# ctos® NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2026




The countdown to **CTOS 2026** is almost over! With just two weeks to go until our Annual Meeting in Seoul, South Korea, from 18–21 November 2026, the CTOS Communications Committee is delighted to share some exciting highlights from this year's scientific programme.

Here is a preview of what you can look forward to:

## 1. Foundational Science of Sarcomas Symposium – Exploring the Frontiers of Sarcoma Research

The Foundational Science of Sarcomas Symposium, taking place on 18 November 2026, will bring together internationally renowned researchers to explore advances in sarcoma biology, emerging technologies and innovative therapeutic strategies.

This year's programme features three thematic sessions, each including invited lecture and selected oral presentations:

### Epigenetics and Chromatin Biology

This session will explore the role of epigenetic regulation and chromatin biology in sarcoma development and progression.

- Martin Hirst (University of British Columbia) will present *"From Patient Tumours to Molecular Mechanism: Understanding Evolution and Vulnerability in Synovial Sarcoma"*, exploring the distinctive epigenetic landscape of synovial sarcoma and its potential therapeutic implications.
- Takuro Nakamura (Tokyo Medical University / Japanese Foundation for Cancer Research) will discuss *"Targeting Enhancer Program in Fusion Gene-Associated Sarcoma"*, highlighting the role of enhancer programmes in fusion-driven sarcomas and potential therapeutic targets.

### Tumour and Immune Cell Types in Cancer

This session will focus on innovative approaches to understanding tumour heterogeneity and the tumour microenvironment.

- Aaron Newman (Stanford University) will present *"Spatial and Liquid Ecotyping of the Tumor Microenvironment for Improved Therapy Response Assessment"*, showcasing computational approaches to characterizing tumour and immune cell populations.
- Sunghoon Kwon (Seoul National University) will discuss "AI-Driven Smart Laser Gun for Spatial Omics in Drug Discovery", introducing emerging technologies combining artificial intelligence and spatial molecular profiling.

### Innovative Drug Development

This session will highlight novel approaches to therapeutic development and opportunities for translating discoveries from other cancer types into sarcoma treatment.

- Seock-Ah Im (Seoul National University) will present *"Beyond the Target: Lessons from Breast Cancer ADC Development for Sarcoma"*, exploring how advances in antibody–drug conjugates could inform future therapeutic strategies for sarcoma.

## 2. International Nurses and Allied Health Professionals Meeting

The **CTOS International Nurses and Allied Health Professionals Meeting** will take place on Thursday, 19 November 2026, alongside the Annual Meeting.

This collaborative and multidisciplinary session will bring together nurses, advanced practice providers, allied health professionals and researchers from around the world to discuss important aspects of sarcoma care.

This year's programme will cover a wide range of topics, including:

- Rhabdomyosarcoma, the 2026 Sarcoma of the Year
- Caring for adolescent and young adult patients with sarcoma
- Outpatient infusion and delivery of care at home
- Genetic predisposition to sarcoma

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- Research developments across different sarcoma subtypes
- Medical, surgical and psychosocial aspects of patient care

The meeting offers a valuable opportunity to exchange experiences, learn from international colleagues and strengthen multidisciplinary collaborations.

**All CTOS attendees are warmly encouraged to participate!**

The session is organized by Stine Naess, RN; Whitney Throckmorton, PA-C; and Maritza Salazar-Abshire, RN.

## 3. Celebrating Excellence – Featured CTOS Lecturers

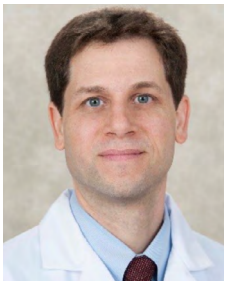
We are delighted to highlight two distinguished members of the international sarcoma community who will be featured lecturers at CTOS 2026:

- Herman Suit Lecture "The Enduring Vision of Herman Suit: From Foundations to Future Frontiers" will be given by **Professor Elizabeth H. Baldini** on Thursday 19 November 2026, 11.30 AM
- Nina Axelrad Lecture "How We Worn the Road Less Traveled; Lessons and Opportunities in Rare Cancers" will be given by **Professor William Tap** on Friday 20 November 2026, 10.30 AM

**Below you can check the short bios of this year awardees.**



Elizabeth Baldini - Professor of Radiation Oncology at Harvard Medical School and former Director of Sarcoma Radiation Oncology at Dana-Farber Brigham Cancer Center, Professor Baldini has made outstanding contributions to the multidisciplinary management of soft tissue sarcomas. Her research has helped define patterns of recurrence across sarcoma histological subtypes and refine the role of radiotherapy in extremity, truncal and retroperitoneal sarcomas. Her work has contributed to international clinical guidelines, including the ASTRO Clinical Practice Guideline for radiotherapy in adult soft tissue sarcoma. A longstanding CTOS member, Professor Baldini has also contributed to international consensus initiatives on ultra-rare sarcomas.



