. FLOOR

**Ömer Bayraktar** (Wellcome Sanger Institute, United Kingdom)  
*Mapping the rules of glioblastoma using single cell and spatial genomics*

**Working Group 4 (WG4)** Chairs: Milana Frenkel-Morgenstern, Claudio Angione

### Speaker

09:30–09:50      **Claudio Angione** (Teesside University, United Kingdom)  
*Mechanism-aware deep learning for biomedicine*

09:50–10:10      **Elies Fuster-Garcia** (Universitat Politècnica de València, Spain)  
*Decoding glioblastoma heterogeneity: from AI-driven multiparametric characterization to clinical translation*

10:10–10:30      **Short Talk: Burcu Bakir Gungor** (Abdullah Gül University, Türkiye)  
*SVM-RCE-Medoid: A Biologically Interpretable Feature Selection Approach for Glioblastoma Transcriptomic Data Analysis*

10:20–10:30      **Short Talk: José Antonio Romero Rosales** (Universidad Castilla-La Mancha, Spain)  
*Glioblastoma phenotypic drift and reversibility: A transport partial differential equation model of tumor resistance*

10:30–10:50      WG4 Discussion

**10:50 – 11:50**      **Poster Session (Group 2) & Coffee**      5. FLOOR

**Working Group 5 (WG5)** Chair: Alkinoos Athanasiou

### Speaker

11:50–12:10      **Angelica Facoetti** (CNAO Hadron Therapy Centre, Italy)  
*Current challenges and future directions in brain tumor management*

12:10–12:30      **Aleksander Stepanovic** (Institute for Oncology and Radiology of Serbia, Serbia)  
*Towards European consensus in radiotherapy for brain tumors: a Net4Brain WG5 roadmap*

12:30–12:40      **Short Talk: Alkinoos Athanasiou** (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece)  
*The role of biomedical and clinical engineering societies in advancing and promoting cancer research and treatment on a national and international level*

12:40–12:50      **Short Talk: Serghei Sprincean** (Moldova State University, Moldova)  
*Bioethical aspects of clinical treatment and management of patients suffering from brain cancer*

12:50–13:10      WG5 Discussion

**13:10 – 13:30**      **Dissemination (WG6)**      -2 FLOOR

**Terezia Kiskova-Simkova**  
**Aylin Toplu-Hocaoğlu**

**13:30 – 13:40**      **Closing Remarks**      -2. FLOOR

**Xinzhong Li**

**After 14:30**      **Historical Istanbul Tour (Guided)** Optional Ticketed Event



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## GROUPS 1 & 2 · 5. FLOOR

Poster Group 1 · June 2 · 15:30–16:40

5. Floor

1	Diana Aguilar-Morante <i>University of Seville, Seville, SPAIN</i>	Uncovering Transcriptional Dynamics in the Cellular Hierarchies of Glioblastoma to Overcome Therapeutic Resistance
2	Canan Bayraktar Odabaş <i>Koç University, İstanbul, TÜRKİYE</i>	A Modular EGFRVIII-Targeted Virus-Like Particle Platform for Selective Glioblastoma Elimination
3	Negin Behboodi <i>University of Essex, Colchester, UNITED KINGDOM</i>	Chromatin Deregulation in Glioblastoma and Applications for Liquid Biopsies
4	Avni Berisha <i>University of Prishtina, Prishtina, KOSOVO</i>	Seaweed-Derived Glioblastoma Multiforme Inhibitors Discovered Through an Integrated Computational Approach Combining Virtual Screening, DFT, QTAIM, and Toxicity Profiling
5	Ali Osman Cetin <i>Max Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine, Berlin, GERMANY</i>	Towards Improving Synthetic Reporters for Phenotypic Mapping of Glioblastoma States by LSD+
6	Vinton Cheng <i>University of Birmingham, Birmingham, UNITED KINGDOM</i>	Combining Focused Ultrasound with Immunotherapy Against Melanoma Brain Metastasis
7	Nareg Degirmenci <i>Koç University, İstanbul, TÜRKİYE</i>	BRD9 Inhibition Enhances Radiotherapy Response In Glioblastoma by Disrupting MYC-Driven Translational Programs
8	Suheda Duran <i>Koç University, İstanbul, TÜRKİYE</i>	Identification of a Kinase-Autophagy Signaling Hub as a Therapeutic Vulnerability in Pediatric Glioma
9	Dário Ferreira <i>University of Beira Interior, Covilhã, PORTUGAL</i>	Early Detection of Glioblastoma Progression Using Time-Varying Mixed Models
10	Sandra Ferreira <i>University of Beira Interior, Covilhã, PORTUGAL</i>	Clinical and Molecular Determinants of Survival in Glioblastoma: A Reproducible Analysis Using an Open Clinical Dataset
11	Öykü Gönül Geyik <i>İstinye University, İstanbul, TÜRKİYE</i>	CDC7 Inhibition with PHA-767491 Modulates Temozolomide Resistance Pathways in T98G Glioblastoma Cells
12	Prajwal Ghimire <i>King's College London, London, UNITED KINGDOM</i>	Learning Glioblastoma Immune Phenotypes from Whole-Brain MRI Using a Hybrid Deep Learning Radiogenomic Framework: DECIPHER-GBM Study
13	Luna Guerra-Núñez <i>ISABIAL, Alicante, SPAIN</i>	Canonical Histone H3 Variants are Linked to Cell Cycling in Glioblastoma

