



THE PATH TO LEADING INNOVATION IN LIQUID BIOPSY

International Society
of Liquid Biopsy
Workshop



22 - 23 May 2026

Event Venue: HABITA79 MGallery Pompeii 10 Via Roma, 80045 Pompei (NA), Italy

Chairs: Umberto Malapelle & Christian Rolfo



SCIENTIFIC RATIONALE

The integration of liquid biopsy into routine clinical practice **marks a transformative advancement** in the management of cancer patients, enabling a **multidisciplinary and dynamic** approach to diagnosis, treatment selection, and disease monitoring. By analyzing circulating tumor DNA (ctDNA) from a simple blood draw, liquid biopsy offers a **minimally invasive alternative to conventional tissue biopsies**, delivering real-time insights into tumor genetics and heterogeneity.

Tumor cells, **due to their high proliferative activity**, undergo apoptosis and necrosis, **releasing fragments of tumor-derived DNA into the bloodstream**. **Thanks to advances in DNA sequencing technologies**, these ctDNA fragments can now be detected and characterized with high sensitivity and specificity. This **facilitates the identification of actionable mutations, the monitoring of treatment response, and the early detection of resistance mechanisms**.

By enabling the **non-invasive tracking of tumor evolution**, liquid biopsy supports timely and personalized therapeutic decisions, potentially improving patient outcomes while **minimizing the need for repeated invasive procedures**. This approach is **fully aligned with the principles of precision oncology**, allowing treatment strategies to be rapidly adapted based on the tumor's molecular profile at various stages of the disease.

This session will explore the latest evidence and practical considerations for implementing liquid biopsy in clinical oncology. Discussions will address **technical, clinical, and organizational aspects essential for the effective integration** of this tool into multidisciplinary cancer care pathways.

PROGRAM 22 May 2026



- 11.30 - 12.30** Symposium “Elegibility for the second line treatment of ER+/HER2 neg mBC patients: focus on ESRI mutation”
12.30 - 13.30 *Light lunch*
13.30 - 13.45 Welcome by the authorities
Giancarlo Troncone, Giovanni Esposito, Matteo Lorito
13.45 - 14.00 Welcome - **Umberto Malapelle, Christian Rolfo**
Introduced by: Umberto Malapelle
14.00 - 14.20 Opening Lecture I: 10 years of evolution in liquid biopsy
David Gandara
Introduced by: Natasha Leigh
14.20 - 14.40 Opening Lecture II: The next 10 years - **Christian Rolfo**
14.40 - 15.00 Opening Lecture III: How to implement liquid biopsy in clinical practice in a Comprehensive Cancer Center
Fabrice Barlesi

I SESSION: HOW TO IMPROVE ACCESS OF LIQUID BIOPSY

Chairs: Umberto Malapelle & Christian Rolfo

- 15.00 - 15.20** Minimal requirements for liquid biopsy implementation in clinical practice - **Nicola Fusco**
15.20 - 15.40 Liquid Biopsy: How to overcome the barriers in low-income countries - **Ola Khorshid**
15.40 - 16.00 The relevance of External Quality Assurance Programs
Victoria Williams
16.00 - 16.30 Panel Discussion - *led by* **Paul Hofman**
16.30 - 16.50 *Coffee break*

II SESSION: BEYOND ctDNA AND BEYOND BLOOD

Chairs: Evi Lianidou & Maria José Serrano

- 16.50 - 17.10** Beyond ctDNA: focus on CTC - **Massimo Cristofanilli**
17.10 - 17.30 Extracellular vesicles: perspective from ISEV - **Kenneth Witwer**
17.30 - 17.50 Beyond blood: the other body fluids - **Marta Dueñas**
17.50 - 18.20 Panel Discussion - *led by* **Evi Giannakakou & Clara Mayo**
18.20 - 18.30 Closing Remarks - **Umberto Malapelle, Christian Rolfo**
18.30 - 18.45 *Break*
18.45 - 19.45 Symposium “NSCLC and Emerging Biomarkers: Predictive Role in Personalized Medicine”

