



**University Medicine Essen**  
University Hospital Essen  
Clinic for Particle Therapy

**ukb** universitäts  
klinikum**bonn**



# 6th International CNS GCT Conference

11.-13. September 2025

“Haus der Technik (HDT)” • Hollestraße 1 • 45127 Essen




**International CNS GCT Conference**  
**September 11–13, 2025 | Haus der Technik, Essen, Germany**

Dear Colleagues,

it is a great pleasure and honor to welcome you to the International Germ Cell Tumor Meeting 2025, hosted for the first time in Germany by the University Hospitals of Essen and Bonn. This meeting offers a wonderful opportunity to connect leading experts from around the world, exchange the latest scientific insights, and shape the future of care for patients with intracranial germ cell tumors. Your expertise and contributions will be essential to improving outcomes and quality of life for patients worldwide.

We wish you inspiring discussions, fruitful collaborations, and a successful conference here in Essen.



**Prof. Beate Timmermann**  
Director of Clinic for Particle Therapy  
Medical Head of West German Proton  
Therapy Center Essen (WPE) gGmbH



**Dr. Gabriele Calaminus**  
Chair Germ Cell Tumor Group  
of the German Society of Pediatric Oncology  
Pediatric Neurooncology Program  
University Childrens Hospital Bonn

## Program • Thursday 11.9.2025

18:00-19:00      Registration

19.00              Get together in "Haus der Technik" –  
Welcome note and drinks and finger food

## Program • Day 1, Friday 12.9.2025

7:30              Registration

8:15 - 8:30      Opening note:  
Beate Timmermann, Germany  
Gabriele Calaminus, Germany  
Angelika Eggert, Medical Director of University Hospital Essen

8:30 - 9:15      **Session 1**  
**What is new in molecular diagnostics in CNS GCTs?**

Conveners:      Ching Lau, USA  
Hirokazu Takami, Japan

Chairs:           Ching Lau, USA  
Leendert Looijenga, The Netherlands

- »    **Biological Exploration of Germ Cell Tumors from a Multi-Omics Perspective**  
Hirokazu Takami, Japan
- »    **Novel Molecular Subtypes Identified in Patients with Intracranial Germ Cell Tumors**  
Bo Li, China
- »    **Dissecting the complex ecosystem of germ cell tumors**  
Torsten Pietsch, Germany

9:15 - 10:00

## Session 2

### What is new in biomarkers?

Conveners: Matthew Murray, United Kingdom  
Koichi Ichimura, Japan

Chairs: Stefan Schönberger, Germany  
Matthew Shing, China

- » **Liquid biopsy for CNS Germ Cell Tumors: the Sick Kids experience**  
Anthony Liu, Canada
- » **A whole genome Nanopore sequencing suggested that germinomas and non-germinomatous germ cell tumors may develop through distinct epigenetic mechanisms**  
Koichi Ichimura, Japan
- » **Circulating microRNAs to assist the diagnosis and management of CNS Germ Cell Tumours**  
Matthew Murray, United Kingdom

10:00 - 10:30 Coffee break

10:30 - 11:00

### Panel discussion on molecular diagnostics and biomarkers (Sessions 1 and 2)

Prepared by moderators:

Torsten Pietsch, Germany, Jason Fangusaro, USA



11:00 - 11:45 **Session 3**  
**Are there new targets on the horizon?**

Conveners: Torsten Pietsch, Germany,  
Leendert Looijenga, The Netherlands

Chair: Ute Bartels, Germany

- » **CSF Liquid Biopsy for Intracranial Germ Cell Tumors**  
Ching Lau, USA
- » **The clinical impact of understanding CNS GCTs from a developmental perspective**  
Leendert Looijenga, The Netherlands
- » **Immunotherapy in NGGCT**  
Sumanth Nagabushan, Australia

11:45 - 12:45 **Lunch break & Poster session (Germinoma)**

Moderators: Yoshiko Nakano, Canada  
Ute Bartels, Germany

12:45 - 13:15 **Session 4**  
**Imaging: New developments and findings**

Convener: Giovanni Morana, Italy

Chair: Agnes Vojcek, Hungary

- » **Imaging response assessment criteria of off-midline CNS germ cell tumors: basal ganglia and thalamus**  
Giovanni Morana, Italy
- » **Imaging in malignant germ cell tumors involving the hypothalamo-neurohypophyseal axis: the evaluation of the posterior pituitary bright spot is essential**  
Brigitte Bison, Germany