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## GROUPS 1 & 2 · 5. FLOOR

14	Başak Varol Günçer <i>İstanbul University, Istanbul, TÜRKİYE</i>	Epigenetic Alterations in U87 Glioblastoma Cells Following Treatment with novel Curcumin Analogs
15	Pablo Hervella <i>Health Research Institute of Santiago de Compostela, Santiago de Compostela, SPAIN</i>	Blood–Brain Barrier-Targeted Nanoparticles for Peptide Delivery to Glioblastoma: An In Vitro and in Vivo Study
16	Ilinka Ivanoska <i>University of Skopje, Skopje, NORTH MACEDONIA</i>	Benchmarking Vision-Enabled Multimodal Large Language Models for Clinical Reasoning in Brain Tumor Neuroimaging
17	Camino De Juan Romero, <i>FISABIO, Elche, SPAIN</i>	Biomarkers for Glioblastoma Resistance to Radiotherapy: Metabolomic Study of Cells, Culture Media and Small Extracellular Vesicles
18	Víctor Manuel Barberá Juan, <i>FISABIO, Elche, SPAIN</i>	Identification and Therapeutic Validation of a Glioblastoma Molecular Signature Using Bioinformatics
19	Yesim Kaya <i>Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University, Muğla, TÜRKİYE</i>	Speedy/RINGO Shapes DNA Damage Response in Oxidatively Stressed U87-MG Glioblastoma Cells
20	İpek Kök <i>Koç University, İstanbul, TÜRKİYE</i>	Systematic Identification of DNA Damage Response Dependencies in Glioblastoma Using a Targeted CRISPR-Cas9 Library
21	Anna Lenkiewicz <i>Nencki Institute of Experimental Biology PAS, Warsaw, POLAND</i>	Integrative Single-Cell Multi-Omics Uncovers Immune Composition and Immunosuppressive Niches in Paediatric High-Grade Gliomas
22	Altar Özbıyık <i>Koç University, İstanbul, TÜRKİYE</i>	CRISPR-Based Discovery of Targetable Vulnerabilities That Modulate Radiation Response In Glioblastoma
23	Ramón Iglesias Rey <i>Health Research Institute of Santiago de Compostela (IDIS), Santiago de Compostela, SPAIN</i>	Interpretable Deep Learning and Radiomics from Quantitative MRI Predict Tumor Burden and Survival in A Preclinical Glioblastoma Model
24	Noemí García Romero <i>Francisco de Vitoria University, Madrid, SPAIN</i>	Potential Oncogenic Role of PRSS1 Identified by Whole Exome Sequencing in Glioma Primary Cell Lines
25	Matthias Schmitt <i>Max Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine, Berlin, GERMANY</i>	Synthetic Genetic Tracing Of Molecular And Cellular Heterogeneity In Glioblastoma
26	Mengyuan Wang <i>Teesside University, Middlesbrough, UNITED KINGDOM</i>	High Confidence Context Aware circRNA–miRNA–Gene Regulatory Network in Glioma Derived from an LLM Assisted Knowledge Graph
27	Ebru Yılmaz <i>Koç University, İstanbul, TÜRKİYE</i>	Functional Genomics Uncovers SFPQ-Associated Cell State Regulation in IDH-Mutant Glioma

