The MU Vienna Department of Pathology
&
The Nottingham Molecular Pathology Node

Molecular Diagnostics Training School

23-25 February 2026

This Training School will be delivered as a HYBRID Event!

ALL TIMES ARE CET !

DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY
MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA
Vienna Healthcare Group University Hospital Vienna

The University of Nottingham
UNITED KINGDOM · CHINA · MALAYSIA

Supported by the Austrian Society of Pathology and the European Microscopy Society

ÖG PATH KLIN MOL

You can jump to the Speaker Biographies by clicking on Speaker Names in the Programme. To return, click **BACK "←"**in your Quick Access Toolbar (can be added by selecting the symbol from the drop-down menu for **All Commands/Weitere Befehle**)

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Foreword
Molecular Diagnostics Training School 2026

From Prof. Renate Kain

Dear Delegates,

I would like to welcome you all to the eighth **Molecular Diagnostics Training School,** to be held as a hybrid event. The school is supported by the **Austrian Society of Pathology**, the **Nottingham Molecular Pathology Node**.

Established in co-operation with the University of Nottingham, the Molecular Diagnostics Training School has developed into a highly successful joint venture. As last year, we are covering the basics of molecular diagnostics, computational pathology in **pre-recorded lectures** that provide the foundation for those of you who have little or no experience in either biological background or technical/methodological approaches. These pre-recorded lectures will be available to you before the beginning of the Training School and are the basis for the specialized lectures on recent developments in technological approaches as well as worked examples.

As for the **Molecular Diagnostics Training School** (MDTS) I would like to begin with the following statement:

Molecular Diagnostics is the foundation for precision medicine.

The MDTS is aimed at persons who may have little experience with molecular diagnostics but also those who are looking for a refresher course or want updates on novel developments. The training school will introduce you to common concepts which underpin the tests, including the panoply of tests which are currently used in diagnostic practice. We will also discuss the importance of getting good template and of having robust quality assurance for your tests. The school will also cover new methodologies such as digital spatial profiling and it will conclude with an overview of current applied molecular diagnostics in a variety of different organ systems.

We have a world class faculty to deliver the teaching materials and to deal with any questions.

I hope you enjoy and benefit from the training school. We will not make you into a card-carrying molecular biologist in these three days, but if you come away agreeing with my introductory statement, then the school will have achieved its aims!

Best wishes,

Renate Kain

Renate Kain
Professor of Pathology
Medical University of Vienna

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Molecular Diagnostics Training School 2026

Sunday, 22 February 2026

Pre-Conference Tutorials (Optional)

ONLINE ONLY

Tutorials for the Molecular Diagnostic Training School (optional)

Registered attendees can watch the tutorials below via the links emailed to them.

The Basic Principles of PCR
Prof. Mohammad Ilyas - University of Nottingham, UK

Basics of FISH
Prof Ana-Iris Schiefer - Medical University of Vienna, Austria

Human Genome Variation Society (HGVS) Variant Nomenclature
Prof Leonhard Müllauer- Medical University of Vienna, Austria

The Basics of Genomics and Transcriptomics
Prof Martin Bilban- Medical University of Vienna, Austria

Quality Control in NGS
Dr Antonios Koussounadis - Saphetor SA

Integrative Genome Viewer
Dr Raheleh Sheibani- Medical University of Vienna, Austria

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Molecular Diagnostics Training School 2026

Day 1 – Monday, 23 February 2026

Foundations of Molecular Diagnostics

Morning Session Chair: *TBA*

08:45	**Welcome Day 1 and Course Overview** Dr André Oszwald - Medical University of Vienna, Austria
09:00	**Introduction to Molecular Diagnostics** Prof Mohammad Ilyas - University of Nottingham, UK
09:30	**Nucleic Acid Biology for Diagnostics** Mag. Dr. Walter Berger - Medical University of Vienna, Austria
10:00	**Tumor Biology for Diagnostics** Mag. Dr. Walter Berger - Medical University of Vienna, Austria
10:45	**Coffee break**
11:00	**PCR and Sequencing Basics** Dr Susan Richman – St James University Hospital, Leeds, UK
11:45	**Bioinformatics Essentials for Molecular Diagnostics** Dr Antonios Koussounadis - Saphetor SA
12:30	**Interpretation and Reporting** Dr André Oszwald - Medical University of Vienna, Austria
13:15	**Lunch break**

Afternoon Session Chair: *TBA*

14:15	**Laboratory Standards** Mag. Marie Salin – Salin Consulting, Austria
15:00	**Ethical, Legal and Social Issues in Molecular Testing** Dr. Michaela Th. Mayrhofer – Medical University of Innsbruck, Austria
15:45	**Coffee break**
16:00	**Wrap-up Day 1 – Group Exercise or Exam** Dr André Oszwald - Medical University of Vienna, Austria
16:45	**End of Day 1 of MDTS**