13:15 - 14:30 **Session 5**  
**Neurosurgery**

Conveners/Chairs: Thomas Czech, Austria,  
Masao Matsutani, Japan

- » **Advanced techniques in the neurosurgical management**  
Ulrich-Wilhelm Thomale, Germany
- » **GCTs of the pineal region –  
the Lyon neurosurgical experience**  
Alexandru Szathmari, France
- » **Bifocal intracranial GCTs**  
Ji Hoon Phi, South Korea

14:30 - 15:00 **Coffee break**

15:00 - 16:30 **Session 6**  
**Radiotherapy: developments and controversies**

Convener: Beate Timmermann, Germany,  
Yasmin Lassen, Denmark

Chair: Beate Timmermann, Germany,  
Claire Alapetite, France

- » **RT strategies foreseen in SIOP GCTIII**  
Yasmin Lassen, Denmark
- » **RT strategy in North-America/COG**  
Shannon MacDonald, USA
- » **RT strategy in Asia**  
Joo-Young Kim, South Korea
- » **Panel discussion on strategies**  
chairs, speakers and auditorium

16:30 - 18:00

## Session 7

**Free paper session 1 (Germinoma and CNS-GCT in general)**  
(8 minute talks and 2 minute discussions)

Moderators: Veronica Biassoni, Italy  
Andreas Peyrl, Austria

- » **Clinical significance of cerebral microbleeds in patients with germinoma who underwent long-term follow-up**  
Masayuki Kanamori, Japan
- » **The Utility of Placental Alkaline Phosphatase in Cerebrospinal Fluid for Early Diagnosing Neurohypophyseal Germinoma in Patients with Pituitary Stalk Thickening and Central Diabetes Insipidus: A Single-Center Case Series:**  
Ryosuke Mizuta, Japan
- » **Cerebrospinal Fluid Placental Alkaline Phosphatase in Germinoma: An 8 pg/mL Threshold**  
Kentaro Chiba, Japan
- » **Clinical utility of non-FDG PET-MRI in children with CNS germ cell tumor: a territory-wide study from Hong Kong**  
Evelyn Lu, China
- » **The efficacy of whole-ventricle irradiation plus primary boost in patients with localized basal ganglia germ cell tumors: prospective phase II study (CHN-IGCT-001) clinicaltrials.gov NCT05124951**  
Menglin Nie, China
- » **A deep learning model for differentiating paediatric intracranial germ cell tumour subtypes and predicting survival with MRI: a multicentre prospective study:**  
Yanong Li, China

- » **Meta-analysis: Comparison of treatment outcomes between two and four courses of pre-radiotherapy induction chemotherapy in germinoma**  
Revathi Rajagopal, Australia
- » **Multi-institutional analysis of pediatric relapsed/progressive central nervous system germinomas**  
Sumanth Nagabushan, Australia
- » **Quality of Life (QoL) of Long Term Survivors of Recurrent Central Nervous System (CNS) Germ Cell Tumors (GCT)**  
Jonathan Finlay, USA

19:30 - 22:30 Social Dinner at “Dampfe Brewery”

## End of Day One





## Program • Day 2, Saturday 13.9.2025

8:00 - 9:30

### Session 8

#### Asian protocols and associated projects

Conveners/Chairs: Ryo Nishikawa, Japan  
Tai-Tong Wong, Taiwan

- » **Japanese protocols**  
Yoshiki Arakawa, Japan
- » **Treatment protocol and outcome of central nervous system germ cell tumor by Korean Society of Pediatric Neuro-Oncology (KSPNO)**  
Jung Woo Han, South Korea
- » **Taiwan protocols**  
Shih-Hung Yang, Taiwan
- » **Chinese protocols**  
Bo Li, China

9:30 - 10:00

Coffee break



10:00 - 11:30

## Session 9

### North and South American protocols and associated project

Convenors/Chairs: Mohamed Abdelbaki, USA  
Andrea Cappellano, Brazil

- » **COG germinoma trial**  
Mohamed Abdelbaki, USA
- » **COG NGGCT trial**  
Shannon MacDonald, USA
- » **Latin American Experience in the Treatment of Germinoma and Non-Germinoma GCTs**  
Andrea Cappellano, Brazil
- » **Future Latin American Germinoma trial**  
Violeta Salceda Riviera, Mexico  
Regina Navarro, Mexico
- » **Future Latin American NGGCT trial**  
Natalia Dassi, Brazil