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## GROUPS 1 & 2 · 5. FLOOR

Poster Group 2 · June 3 · 10:50–11:50

5. Floor

1	Alkinoos Athanassiou <i>University of Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki, GREECE</i>	Impact Of Cranial Radiotherapy On The Developing Brain: An MEG Study Of Brain Neural Networks In Pediatric Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia Survivors
2	Camille Cochois <i>University of Rouen Normandy, Rouen, FRANCE</i>	Hydrogel-based therapeutic strategy to stimulate immune cell infiltration and remodel the glioblastoma microenvironment
3	Kubilay Doğan Kılıç <i>Ege University, İzmir, TÜRKİYE</i>	Histonerf: A Novel Deep Learning Approach for 3D Reconstruction of Glioblastoma Microarchitecture from Standard 2D Histology Slides
4	Maruan Hijazi-Vega <i>University of Salamanca, Salamanca, SPAIN</i>	Phosphoproteomics Dissection of Brain Microenvironment-Induced Plasticity in Cancer Stem Cells
5	Yasemin Holly Özorun <i>Koç University, İstanbul, TÜRKİYE</i>	Systematic Optimization of Tumor-Targeted VLP Production and Targeted Protein Delivery Readouts
6	Yuliana Hovorova <i>Nencki Institute of Experimental Biology, Warsaw, POLAND</i>	Determining a Role of Transcription Regulator Id1 in Microglia Induced by Glioma Using the CpG-Id1 siRNA
7	Slavcho Ivanoski <i>University St. Kliment Ohridski, Bitola, NORTH MACEDONIA</i>	Tumor Mimics on Brain MRI: Recognizing Pseudotumoral Intracranial Lesions
8	Bilal Javed <i>Technological University Dublin, Dublin, IRELAND</i>	Advanced 3D Cell Culture Models and Microfluidic Lab-on-Chip Devices for Glioblastoma Therapy Evaluation
9	Aynura Karimova <i>Baku State University, Baku, AZERBAIJAN</i>	PEG Versus Chitosan Surface Coating Increases Chrysin Loading and Cytotoxic Efficacy of Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> Nanoparticles in Vitro
10	Hacer Kaya Çakır <i>Bilecik Şeyh Edebali University, Bilecik, TÜRKİYE</i>	Combined HDAC and DNMT Inhibition by Mocetinostat and Zebularine Promotes Apoptosis in U87MG Glioblastoma Cells
11	Natalia Kostilek <i>Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, NORWAY</i>	Investigating The Invasive Characteristics of Patient Derived Glioblastoma Cells in Zebrafish.
12	Aslı Kutlu <i>İstinye University, İstanbul, TÜRKİYE</i>	Elucidating the Potential and Mechanistic Roles of the Cordycepin Molecule in Overcoming TMZ-Resistance in Glioblastoma Multiforme via Experimental and Computational Studies
13	Bruno Mansano <i>University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague, CZECH REPUBLIC</i>	New Approaches to Biosensing
14	Demokrat Nuha <i>University for Business and Technology, Pristina, KOSOVO</i>	Design And Biological Evaluation of Chlorophenyl- and Chlorophenoxy-Substituted Azole Derivatives with Enzyme Modulation Activity Against Neurodegeneration-Related Targets