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Molecular Diagnostics Training School 2026

Day 2 – Tuesday, 24 February 2026

Clinical Applications Across Oncology 1

Morning Session Chair: *TBA*

08:55	**Welcome Day 2** Dr André Oszwald - Medical University of Vienna, Austria
09:00	**The Molecular Tumor Board** PD Dr Peter Horak- Nationales Centrum für Tumorerkrankungen Heidelberg, Germany
09:45	**Molecular Diagnostics in Lung Cancer** Dr Luka Brcic- Hospital Graz II and Medical University of Vienna, Austria
10:30	**Coffee break**
10:45	**Molecular Diagnostics in Breast Cancers** Prof Zsuzsanna Varga – University of Zurich, Switzerland
11:30	**Molecular Diagnostics in Colorectal Cancer** TBA
12:15	**Molecular Diagnostics in Melanoma** Prof Ana-Iris Schiefer - Medical University of Vienna, Austria
13:00	**Lunch break**

Afternoon Session Chair: *TBA*

14:00	**Molecular Diagnostics in Prostate Cancer** Dr André Oszwald - Medical University of Vienna, Austria
14:45	**Molecular Diagnostics in Gynaecological Cancers** Prof. Sigurd Lax - Medical University of Graz, Austria
15:30	**Coffee break**
15:45	**Wrap-up Day 2 – Group Exercise or Exam** Dr André Oszwald - Medical University of Vienna, Austria
16:30	**End of Day 2 of MDTS**

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Molecular Diagnostics Training School 2026

Day 3 – Wednesday, 25 February 2026

Clinical Applications Across Oncology 2 and Future Perspectives

	Morning Session Chair:
08:55	**Welcome Day 3** Dr André Oszwald - Medical University of Vienna, Austria
09:00	**Molecular Diagnostics in Pediatric Solid Tumors** Dr Marie Bernkopf– St. Anna Children´s Hospital, Vienna, Austria
09:45	**Molecular Diagnostics in Hematological Tumors** Dr Klaus Schmetterer - Medical University of Vienna, Austria
10:30	**Coffee break**
10:45	**Molecular Diagnostics in Soft Tissues** Dr Karoly Szuhai– CCB Leiden University Medical Center, The Netherlands
11:30	**Molecular Diagnostics in CNS Tumors** Dr Adelheid Wöhrer - Medical University of Vienna, Austria
12:15	**Pharmacogenomics** Prof. Ron HN van Schaik - Erasmus MC University Medical Center Rotterdam, The Netherlands
13:00	**Lunch break**
	Afternoon Session Chair:
13:45	**Liquid Biopsy** Prof Ellen Heitzer– Medical University of Graz, Austria
14:30	**Multi-Omics and Systems Medicine** Prof Christoph Bock - CeMM Research Center for Molecular Medicine of the Austrian Academy of Sciences / Medical University of Vienna, Austria
15:15	**Global Trends and Disruptive Technologies** Dr Matthias Farlik-Födinger - Medical University of Vienna, Austria
16:00	**Coffee break**
16:15	**Wrap-up Day 3** Dr André Oszwald - Medical University of Vienna, Austria
16:30	**Farewell and Close of MDTS**

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Speaker Biographies (in alphabetical order)

The 2026 Training Schools Faculty

Mag. Dr. Walter Berger
Deputy Head of Center of Cancer Research
Chair of Applied and Experimental Oncology
Medical University of Vienna, Austria

Walter Berger is Chair of Applied and Experimental Oncology and Deputy Head of the Center of Cancer Research at the Medical University of Vienna, Austria. He completed his PhD in Biology at the University of Vienna in 1993. He worked in the industry (Hoechst and Behring Werke Marburg) for 4 years before he returned to Vienna University as assistant professor. After a postdoc period at Cambridge University, UK, he developed the research focus on translational drug development at the Center of Cancer Research at the Medical University Vienna. In his scientific work, he focusses on the translation of molecular and cellular research approaches towards clinical oncology by developing novel therapy targets but also drug formulations. In several research networks, he is connected both with clinical oncologists and pathologists but also synthetical and analytical chemists. A major focus lies on strategies for tumor specific drug activation and targeted therapy approaches against bladder cancer and paediatric as well as adult brain tumors. Walter Berger was awarded with several prizes in the field of translational cancer research. He is author of about 360 publications and holds currently an H index of 67.