11:30 - 13:00

## Session 10

### European protocols and associated projects

Conveners/Chairs: Gabriele Calaminus, Germany  
Ajith Thankamma, United Kingdom

- » **Germinoma: Results of SIOP CNS GCT II**  
Gabriele Calaminus, Germany
- » **High-risk Non-Germinoma: SIOP CNS-GCT II**  
Gabriele Calaminus, Germany
- » **Upcoming SIOPCNSGCT III trial: Germinoma**  
Stefan Schönberger, Germany

- » **MonoGerm, a novel proof-of-principle Bayesian phase II trial design of carboplatin or vinblastine monotherapy induction prior to radiotherapy for intracranial germinoma**  
Matthew Murray, United Kingdom
- » **Outcomes of Intracranial NGGCT treated in the UK proton centres, including localised NGGCT with Whole ventricular RT**  
Gillian Whitfield, United Kingdom

### 13:00 - 14:00 Lunch break & Poster session (Germinoma)

Moderators: Yasmin Lassen, Denmark  
Eric Bouffet, Canada

### 14:00 - 14:45 Panel discussion for European, Asian and American protocol sessions

Moderators: Stefan Schönberger, Germany  
Shannon MacDonald, USA

### 14:45 - 15:45 Session 11 Free paper session 2 (on NGGCT) (8 minute talks and 2 minute discussions)

Moderators: Jonathan Finlay, USA  
Rolf-Dieter Kortmann, Germany

- » **Unravelling the role of the miRNA 371-373 cluster in germ cell tumors**  
Sanne Hillenius, The Netherlands
- » **A population-based multi-centre clinical trials of CNS germ cell tumours**  
Matthew MK Shing, China

- » **Gemcitabine, Paclitaxel, and Oxaliplatin (GemPOx) Combined with Intrathecal Chemotherapy for Recurrent Central Nervous System Germ Cell Tumors**  
Yuki Matsuoka, Japan
- » **High-dose chemotherapy and re-irradiation associated with improved overall survival in patients with relapsed central nervous system (CNS) non-germinomatous germ cell tumors (NGGCT)**  
Sumanth Nagabushan, Australia
- » **Efficacy of Ifosfamide-Enhanced Chemotherapy and Reduced Radiotherapy in Intracranial Germ Cell Tumors: A Retrospective Cohort Study**  
Ryuta Saito, Japan
- » **Longitudinal Neurocognitive Outcomes in survivors of CNS Non-Germinomatous Germ Cell Tumors treated with the reduced radiation dose COG ACNS1123 treatment protocol**  
Girish Dhall, USA

15:45 - 16:15 Coffee break

## 16:15 - 17:15 Session 12 Recurrent intracranial GCT

Conveners: Girish Dhall, USA  
Ajith Thakammar, United Kingdom

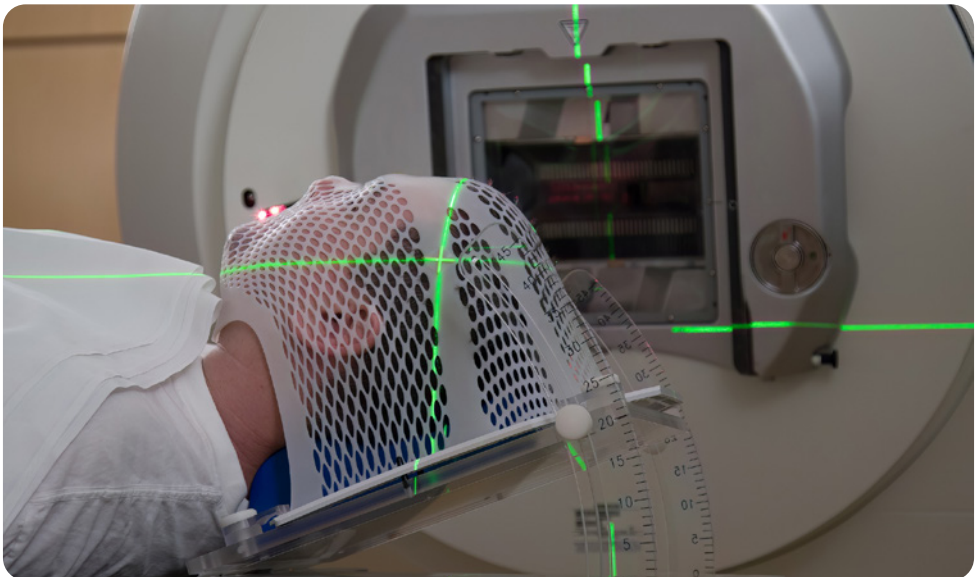
Chairs: Girish Dhall, USA  
James Nicholson, United Kingdom

