



PERI-OPERATIVE IMMUNOTHERAPY FOR HEAD AND NECK CANCER

08 & 09
JANUARY 2026

CHUV
LAUSANNE
SWITZERLAND



PERI-OPERATIVE IMMUNOTHERAPY FOR HEAD AND NECK CANCER

Thursday 8th & Friday 9th January 2026



Dear Participants,

We would like to welcome you to this workshop to explore the role of immunotherapy in the peri-operative management of head and neck carcinomas, organized by the European Head and Neck Society (EHNS).

The first day will provide a scientific overview of the immunological context (tumour micro-environment, the influence of local therapies, predictive immune biomarkers and new IO strategies) as well as clinical trials on neoadjuvant and adjuvant immunotherapies.

The second day will be entirely devoted to interactive round-table discussions in which experts and audience members will debate practical questions regarding surgical procedures after neoadjuvant IO, combination strategies and sequencing, and assessment of treatment response.

We all look forward to seeing you in January 2026.

Many thanks in advance.

Yours sincerely,

Christian Simon, M.D.
Professor and Chairman
Department of Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery, CHUV
University of Lausanne – Switzerland

PERI-OPERATIVE IMMUNOTHERAPY FOR HEAD AND NECK CANCER

Speakers and moderators



SIMON Christian,
Lausanne



KOLJENOVIC Senada,
Antwerpen



SUCCO Giovanni,
Turin



DE GRAAF Pim,
Amsterdam



VAN DE VEN Rieneke,
Amsterdam



DIETZ Andreas,
Leipzig



LABAN Simon,
Ulm



LE TOURNEAU Christophe,
Paris



BRAKENHOFF Ruud,
Amsterdam



BOURHIS Jean,
Lausanne



HARRINGTON Kevin,
London



MACHIELS Jean-Pascal,
Louvain, Brussel



OTTENSMEIER Christian,
Liverpool



BOSSI Paolo,
Milan



MANTOVANI Alberto,
Milan



TRIBIUS Silke,
Hamburg

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Day 1 - Thursday 08th January 2026



Understanding the immunology of head and neck cancers

08:45 - 09:00	Introduction to the meeting	Giovanni Succo, Christian Simon
09:00 - 09:30	Immune landscape of HNSCCs	Rieneke van de Ven
09:30 - 10:00	Impact of loco-regional treatment on immune response in HNSCC	Simon Laban
10:00 - 10:30	HPV and immuno-biomarkers to predict HNSCC outcome	Ruud Brakenhoff
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee break	
11:00 - 11:30	MSD Symposium: How Check-point inhibitors work and how to improve them	Kevin Harrington
11:30 - 12:00	CAR-T-cells, therapeutic cancer vaccines and other IO-strategies	Christian Ottensmeier
12:00 - 13:30	Lunch	

Neo-adjuvant and adjuvant IO for surgical HNC patients

13:30 - 14:00	BMS Symposium: The science behind neo-adjuvant IO versus adjuvant IO, or both	Alberto Mantovani
14:00 - 14:30	Defining pathological response after IO	Senada Koljenovic
14:30 - 15:00	Imaging for IO response evaluation	Pim de Graaf
15:00 - 15:30	Coffee break	

Clinical trial landscape

15:30 - 16:00	Adjuvant IO for HPV negative and positive HNSCC	Andreas Dietz
16:00 - 16:30	Neoadjuvant combined with adjuvant IO for HPV negative HNSCC	Christophe LeTourneau
16:30 - 17:00	Adjuvant IO for high-risk disease HNSCC	Jean Bourhis



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Day 2 - Friday 09th January 2026



Round tables with prepared questions

08:45 - 09:00	Introduction to the round tables	Christian Simon
09:00 - 9:45	How to resect after neo-adjuvant IO	Christian Simon
09:45 - 10:30	Adjuvant, neo-adjuvant or both	Jean-Pascal Machiels
10:30 - 11:15	Neo-adjuvant treatment: Combinations of IO with Chemo	Paolo Bossi
11:15 - 12:00	Coffee break	
12:00 - 12:45	Neo-adjuvant treatment: Modes of applications	Christophe Le Tourneau
12:45 - 13:30	Response evaluation: How?	Senada Koljenovic
13:30 - 14:15	Adjuvant treatment after IO	Silke Tribius

End of the event