HEAD AND NECK CANCER INTERNATIONAL GROUP NEWSLETTER

HNCIG
HEAD & NECK CANCER INTERNATIONAL GROUP

THIS ISSUE

Advert for Chair of Translational Committee

Programme for 2025 Annual Meeting in Portugal

Ongoing and Upcoming Studies

Introduction of Member Organizations

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HNCIG NEWS

Advert for Chair of Translational Committee

READ MORE PAGE 2

SAVE THE DATE

HNCIG 2025 Annual Meeting, Faro, Portugal Nov. 12-13

SEE PAGE 3, 4 FOR PROGRAMME

Three Ongoing HNCIG Projects

READ MORE PAGE 5

Introduction of Member Organizations JCOG

READ MORE PAGE 6

Translational Research Scientific committee

Advert for Co-chair and Deputy Chair Positions of Scientific Translational Committee

The Scientific Translational Committee of the Head and Neck Cancer International Group (HNCIG) is looking for a new Co-Chair and a Deputy Chair.

If you are interested in advancing the Scientific Committee for Translational Research, please apply. The HNCIG is a fantastic network for conducting translational research. The lead is required to actively develop projects but also co-ordinate members' projects. This includes organizing regular meetings of the committee members. In addition, an intensive exchange with the other committees of the HNCIG is necessary in order to harmonize the activities of the entire society. It is also necessary to regularly submit a report on the committee's activities to the HNCIG Board.

Please contact the Committee Chair directly on the following email address:
Jens Peter Klussmann
jens.klussmann@uk-koeln.de

The deadline for applications is 30th April 2025.

HNCIG Annual Meeting 2025

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

W 12 November 2025:

0900 – 0930: Registration

0930 – 1015: General Assembly [Closed Session – HNCIG Membership Only]
-Welcome to Faro
-Chair's Update
-Updates from Committee Chairs

1015 – 1115: Recently Completed HNCIG Projects
-Extranodal Extension Project | Christina Henson
-Oligometastasis Survery and Delphi Consensus | Petr Szturz

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

1200 – 1300: Lunch

1300 – 1345: Audience with Industry: Industry Pipelines, Coming Trials, and Q&A

1345 – 1430: Update on Ongoing Projects and Proposals
-Post-Operative Radiotherapy in High-risk, Early-stage, Oral Cavity Cancer (PORTHES-OC) | Christina Henson
-Surrogate Markers for Predicting Response to Neoadjuvant Therapy | Myrto Moutafi

1430 – 1500: Spotlight on Member Organization – Japan Clinical Oncology Group (JCOG)
-Achievements and Ongoing Trials in JCOG-HNCSG | Naomi Kiyota
-Innovative JCOG Trials in Head and Neck Oncology | Yuki Saito

1500 – 1530: Coffee

1530 – 1700: New Project Proposals
-Readiness of Cooperative Groups to Implement AI in Clinical Trials | Sujith Baliga
-NeCTAR: Neoadjuvant Chemotherapy and Immunotherapy (NACI) before Transoral Surgery and Adjuvant Radiotherapy and Chemotherapy (NeCTAR) | Hisham Mehanna & Christian Simon

1700 – 1830: Poster Presentations Train, Drinks, and Networking

HNCIG Annual Meeting 2025

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Th 13 November 2025:

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

930 – 945: Results of International Prioritization Process
Pankaj Kumar Panda, National Cancer Center Singapore, Singapore

945 – 1015: Experience from European Network of Gynecological Oncology Trials (ENGOT) in Establishing a Successful International Clinical Trials Platform

1015 – 1030: Coffee Break

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

1230: Registration Open for 10th Trends in Head and Neck Oncology (THNO) Meeting

Ongoing and Upcoming Studies

Brief Snapshot of Three Ongoing HNCIG Projects

The HNCIG is actively conducting international studies, pattern-of-care analyses, and Delphi consensus efforts, all aimed at standardizing treatment approaches and improving outcomes for head and neck cancer patients worldwide. We would like to briefly highlight three ongoing scientific projects of the HNCIG.

1. Oligometastatic Head and Neck Cancer Consensus Project

The pattern of care survey for treating oligometastatic head and neck cancer patients has been completed and is currently under review. Meanwhile, Dr. Bonomo, supported by several members of the HNCIG Young Investigator Committee, is preparing a Delphi consensus process aimed at standardizing treatment protocols. The first Delphi round is expected to begin in May 2025. Given the ongoing controversies surrounding the diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up of these patients, this consensus effort could play a key role in harmonizing care practices worldwide.

2. HNCIG/IFHNOS Carcinoma of Unknown Primary (CUP) Project

Led by Dr. Paul Nankivell, the HNCIG/IFHNOS CUP project aims to address challenges in diagnosing and managing carcinoma of unknown primary (HNSCCUP). The study focuses on defining international diagnostic pathways, analyzing primary site detection rates, evaluating treatment outcomes, and providing long-term follow-up data. It involves three distinct work packages: an international survey, a multi-center cohort study, and a Delphi consensus process. The project will leverage the extensive collaborative networks of HNCIG and IFHNOS to establish a large, novel dataset that can inform global standards of care for HNSCCUP.

3. PORTHES-OC Multi-Institutional Cohort Study

Under the leadership of Dr. Henson, the PORTHES-OC (Post-Operative RadioTherapy in High-risk, Early-Stage Oral Cavity Squamous Cell Carcinoma) study is a multi-site retrospective analysis aimed at evaluating the benefits of adjuvant radiotherapy in early-stage oral cavity squamous cell carcinoma patients with high-risk features. These include WPOI 5, PNI, and LVI. The study aims to collect data from 1,500 patients, with the goal of clarifying whether adjuvant radiotherapy provides a survival benefit for these specific risk groups.

These projects collectively demonstrate the HNCIG's international efforts across various areas, all with the goal of improving head and neck cancer treatment worldwide.

Introduction of Member Organizations by Young Investigators

JCOG: JAPAN CLINICAL ONCOLOGY GROUP

The Japan Clinical Oncology Group (JCOG) is a multicenter clinical study group for cancer treatment mainly funded by the national research grants in Japan. JCOG was founded in 1990, and currently has 16 study groups covering all adult solid cancers. JCOG consists of Study groups, Operations Office, Data Center and Biorepository, all of which cooperate with each other in research activities. The organization enables us to conduct qualified clinical trials and data assurance.

JCOG-Head and Neck Cancer Study Group (HNCSG) was established in 2011. We are composed of head and neck surgeons, medical oncologists, and radiation oncologists, and currently have 39 participating facilities throughout Japan.

The primary mission of the JCOG-HNCSG is to improve prognosis and quality of life of head and neck cancer patients through designing and conducting high-quality multi-institutional clinical trials and translational research.

We currently address following types of researches: 1) Research into minimal invasive or less toxic treatment approaches in surgery or chemoradiotherapy. 2) Development of treatment approaches preserving esthetics and function. 3) Interventions for special populations including older adults, and chemotherapy-ineligible patients. 4) Discovery of novel biomarkers for predicting treatment efficacy and adverse event.

Group meetings are held in every 3 months, including twice per year in person, but the individual research working groups meet more frequently. The JCOG-HNCSG is also committed to developing the next generation of investigators. The members of the Young Investigator Committee are involved the planning of new clinical research and secondary analysis and in international exchange, mentored by the group core members.