- » **Current North American treatment approach**  
Girish Dhall, USA

- » **Patterns of recurrence: Lessons from ACNS trials (1123/0122)**  
Jason Fangusaro, USA
- » **Patterns of recurrence: Lessons Learnt from the SIOP CNS GCT trials**  
James Nicholson, United Kingdom  
Rolf-Dieter Kortmann, Germany
- » **Patterns of relapse and how it should guide primary RT strategy in NGGCT**  
Claire Alapetite, France
- » **Second course of radiotherapy for recurrent GCT RTs**  
Rolf-Dieter Kortmann, Germany

17:15 - 17:30 Closing of meeting and outlook

## End of Day Two



## Poster Session – Germinoma – Friday 12.09.2025

- » Thermostability assessment of circulating biospecimens for miR-371a-3p quantification used for extracranial and intracranial malignant germ cell tumour diagnosis and monitoring - Cinzia G. Scarpini et al.
- » Clinicopathological analysis of central nervous system germ cell tumors: a combined study of 387 patients from the JCCG and iGCT Consortium cohorts - Shoko Yoshimoto et al.
- » Outcomes of Intracranial Germinoma treated in the UK proton beam therapy (PBT) centres according to UK Children's Cancer and Leukaemia Group (CCLG) guidelines - Love Goyal et al.
- » Proton Beam Therapy in Intracranial Germinomas - 10 Years of Experience from the Prospective Registry Studies ProReg/KiProReg - M. Stickan-Verfürth et al.
- » Cerebrospinal fluid placental alkaline phosphatase levels correlate with tumor cell load in intracranial germinomas - Manabu Natsumeda et al.
- » Very Long-Term Survival in Patients with Recurrent Central Nervous System (CNS) Germ Cell Tumors (GCT) - Diana S. Osorio et al.
- » Are Germinoma patients more prone to psychiatric disorders, allergies, and weight problems? An institutional review - Tara McKeown et al.
- » Metastatic bifocal germinoma with dramatic early steroid response, utility of circulating miR-371a-3p, and vinblastine monotherapy prior to definitive craniospinal irradiation - Cinzia G. Scarpini et al.

## Poster Session – Non Germinoma – Saturday 13.09.2025

- » Three Cases of Central Nervous System Germ Cell Tumors in Down Syndrome: Insights from a Single Institution - Keita Terashima et al.
- » The CCLG Germ Cell Tumour National Advisory Panel – Evaluation of referrals over a two year period - Sarita Depani et al.
- » Clinical latency of malignant intracranial germ cell tumours: 15-year experience from a tertiary centre in a lower-middle-income country - Jen Chun et al.
- » Profile of pediatric cancer care resources in the management of intracranial germ cell tumors in Southeast Asia - Revathi Rajagopal et al.
- » Clinical Presentation and Diagnostic Delays in Pediatric Intracranial Germ Cell Tumors: A Retrospective Study from a Pediatric Oncology Center in an upper-middle-income Country - Eduarda Ferrerons Schlegel Ferreira et al.
- » Intracranial germ cell tumors: Ege University experience - Eda Ataseven et al.
- » Comparative Analysis of First-Line Treatment Outcomes in Pediatric CNS Germ Cell Tumors: A National-Center Experience - Ludi Dhyani Rahmartani et al.
- » Gemcitabine in pediatric refractory CNS GCT: a case of liver veno-occlusive disease - Giacomina Megaro et al.
- » Mild elevation of serum alpha-fetoprotein (AFP) of <10ng/mL may not be indicative of active non-germinomatous germ cell tumor (NGGCT) elements in central nervous system (CNS) germ cell tumors and should be re-evaluated as a disease marker in Children's Oncology Group studies - Girish Dhall et al.
- » Aggressive Multimodal Treatment with ICE Chemotherapy and Craniospinal Irradiation significantly Improves Survival in High-Risk Intracranial GCTs - Yoshiki Shiba et al.

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