PROGRAM

23 May 2026

08.45 - 09.00 Opening remarks – **Umberto Malapelle, Christian Rolfo**

III SESSION: CLINICAL IMPLEMENTATION OF LIQUID BIOPSY

Chairs: Marcello Tiseo & Silvia Novello

09.00 - 09.15 Lung Cancer - **Natasha Leigh**
09.15 - 09.30 Breast Cancer - **Nicola Fusco**
09.30 - 09.45 Colon Cancer - **Clara Montagut**
09.45 - 10.00 Ovarian Cancer - **Sergio Marchini**
10.00 - 10.20 Panel Discussion - *led by Marcello Tiseo*
10.20 - 10.40 *Coffee break*
10.40 - 10.55 Cholangiocarcinoma - **Matteo Fassan**
10.55 - 11.10 Prostate Cancer - **Gunsagar S. Gulati**
11.10 - 11.25 Head and Neck - **Scott Bratman**
11.25 - 11.40 Pediatric - **Elaine Mardis**
11.40 - 12.00 Panel Discussion - *led by Silvia Novello*

IV SESSION: TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH IN LIQUID BIOPSY

Chairs: Giuseppe Curigliano & Roberto Bianco

12.00 - 12.20 3D Biology in Liquid Biopsy - **Umberto Malapelle**
12.20 - 12.40 What ctDNA Really Measures: Dynamic MRD Stases and the Translational Path from PEGASUS to SAGITTARIUS - **Silvia Marsoni**
12.40 - 13.00 Adaptative Trial design in Liquid Biopsy
Valsamo Anagnostou
13.00 - 13.20 Epigenetics & Liquid Biopsy - **Manel Esteller**
13.20 - 13.40 Circulating biomarkers for Immunotherapy - **David Carbone**
13.40 - 14.45 *Light Lunch*

V SESSION: STAKEHOLDERS ROUNDTABLE

Chairs: Christian Rolfo & Umberto Malapelle

Scientific Societies perspectives on Liquid Biopsy

14.45 - 15.45 Round Table: Minimal requirement in Liquid biopsy - *led by Klaus Pantel, Chaterine Alix-Panabieres, Kenneth Witwer, Victoria Williams, Nicola Normanno, Mev Domínguez Valentin*

Chairs: Eloisa Jantus Lewintre & David Gandara

15.45 - 16.45 Round Table: Bridge the gap in Liquid biopsy implementation in clinical practice - *led by Kenneth Witwer, Giuseppe Curigliano, Murry Wynes, Massimo di Maio, Filippo Fraggetta, Angelo Paolo Dei Tos, Paul Hofman, Scott Bratman, Silvia Novello, Stefania Vallone, Denis Horgan, Manuel Ottaviano & Esther Diana Rossi*
16.45 - 17.00 Sum up and conclusion - **Umberto Malapelle, Christian Rolfo**

STEERING COMMITTEE AND FACULTY

STEERING COMMITTEE

Umberto Malapelle Associate Professor, Department of Public Health, University Federico II of Naples

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FACULTY

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Matteo Lorito Rector of University Federico II of Naples

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STEERING COMMITTEE AND FACULTY

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STEERING COMMITTEE AND FACULTY

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Esther Diana Rossi MD, PhD, MIAC, Associate Prof Anatomic Pathology, President-elect Papanicolaou Society of Cytopathology, Associate Editor Cancer Cytopathology, USCAP Ambassador, Co-head of the Head and Neck Committee for the Italian Society of Anatomic Pathology-SIAPEC, Head of the Endocrine and Cytology Units, Fondazione Policlinico universitario A. Gemelli-IRCCS, Rome, Italy

David Carbone MD, PhD Barbara J. Bonner Chair in Lung Cancer Research Past- President, International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC) Professor of Medicine Director, James Thoracic Oncology Center Co-Director, Translational Therapeutics Program The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center Comprehensive Cancer Center

Manuel Ottaviano Professor & researcher at Universidad Politécnica de Madrid - Coordinator of SPARC project

Mev Domínguez Valentín PhD, Tumor Biology Department Institute for Cancer Research Oslo University Hospital Oslo, Norway - EARLYSCAN I to boost early detection of heritable cancers. This cluster unites three Horizon Europe projects-DISARM, PREDI-LYNCH and SHIELD-under the EU Mission on Cancer



REGISTRATION PROCEDURES FOR PARTECIPANTS

To register, participants have to:

- click on the following link: <https://workshopislb.it/>
- on the HOME PAGE, click the “REGISTER” button
- enter personal details
- upload a short cover letter in Word or PDF explaining the motivations for attending the event**

Once the request has been submitted, participant will receive feedback within a few weeks. If the outcome will be positive, participant will be able to proceed with the event registration according to the instructions that will be provided by the organizer Medica Editoria.

The cover letter must be submitted no later than April 24th, 2026.

No logistical reimbursement is provided.

Participants must independently arrange their travel and accommodation for 22nd and 23rd May 2026 in Pompeii.

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