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MEETING REPORT *Open access*

Annual congress of the European Society for Medical Oncology ESMO 2026



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The annual congress of the European Society for Medical Oncology was held in Madrid, Spain, from October 23 to 27, 2026. As in previous years, this five-day congress was a comprehensive educational and scientific event which fostered the exchange and debate of translational cancer science, highlighted the first announcements of potentially practice-changing data, and stimulated multidisciplinary discussions aimed at improving treatment options for patients. The congress hosted more than 40,000 attendees and exhibitors representing the global medical, research and patient advocate community. The Congress President was Prof. Fabrice André from the Gustave Roussy Institute, France, and the scientific Co-Chairs were Prof. Yelena Janjigian from the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, USA and Prof. James Larkin from the Royal Marsden Hospital, UK. The Educational Chair was Prof. Nadia Harbeck from the Ludwig-Maximilian University Munich, Germany.

Over 4,414 abstracts were presented alongside high-impact plenary and keynote lectures, symposia, with a special focus on early-career researchers and women in cancer research. During the congress, key data from ongoing clinical studies INTerpath-001, VOLGA, DeLLphi-305, DASL-HiCaP, Krascendo 1, SAFFRON, CLARITY-Gastric 01, HARMONi-GI1, ARTEMIS-011 study, MOIO, TroFuse-005/ENGOT-en23/GOG-3095, KEYNOTE-C93/GOG-3064/ENGOT-en15 were presented among others. The exhibition featured around 200 companies and associations showcasing new technologies and workflows. All congress learning objectives were successfully met - to inform about current approaches in cancer prevention, screening, and early detection, to gain insights into the latest advances in basic, translational, and clinical cancer research, to explore the clinical implications of scientific breakthroughs in cancer biology, diagnostics, and treatment, to be updated on state-of-the-art therapeutic strategies for patients with cancer and to examine the emerging role of artificial intelligence in cancer diagnosis, research, and therapy.

The ESMO Award was presented to Prof. Rebecca Fitzgerald from the University of Cambridge - MRC Cancer Unit, UK in recognition of her pioneering work in cancer prevention and early detection and her contributions to cancer screening

policy in Europe. The ESMO Award for Translational Research was awarded to Prof. Dan Landau from the New York Genome Center, NY, US for advancing the understanding of cancer evolution through genomic and computational research and their translation into clinical applications. The ESMO Women for Oncology Award was given to Prof. Pilar Garrido Lopez, Hospital Universitario Ramon y Cajal, Madrid, Spain for her contributions to lung cancer research and care and her longstanding leadership and support of women in oncology. The ESMO Lifetime Achievement Award was delivered to Prof. Antoni Ribas, from the University of California Los Angeles, USA for his pioneering contributions to cancer immunotherapy and translational cancer research in melanoma.

SDIR (EACR-affiliated national society) and UMOS (ESMO-affiliated national society) members were actively involved in the ESMO 2026 congress, representing our clinical and research community with scientific abstracts and participation in committees and international consortia. All abstracts will be published online in the ESMO Congress 2026 Abstract Book, as a supplement to the official ESMO journal, Annals of Oncology.

ESMO 2027 congress

Next year, the ESMO 2027 Congress will take place in Barcelona, Spain, from September 17 to 21, 2027. ESMO membership enables a connection to the global community of over 50,000 members with a shared interest in oncology and cancer research. Professionals working in healthcare or research with an interest and educational background in oncology and/or science (non-industry/non-commercial settings) residing in low- and middle-income countries such as Serbia benefit from a complimentary annual ESMO membership after completing a simple registration process. Join us in shaping the future of precision oncology today.

See you next year in Barcelona for the ESMO 2027 Congress!

