



Early-stage Lung cancer International eXpert Retreat 2026

DAY ONE: Thursday, June 18, 2026

8:30 am Breakfast and Registration

9:30 am Welcome Message

9:35 am – 10:45 am

Section I: Lung cancer staging: Where have we been and where are we going?

Moderators: *Drs. Normand Blais and Jonathan Spicer*

9:40 am Threading the needle towards an ideal yet feasible staging system: Implications for early-stage lung cancer management.
Dr. Valerie Rusch, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY

10:00 am Canada's global contribution to early-stage lung cancer cure: Where to next?
Dr. Glenwood Goss, University of Ottawa, ON

10:20 am Questions and panel discussion

10:45 am Break

11:00 am – 12:00 pm

SECTION II

The evolving role of radiation therapy in early-stage lung cancer.

Moderators: *Drs. Houda Bahig and Bassam Abdulkarim*

11:00 am Facts and hopes in radioimmunotherapy for localized stages of cancer
Dr. Houda Bahig, Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Montréal, Montréal, QC

11:15 am	Radiotherapy duality in micrometastatic disease: Inhibiting seeding / Unmasking dormancy Dr. Sean Pitroda, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL
11:30 am	SARS-CoV-2 mRNA vaccine: An immune sensitizer for checkpoint refractory lung cancer? Dr. Steven Lin, MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX

11:45 am	Questions and panel discussion
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12:00 pm	Lunch
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12:30 pm

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EGFR- Mutant NSCLC Across the Continuum: Evolving Strategies from Early-Stage to Metastatic Management

Dr. Scott Owen, MDCM, FRCPC, Medical Oncologist

Learning Objectives:

- Explain current and emerging EGFR-targeted approaches across all stages of NSCLC
- Recognize key clinical, molecular, and patient-specific factors that inform treatment selection
- Apply the latest evidence to optimize therapy sequencing and to manage adverse events to preserve quality of life

1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

SECTION III

Early-stage lung cancer in the young patient

Moderators: Drs. <i>Nicole Ezer and Stephanie Snow</i>	
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1:30 pm	Addressing the psychosocial needs of the young lung cancer patient Dr. Narjust Florez, Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, MA
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1:45 pm The Young and the Restless: A Young Lung Cancer Patient's take on Resilience and Parenthood
Mr. Simon Barsoum, Montréal, QC

2:15 pm Do patients with young onset lung cancer need a dedicated pathway?
Dr. Mara Antonoff, MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX

2:30 pm Screening in under-represented populations – is there a way to shift stage in non-traditional at-risk patients?
Dr. Jeff Yang, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA

2:45 pm

Breakout: Understanding the unmet needs of Young Onset Lung Cancer patients

Group 1: Dr. Narjust Florez + Mr. Duncan Preece

Group 2: Dr. Luis Corrales-Rodriguez + Dr. Kevin Jao

Group 3: Dr. Quincy Chu + Dr. David Harpole

Group 4: Jose Francisco Corona-Cruz + Dr. Ben Shieh

3:15 pm Share back session moderated by Drs. Nicole Ezer and Kevin Jao

3:30 pm Closing words for Day 1

DAY TWO: Friday, June 19, 2026

SECTION III: Multi-modal therapy for locally advanced lung cancer

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Moderators: *Drs. Sara Najmeh and Nathalie Daaboul*

10:00 am Predictive biomarkers and signatures for resected NSCLC: Beyond stage and mutations

Dr. Gavitt Woodard, Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, CT

10:20 am	Peri-operative immunotherapy for resectable NSCLC: State of the art and unmet needs Dr. David Harpole, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC
10:40 am	Perioperative therapy in Latin America Dr. Luis Corrales-Rodriguez, University of Costa Rica, San Pedro, Costa Rica
11:00 am	The evolution of lung cancer surgery in Mexico City in the era of novel therapeutics Dr. Jose Francisco Corona-Cruz, Instituto Nacional de Cancerologia Mexico, Mexico City, Mexico
11:20 am	Questions and panel discussion
12:00 pm	Lunch & Exhibits
12:30 pm	MERCK SPONSORED SYMPOSIUM
SECTION IV: New targets for early-stage lung cancer	
1:30 pm – 3:15 pm	
Moderators: Drs. Nicholas Meti and Normand Blais	
1:30 pm	DLL3 targeted therapy in large cell neuroendocrine malignancies of the lung: a missed opportunity for systemic escalation? Surgical considerations? Dr. Marie-Frédérique D'Amours, Hotel-Dieu de Lévis, Lévis, QC
1:45 pm	Can KRAS inhibitors bring benefit for early-stage lung cancer? Dr. Quincy Chu, Cross Cancer Institute, Edmonton, AB
2:00 pm	New concepts from the Spanish cooperative group translational science effort Dr. Alberto Cruz-Bermudez, Puerta de Hierro Hospital, Madrid, Spain
2:15 pm	Diet-based synergies with checkpoint inhibition: An opportunity for neoadjuvant prehabilitation? Dr. Daniela Quail, McGill University, Montréal, QC
2:30 pm	The lung microbiome as a novel biomarker in cancer care Dr. Bertrand Routy, Université de Montréal, Montréal, QC

2:45 pm

Questions and panel discussion

SECTION V: Building a pan-American early-stage lung cancer collaborative

3:15 pm – 5:15 pm

Moderators: *Drs. Bertrand Routy and Jonathan Spicer*

3:15 pm

Unmet research needs in systemic therapy for early-stage NSCLC in Latin America

Dr. Luis Corrales-Rodriguez, University of Costa Rica, San Pedro, Costa Rica

3:25 pm

Is pan-American surgical lung cancer research possible and how to we make it happen?

Dr. José Francisco Corona-Cruz, Instituto Nacional de Cancerologia Mexico, Mexico City, Mexico

3:35 pm

Bridging inequities in care through research: Operationalizing a pan-American research collaborative for early-stage lung cancer

Dr. Narjust Florez, Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, MA

3:45 pm

Questions and panel discussion

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4:15 pm

Break & Exhibits

4:30 pm

Neoadjuvant TKI for resectable lung ca debate?

Moderators: *Drs. Stephanie and Jonathan Spicer*

Pro: Dr. Sara Najmeh

Con: Dr. Barbara Melosky

5:15 pm

Closing Words #ELIXR26

5:30 pm

Cocktail dinatoire reception at Le 9e

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