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## GROUPS 1 & 2 · 5. FLOOR


15	Iryna Oliynyk <i>Lviv Medical University, Lviv, UKRAINE</i>	Digital 'Translational Blindness' in Neuro-Oncology: Computational Analysis of Glioma Clinical Trial Metadata
16	İbrahim Şahin Özyıldız <i>Koç University, İstanbul, TÜRKİYE</i>	Virus-Like Particles Crossing the Blood-Brain Barrier: A Platform for Targeted Glioblastoma Delivery
17	Alberto Pettinari <i>University of Bologna, Bologna, ITALY</i>	Targeted Degradation of Pre-miR-21 in Glioma via Brain-Permeable RIBOTACs
18	Patrycja Rosa <i>Nencki Institute of Experimental Biology PAS, Warsaw, POLAND</i>	Tumor Subtype-Specific Reprogramming of Microglial States in Breast Cancer Brain Metastasis
19	Malik Hamza Sajjad <i>Technological University Dublin, Dublin, IRELAND</i>	Cold Atmospheric Plasma Enhances Cytotoxicity of Liposome-Encapsulated Gold Nanoparticles in Glioblastoma Cells
20	Álvaro Monago Sánchez <i>Francisco de Vitoria University, Madrid, SPAIN</i>	Exploration of Novel Molecules Against Paediatric Diffuse Midline Glioma.
21	Patrik Šimko <i>Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice, Košice, SLOVAKIA</i>	Gyrophoric Acid Enhances Temozolomide-Induced Effects in Glioblastoma Cell Lines
22	Daina Skiriute <i>Lithuanian University of Health Sciences, Kaunas, LITHUANIA</i>	Pathology Specific M6a RNA Modifications in the Brain
23	Ceyda Sönmez <i>Acibadem Mehmet Ali Aydınlar University, Istanbul, TÜRKİYE</i>	Proteomic Analysis Of The In Vitro Anti-Cancer Effects Of All-Trans Retinoic Acid And Curcumin Combination Therapy Reveals Molecular Insights In U87 Glioblastoma Cells
24	Giedrius Steponaitis <i>Lithuanian University of Health Sciences, Kaunas, LITHUANIA</i>	Molecular Response of Neural Stem Cells to Glioblastoma-Derived Extracellular Vesicles
25	Berrin Tunca <i>Bursa Uludağ University, Bursa, TÜRKİYE</i>	Standardizing Patient-Derived Glioblastoma Organoids: A High-Fidelity Biobanking Platform to Preserve Intra- and Intertumoral Heterogeneity
26	Yann Zerguine <i>University of Rouen Normandy, Mont-Saint-Aignan, FRANCE</i>	P53 Hotspot Variants Differentially Shape Neurodevelopmental and Oncogenic Pathways in Li-Fraumeni Brain Organoids Relevant to Pediatric Brain Tumors
27	Pia Žižek <i>National Institute of Biology, Ljubljana, SLOVENIA</i>	Crosstalk Between Glioblastoma and Natural Killer Cells in 3D Models

# İSTANBUL GUIDE

## Explore the City Between Sessions

You're in one of the world's great cities! Here are our local picks for food, culture, and coffee — all close to ANAMED on İstiklal Avenue.

### Coffee & Breakfast


 **Mandabatmaz** Traditional Turkish Coffee · Olivia Geçidi, Beyoğlu

Legendary hole-in-the-wall serving thick, strong Turkish coffee since 1967. No wifi, no sugar — pure coffee culture.

 **Less than 5 min walk from ANAMED. Open from 08:00**

 **Savoy Pastanesi** Patisserie · İstiklal Cad. No:142

Istanbul's oldest patisserie (1950). Exceptional pastries, börek, and Turkish desserts. Perfect pre-session breakfast.

 **Right on İstiklal — you'll pass it every morning.**

### Lunch & Dinner

 **Zübeyir Ocakbaşı** Grills & Meze · Bekar Sok. No:28, Beyoğlu

Legendary grill restaurant with live fire cooking. Order the lamb şiş, mezzes, and pide. Hugely popular — reserve ahead.

 **5 min walk from ANAMED. Dinner only from 18:00.**

 **Parsifal** Vegetarian · Kurabiye Sok. No:13, Cihangir

Istanbul's beloved veggie restaurant in bohemian Cihangir. Creative seasonal menu, natural wines, relaxed atmosphere.


 **10 min walk downhill toward the Bosphorus.**

### Culture & Sights (within 30 min)

 **Galata Tower** Landmark · Galata, Beyoğlu

14th-century Genoese tower with panoramic 360° views of Istanbul's skyline and both sides of the Bosphorus.

 **10 min walk downhill from ANAMED. Open 09:00–22:00.**

 **SALT Beyoğlu** Contemporary Art · İstiklal Cad. No:136

A short walk from ANAMED, SALT is Istanbul's leading contemporary art and architecture research platform. Free entry.

