



BJCN ANNUAL ASSEMBLY 2026
17th National Scientific Oncology Conference MORE

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Management of Hepatocellular Carcinoma

Structures and Functions in the Bulgarian National Hub of the Mission Against Cancer

Comprehensive Cancer Infrastructures – Maturity Models

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1 – 4 October 2026, Sofia

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

1 October 2026, Thursday

15:00 – 15:15 Official Opening

15:15 – 15:40 **SPECIAL THEMATIC MODULE**

Clinical Immuno-oncology in Gastrointestinal Neoplasms – A Vertical Perspective

Keynote lecture: *Prof. Dr. Nikolay Tsonev*

15:45 – 16:45 **Symposium, supported by industry – MSD**

16:50 – 19:30 **Symposium, supported by industry – Miscellaneous**

Chair: *Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dimitar Kalev*

16:50 – 17:10 Company presentation – *Novartis*

17:10 – 17:30 Company presentation – *Pfizer*

17:30 – 17:50 Company presentation – *Roche*

17:50 – 18:10 Company presentation – *Bayer*

18:10 – 18:30 Company presentation – *Astellas*

18:30 – 18:50 Company presentation – *Pierre Fabre*

18:50 – 19:10 Company presentation – *Johnson & Johnson*

19:10 – 19:30 Company presentation – *AbbVie*

20:00 **Cocktail Reception**

2 October 2026, Friday

08:30 – 10:10 **FIRST PLENARY SESSION**

Models of carcinogenesis and prevention of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC)

Chair: *Acad. Prof. Dr. Draga Toncheva*



08:30 – 08:45 Molecular mechanisms of hepatic carcinogenesis

Acad. Prof. Dr. Draga Toncheva

08:50 – 09:05 Molecular changes in the precancerous stage of virus- and alcohol-induced HCC

DSc Lyubomir Balabanski

09:10 – 09:25 Correlations of HBV/HCV- and *H. pylori*-infections with HCC – opportunities for primary prevention.

Prof. Dr. Petko Karagyozev et al.

09:30 – 09:45 Barriers in the follow-up of patients with HCC and with chronic liver diseases

Dr. Galabina Hinkova

09:50 – 10:05 Tumor markers in HCC – from AFP to multimarker panels

Dr. Veselina Koleva

10:10 – 10:30 Coffee break

10:30 – 12:10 SECOND PLENARY SESSION

Imaging and morphological models in HCC

Chair: *Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vesela Ivanova*

10:30 – 10:45 Application of gadolinium contrast agents in oncological imaging diagnostics

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Plamen Getsov

10:50 – 11:05 PET/CT with differently targeting radiopharmaceuticals in the detection and differential diagnosis of HCC with cirrhosis or chronic liver disease

Prof. Dr. Elena Piperkova

11:10 – 11:25 Advantages of ⁶⁸Ga-FAPI PET/CT in HCC

Prof. Dr. Sonya Sergieva

11:30 – 11:45 Well-differentiated hepatocellular lesions (WDHL) – the art of differentiation

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ivan Ivanov

11:50 – 12:05 Macroscopic and histological levels of heterogeneity of HCC – unresolved definitions

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vesela Ivanova

12:10 – 13:10 Symposium, supported by industry – Swixx Biopharma

13:15 – 14:15 Lunch

14:15 – 15:55 THIRD PLENARY SESSION

Perioperative strategies in HCC

Chair: *Assoc. Prof. Dr. Elena Arabadzhieva*

14:15 – 14:30 Tools for assessing the risk of hepatic dysfunction after resection

Prof. Dr. Atanas Yonkov, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Elena Arabadzhieva

14:35 – 14:50 Preoperative assessment of metabolic risk factors in HCC with MASLD

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tsonka Lukanova

14:55 – 15:10 Clinical decision for locoregional or systemic therapy in HCC – prognostic and predictive scores

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Marina Konakchieva

15:15 – 15:30 Perioperative systemic strategies in HCC – benefits and reservations

Dr. Krasimir Koynov

15:35 – 15:50 Nutritional screening and assessment in HCC

Prof. Dr. Darina Naydenova, Dr. Ivan Enev

15:55 – 16:20 FIRST JOINT BJCN-BNCMH SESSION

Integrative Oncology

Chair: *Dr. Petko Zagorchev*

15:55 – 16:05 SHISSO – European recommendations for supportive care in oncology

Dr. Ivan Enev

16:05 – 16:15 Supportive and palliative options of homeopathy in hepatocellular carcinoma

