



HEAD AND NECK CANCER INTERNATIONAL GROUP NEWSLETTER

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HNCIG NEWS

Highlights from the 2024 HNCIG Annual Meeting

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SAVE THE DATE

HNCIG 2025 Annual Meeting, Nov. 12-13

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PROGRAMME*



Young Investigators Committee updates

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A giant thanks to Dr. Amanda Psyrri and the Hellenic Cooperative Oncology Group for hosting the second HNCIG Annual Meeting (the first in-person) in Athens last year. The hospitality shown, and the ability to meet and collaborate face-to-face, cannot be overstated.

Highlights from 2024 Annual Meeting

Update from the NeCTAR study by T. Yokota – neoadjuvant chemoimmunotherapy and TORS versus TORS and adjuvant radiotherapy +/- chemo. This study is planned to be multinational joint collaboration between JCOG HNCISG and HNCIG.

P. Szturz described the joint effort of Swiss SAKK and HNCIG to study local treatment of the primary tumor in patients with metastatic HNSCC.

P. Bossi is designing a trial integrating chemoimmunotherapy with salvage treatments in locoregionally recurrent HNSCC, which would have both a retrospective and prospective component. A feasibility survey will be distributed.

Dr. Mehanna gave an update on the rapid growth of the HNCIG over the last 3 years, highlighting the following infrastructure achievements:

- **The establishment of 8 committees, comprising approximately 100 people**
- **The hiring of a secretariat (Laura Manning) who has been invaluable in helping manage several of our functions**
- **Processes for evaluation of new proposals, clinical trials evaluation, Delphi processes, guidelines, and protocols**
- **The establishment of databases, including a central registry for projects, and the HNCIG minimum dataset, which is available by request on the HNCIG website**
- **Face-to-face annual meetings**
- **Academic achievements that include ten publications in three years – five Lancet Oncology papers and one European Journal of Cancer paper, just in the past year.**
- **Several ongoing studies, including:**
- **Four large real-world studies in progress – extranodal extension, cancer of unknown primary, oligometastasis, and oral cavity cancer worst pattern of invasion**
- **Two guidelines**
- **One translational study (ctDNA)**
- **Six clinical trials in various phases of development, including four with cooperative groups**

Dr. Mehanna also discussed plans for 2025-2027 with regards to leadership capacity and a coordinated plan for studies, including an international prioritization initiative so that the group is sure to focus on the top priority research questions for the group. He discussed taking inspiration and ideas from international pediatric and gynecologic cancer groups to develop a prospective international clinical trials platform underpinned by a prioritization process determined by international priorities. A key aim would be to efficiently evaluate the efficacy of novel agents and to recruit quickly.

The HNCIG seeks to continue to expand collaborations with industries and to develop partnerships and collaborations with other cooperative groups.

HNCIG 2025 Annual Meeting - November 12-13, Faro, Portugal

W 12 November 2025:

0900 – 0930: Registration

0930 – 1015: Recently Completed HNCIG Projects

1015 – 1115: General Assembly

- Welcome to Faro
- Update from each Committee

1115 – 1200: Audience with Industry: Industry Pipelines, Coming Trials, and Q&A

1200 – 1300: Lunch

1300 – 1400: Audience with Industry: Industry Pipelines, Coming Trials, and Q&A

1400 – 1500: Update on Ongoing Projects and Proposals

1500 – 1530: Coffee

1530 – 1700: New Project Proposals

1700 – 1830: Poster Walk, Drinks, and Networking

Th 13 November 2025:

930 – 1200: Creating the International Clinical Trials of the Next Decade

930 – 945: Results of International Prioritization Process

945 – 1015: Experience from International Clinical Trials Groups of Other Cancers

1015 – 1030: Coffee Break

1030 – 1200: Brainstorming Sessions: Head and Neck Cancer Clinical Trials of the 2030s

Updates from the Young Investigators Committee (YIC)

The Young Investigators Committee (YIC) would like to thank Dr. Lachlan McDowell for his years of service as co-chair and his huge contributions to the success of the group. He has rotated off from his role of Co-Chair of the YIC, and we welcome Dr. Alexander Rühle as incoming Co-Chair with Dr. Christina Henson, who will continue in her role.

The YIC has also created several new subcommittees and working groups. Please reach out if you are interested in joining:

- **Survivorship Working group**
- **Artificial Intelligence Working Group**
- **Oligometastasis Working Group**
- **Secondary Analysis Working Group**
- **Website Subcommittee**
- **Social Media Subcommittee**
- **Newsletter Subcommittee**

Interested in joining the Young Investigators Committee? Please contact secretariat@hncig.org