 **Same street as ANAMED. Often has evening events.**





Founded in 1993 and based in Sarıyer, İstanbul — where East truly meets West — Koç University is Türkiye's leading research-intensive, interdisciplinary university. All programs are delivered entirely in English, and the university is the only institution in Türkiye to combine a top medical school with high-calibre colleges.

**8,000+**  
Students

**600+**  
Full-time Faculty

**13:1**  
Faculty-Student  
Ratio

**80+**  
Countries  
Represented

**7**  
Colleges

**25**  
Research Centers

**225+**  
Research Labs

**19,200+**  
Alumni

## GLOBAL RANKINGS 2025-2026

**#301-351**

THE World University  
Rankings 2026

**Top 323**

QS World University  
Rankings 2026

**#28**

THE World  
Interdisciplinary  
Science Rankings 2026

**#1 in Türkiye**

YÖK Research Universities  
Performance Ranking 2025

### Internationally Renowned Faculty

Awards, competitive research grants, 30%+ PhDs from World Top 100 universities

### 100% English Medium Education

All graduate programs taught fully in English across all colleges.

### Only University in Türkiye with a Top Medical School

Unique combination with Koç University Hospital and health sciences.

### Strong Research Funding

€24M in H2020 grants (#1 in Türkiye) · €21.6M active Horizon Europe projects · 33 ERC grants of the 60 that Türkiye received

### +250 Global Exchange Partners

Member of UNIC European University Alliance, with joint PhD programmes.

### 45% Interdisciplinary Researchers

Multidisciplinary publications average 2.40 citation impact vs 1.75 for Top 100 universities.

# GRADUATE STUDIES AT KOÇ ÜNİVERSİTESİ

Your path. Your story. Your impact. It all begins here.

4

Graduate Schools

44

Masters Programs

30

PhD Programs

1,800+

Graduate Students

92%

Full Scholarship (MSc)

95%

Full Scholarship (PhD)

30%

International PhD Students

10%

Acceptance Rate (2025)

## KEY RESEARCH & IMPACT AREAS

### Humanities & Cultural Studies

history, archaeology, regional and civilization studies

### Social Sciences & Public Policy

governance, migration, gender, social impact

### Law & International Affairs

public law, international trade law

### Health & Life Sciences

medicine, drug research, nursing

### Science, Engineering & Energy

materials, surface technologies, energy

### Business, Innovation & Society

entrepreneurship, economics, corporate governance, creative industries

## KOÇ UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL



One of Türkiye's leading academic medical centres, integrated within the university campus

**371** Service Beds

**55** Intensive Care Beds

**346,000** Patients per year

**20+8** Operating Rooms

**187** Clinical Diagnostic Rooms

**+** Clinical Trial Unit

## GLOBAL CONNECTIONS & STUDENT SUPPORT

### International Reach

+250 global exchange partners. Member of UNIC European University Alliance. >20% international graduate body.

### Scholarships & Funding

92% of MSc and 95% of PhD students receive full scholarships. 50% of international students receive merit support.

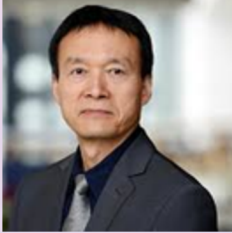
### Student Support

International Community Office, counseling, career services, TA/RA awards, alumni networking and research workshops.

# ORGANISATION & EVENTS

Organisation & Events Organising Committee & Social Programme

## Organising Committee



**Xinzhong Li**  
Action Chairman  
& Grant Holder



**Tuğba Bağcı Önder**  
Local Organisation  
Committee Chair



**Annalisa Occhipinti**  
Young Researchers Group  
Leader



**Uchenna Ngameduru**  
Grant Holder Manager



**Beyza Nur Köseoğlu**  
Local Committee



**Ayfer Gözde Vidin**  
Local Committee



**İpek Kök**  
Local Committee



**Ece Aydoğan Şahin**  
Local Committee






**Simay Altunsoy Güneş**  
Local Committee

## SOCIAL & CULTURAL PROGRAMME

Optional · Ticketed Events · Register at the Welcome Desk

### Bosphorus Tour





**Optional · June 2, 2026 · Departure after 17:00**

-  Karaköy Pier (5 min from ANAMED)
-  Approx. 3 hours · Set menu and beverages included
-  Entrance fees at own expense