Dr. Petko Zagorchev

16:20 – 16:40 Coffee break

16:40 – 18:00 FOURTH PLENARY SESSION

Locoregional approaches in HCC

Chair: *Assoc. Prof. Dr. Valeria Hadzhiyska*

16:40 – 16:55 Role of TACE in the era of systemic therapy

Dr. Yana Sedef-Todorova

17:00 – 17:15 Non-thermal ablation techniques in HCC – benefits and reservations

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Aleksandar Katsarov

17:20 – 17:35 Percutaneous radiotherapy *versus* percutaneous ablation and TACE in HCC with single tumors or recurrence after ablation

Prof. Dr. Tatyana Hadzhieva, Dr. Doroteya Ivanova

17:40 – 17:55 SIRT *versus* locoregional and systemic therapies in HCC

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Valeria Hadzhiyska

18:00 – 19:00 Symposium, supported by industry – AstraZeneca

19:30 Cocktail dinner

3 October 2026, Saturday

08:30 – 10:10 FIFTH PLENARY SESSION

Surgical strategies in HCC

Chair: *Prof. Dr. Nikola Vladov*

08:30 – 08:45 Liver resection *versus* locoregional therapies in HCC with cirrhosis

Prof. Dr. Nikola Vladov, Dr. Tsvetan Trichkov

08:50 – 09:05 Is liver resection feasible in multifocal HCC

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nikolay Belev



09:10 – 09:25 Liver resection in HCC with thrombus in the suprahepatic inferior vena cava

Prof. Dr. Aleksandar Yuliyarov, Dr. Azize Saroglu

09:30 – 09:45 Minimally invasive liver surgery in HCC with cirrhosis and portal hypertension – benefits and reservations

Prof. Dr. Ivelin Takorov, Dr. Dimitria Valcheva

09:50 – 10:05 Liver transplantation in HCC – patient selection

Prof. Dr. Vasil Mihaylov, Dr. Radoslav Kostadinov

10:10 – 10:30 Coffee break

10:30 – 11:45 SECOND JOINT BJCN-BNCMH SESSION

Structures and Functions of the Bulgarian National Hub of the Mission Against Cancer

Moderator: *MPharm Ivaylo Petrov*

11:45 – 12:45 THIRD JOINT BJCN-BNCMH SESSION

Comprehensive cancer infrastructures – maturity models

Moderator: *Prof. Dr. Aleksandar Yuliyarov*

12:45 – 13:00 Official ceremony: Presentation of the Annual Award BJCN-MORE – for contribution to Bulgarian clinical oncology

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 15:00 POSTER SECTION BJCN-MORE – PARADE

Scientific jury, chairs: *Prof. Dr. Margarita Genova, DSc Lyubomir Balabanski*

15:05 – 16:20 ORAL POSTER SESSION BJCN-MORE

Chairs: *Prof. Dr. Margarita Genova, DSc Lyubomir Balabanski*

16:20 – 16:40 Coffee break

16:40 – 18:20 SIXTH PLENARY SESSION

Radiotherapy and systemic strategies in HCC

Chair: *Assoc. Prof. Dr. Asya Konsulova*

16:40 – 16:55 Percutaneous radiotherapy versus systemic therapy in advanced HCC with portal vein invasion

Prof. Dr. Iglia Mihaylova, Dr. Kamen Nedev

17:00 – 17:15 Radiotherapy combined with systemic therapy in unresectable HCC – benefits and reservations

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Veselin Popov

17:20 – 17:35 Systemic approaches in HCC with decompensated cirrhosis and post-transplant recurrence

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Asya Konsulova, Dr. Marchela Koleva

17:40 – 17:55 Adoptive cell therapy in HCC – concepts and clinical translations

Dr. Radoslav Mangalzhiev, Dr. Dimo Manov



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CANCER NETWORK

18:00 – 18:15 Assessment of costs and clinical outcomes in liver transplantation for HCC

Prof. Dr. Maria Dimitrova, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Denitsa Stefanova, Corr. Mem. Prof. Georgi Momekov

18:20 – 18:30 Official Closing

19:00 Official Dinner

4 October 2026, Sunday

09:00 – 12:00 Working meetings of the Thematic Expert Groups of BJCN and BNCMH