William Tap - Chief of the Sarcoma Medical Oncology Service and Co-Director of the Sarcoma Center at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Professor Tap is internationally recognized for his leadership in sarcoma clinical research and drug development. A former CTOS President, he has led several landmark international clinical trials, including the ENLIVEN and MOTION studies, which contributed to the development of new systemic therapies for tenosynovial giant cell tumours. His extensive contributions to translational research, precision oncology and international clinical trials have helped advance therapeutic options for patients with bone and soft tissue sarcomas.

## 4. Sunrise Mentorship Sessions – Connect, Learn and Grow

Are you an early-career clinician or researcher looking for guidance, inspiration or opportunities to expand your professional network?

Don't miss the CTOS 2026 Sunrise Mentorship Sessions, offering informal discussions with experienced members of the international sarcoma community.

This year's sessions will explore important topics, including professional networking and collaborations, finding your research niche, balancing academic careers with personal life, and navigating emerging developments in artificial intelligence, precision medicine and disparities in cancer care. The sessions will take place on Friday, November 20, 7:30 - 8:45 AM in Hall D.

## 5. Sarcoma of the Year 2026 – Rhabdomyosarcoma

One of the highlights of CTOS 2026 will be our dedicated Sarcoma of the Year programme, focusing on rhabdomyosarcoma.

This year's programme features eight abstracts from researchers across the globe, covering important advances in our understanding and treatment of this challenging disease.

The presentations will explore a broad range of topics, including prognostic factors, lymph node staging and mechanisms of treatment failure, particularly in paediatric patients.

Several studies will also investigate the molecular and genomic landscape of rhabdomyosarcoma, including differences in somatic mutations between children and young adults, molecular characterisation and germline cancer predisposition variants.

Importantly, the programme will also highlight emerging therapeutic strategies, including:

- A randomized phase III trial evaluating the addition of vinorelbine to vincristine, dactinomycin and cyclophosphamide, including maintenance therapy, in high-risk rhabdomyosarcoma.
- The combination of vincristine, irinotecan and regorafenib for patients with advanced rhabdomyosarcoma.

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- Emerging opportunities for targeting RAS mutations, exploring the potential role of novel RAS inhibitors in selected patients.

### 6. Late-Breaking Abstracts and Updates: Can They Change Practice?

This highly anticipated session will bring together new findings and important updates from clinical trials across several sarcoma subtypes, critically examining their potential impact on everyday practice. Highlights will include emerging therapeutic strategies in GIST from the PEAK and STRATEGIST studies, updated results from SPEARHEAD-1 with afami-cel in synovial sarcoma, and new data from the CHONDRAGON trial in chondrosarcoma. Novel immunotherapeutic approaches in angiosarcoma, evolving radiotherapy strategies from SCOPES and the STRASS update, and the potential role of circulating tumor DNA will also be explored. Beyond presenting exciting results, the session will address a fundamental question: which advances are ready to influence clinical decision-making, and which still require further evidence?




### 7. CTOS 2026 – See You in Seoul!

With an exciting scientific programme, internationally renowned speakers and numerous opportunities for education and collaboration, CTOS 2026 is shaping up to be another outstanding gathering of the global sarcoma community. We encourage all members to explore the programme, plan their sessions and make the most of the opportunities to connect with colleagues from around the world. Don't miss the networking opportunities such as Welcome Reception and Gala Dinner and enjoy local culture and food in Seoul!
18–21 November 2026 | Seoul, South Korea

For meeting information, visit:
https://www.ctos.org/Meeting/2026MeetingDetails.aspx

## Stay Connected with the CTOS Community

Stay up to date with the latest CTOS news, events, and initiatives by following us on social media. Join a growing online community with over 2,000 followers on X, more than 150 on Instagram, and over 800 on LinkedIn. Help us amplify sarcoma research and collaboration worldwide by engaging with and sharing CTOS content.

LinkedIn: Connective Tissue Oncology Society
X: @ctosociety
Instagram: @ctosociety

We look forward to seeing you in Seoul and sharing another memorable CTOS Annual Meeting together!

Kind regards,
**CTOS Communications Committee**