**Sail along Europe's most legendary strait as the sun sets over two continents. Panoramic views of Ottoman palaces, the İstanbul skyline, and the meeting of the Bosphorus.**

### Historical Istanbul Tour

**Optional · June 3, 2026 · After 14:30**

-  Meet at ANAMED Entrance
-  Approx. 3–4 hours
-  Guided walking tour in the Historical Peninsula. Visits to major landmarks in the old city
-  Entrance fees at own expense

**Discover centuries of Byzantine and Ottoman heritage on a guided tour through İstanbul's Historic Peninsula, including visits to its most renowned monuments.**

### What is an STSM?

Short-Term Scientific Missions (STSMs) are research exchange visits that enable scientists — particularly Early Career Researchers — to visit a host institution in another country within the COST network. They are a cornerstone of the Net4Brain network, fostering collaboration, skills transfer, and scientific mobility across Europe and beyond.



#### Duration

Typically 5–90 days at a host institution



#### Grant

Up to €4,000 to cover travel & subsistence



#### Countries

COST Member Countries and other eligible partner countries

### Who Can Apply?

Researchers affiliated with eligible institutions participating in the Net4Brain COST Action may apply. STSMs are especially encouraged for:

- ▶ PhD students and postdoctoral researchers (Early Career Researchers)
- ▶ Researchers from Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITCs)
- ▶ Scientists looking to learn new techniques or access equipment unavailable at their home institution
- ▶ Researchers initiating new cross-institutional collaborations

### How to Apply Step by Step

<b>1</b>	<b>Find a Host</b>	Identify a suitable host laboratory or institution within the Net4Brain network. Reach out directly and agree on research objectives and dates.
<b>2</b>	<b>Submit Online</b>	Complete the STSM application form on the e-COST platform ( <a href="https://e-services.cost.eu">e-services.cost.eu</a> ) well in advance of the planned start date.
<b>3</b>	<b>Get Approval</b>	The STSM Coordinator / Grant Awarding Coordinator reviews your application. You will receive an official Grant Letter if approved. Do not travel before approval.
<b>4</b>	<b>Conduct Mission</b>	Carry out your research visit. Keep records of your activities, as you will need them for the final report.
<b>5</b>	<b>Submit Report</b>	After the mission, submit a scientific report via e-COST within the required deadline. Grant payment is made after the report is approved.

# NOTES

Session observations, keynote highlights, Future collaborations,  
STSM ideas, and research directions and key takeaways

3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting  
**Net4Brain**  
*Istanbul*

## SUPPORTERS & SPONSORS WITH GRATITUDE

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Net4Brain Annual Meeting would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors and partner institutions. We extend our deepest thanks to each organisation for their commitment to advancing brain cancer research.



### Aka

Leading biotechnology solutions for oncology research



### Genoks

Genetic analysis & diagnostics



### Teknogem

Genomics & molecular tools



### imte

Innovative medical technology for clinical research



### MacroGen & MSM

Genomics services & molecular solutions

### Institutional Partners

#### Koç University

Host Institution — Koç University Graduate School of Health Sciences

#### European Cooperation in Science & Technology

COST — Funding this Action

## Practical Information Quick Reference



### **Wi-Fi**

**Wi-Fi connection** details are displayed on the information board located at the building entrance.

### **Venue Address**

#### **ANAMED**

İstiklal Cad. No:181  
Beyoğlu, 34433 İstanbul

 **Metro: Taksim (M2)**  
 **Tram: Karaköy (T1)**

### **Emergency**

**Emergency: 112**

#### **Nearest Hospital:**

Taksim İlk Yardım Hastanesi  
Sıraselviler Cad. No:112, Beyoğlu

### **Contact**

#### **For inquiries:**

[gshs@ku.edu.tr](mailto:gshs@ku.edu.tr)  
[avidin@ku.edu.tr](mailto:avidin@ku.edu.tr)  
[u.ngameduru@tees.ac.uk](mailto:u.ngameduru@tees.ac.uk)

#### **Welcome Desk Hours:**

June 1: 09:00–18:00  
June 2–3: 08:00–17:00