Dr. Marie Bernkopf
Head of the laboratory of Tumorbiology at Labdia Labordiagnostik / Staff Scientist at St. Anna children's Cancer Research Insitute
Labdia Labordiagnostik GmbH
St. Anna Children's Cancer Research Insitute

Marie Bernkopf obtained her PhD in 2015 studying a newly described genetic cause for intellectual disability. After a 2.5 years post-doctoral training at University of Oxford, UK, where she worked in the Clinical Genetics group at the MRC Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine on genetic mosaicism, selfish spermatogonial selection and Non-Invasive Prenatal Testing, she joined the Taschner-Mandl group at St.Anna Children's Cancer Research Institute (CCRI), Vienna, Austria. Here she works as a Staff Scientist on translational research projects to bring new techniques and approaches (e.g. liquid biopsies) into clinical practice in order to improve risk stratification and survival of little cancer patients. As head of the laboratory for Tumorbiology at Labdia Labordiagnostik, reference lab in several international clinical trials, is she responsible for the genetic diagnostics of all solid extra-cranial cancers in children and adolescents in Austria. One of her main objectives is to translate research findings and novel technologies into validated assays and workflows and with that make precision medicine approaches accessible to all patients in a quality-controlled and accredited routine diagnostic setting.

Speaker Biographies

The 2026 Training Schools Faculty (in alphabetical order)

Prof Christoph Bock
PI at CeMM Research Center for Molecular Medicine of the Austrian Academy of Sciences
Medical Informatics
Head of the Institute of Artifical Intelligence
Medical University of Vienna

Christoph Bock is a principal investigator at the CeMM Research Center for Molecular Medicine of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, professor of medical informatics, and head of the Institute of Artificial Intelligence at the Medical University of Vienna. His research combines experimental biology (single-cell sequencing, epigenetics, CRISPR screening, bioengineering) with computational methods (bioinformatics, machine learning, artificial intelligence) – for cancer, immunology, and precision medicine. Before coming to Vienna in 2012, he was a postdoc at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard (2008-2011) and a PhD student at the Max Planck Institute for Informatics (2004-2008). Christoph Bock is also scientific coordinator of the Biomedical Sequencing Facility at CeMM, member of the Human Cell Atlas Organizing Committee, fellow of the European Lab for Learning and Intelligent Systems (ELLIS), and elected member of the European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO).

He has received important research awards, including an ERC Starting Grant (2016-2021) and ERC Consolidator Grant (2021-2026), the Otto Hahn Medal of the Max Planck Society (2009), the Overton Prize of the International Society for Computational Biology (2017), and the Erwin Schrödinger Prize of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (2022). He has been included in the global list of “Highly Cited Researchers” by Clarivate Analytics (ISI Web of Science) each year since 2019. He co-founded Myllia Biotechnology, a Vienna-based startup company that develops and applies single-cell CRISPR screening technology for high-throughput biology and drug discovery.

Dr Luka Brcic, MD, PhD
Department of Pathology, Hospital Graz II, Graz and Department of Pathology, Medical University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria

Dr. Brcic Dr. Brcic finished medical studies and his residency program in pathology at the University of Zagreb, School of Medicine, in Zagreb, Croatia. He worked as a consultant pathologist at the School of Medicine and University Hospital Center Zagreb until 2015, when he moved to the Medical University of Graz, Austria. Since February 2025 he works at Department of Pathology, Hospital Graz II, Graz and Department of Pathology, Medical University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria. He defended his PhD Thesis in 2008.

His main interest is thoracic pathology, with accent on mesotheliomas and lung carcinoma. He was on two occasions on a study visit by Prof. Sanja Dacic, at

University of Pittsburg Medical Center, Pittsburgh, USA (2007, 2001). He has published more than 100 peer-reviewed publications, and some book chapters.

He was awarded the UICC International Cancer Technology Transfer Fellowship in 2011, and he received the prize for high scientific productivity of young investigators in 2007-2011 period (University of Zagreb School of Medicine) and in 2008 the Sergej Saltykow Prize for the best doctoral thesis in the field of pathology.

He has been very active in pathology education through establishing the European School of Pathology-Zagreb Edition, in 2007, which has been running ever since, and through the organization of Croatian pathologists' meetings. Furthermore, he is active in professional and academic associations related to (pulmonary) pathology (ÖGPath, ESP, IASLC, PPS). He served as the Treasurer of the national association of pathologists in Croatia, and is currently the International Secretary of the Austrian Society of Pathology/IAP Division Austria, Member of the Mesothelioma Committee of the IASLC and member of the PPS membership and awards committee.

He is Editorial Board member of Diagnostic Pathology, and PLOSOne.

Mag. Dr Matthias Farlik-Födinger
Principal Investigator – INIMAC-Laboratory
Medical University of Vienna
Department of Dermatology

Matthias Farlik studied microbiology and genetics at the University of Vienna and completed his doctoral studies in the laboratory of Thomas Decker working on gene regulatory processes leading to the activation of anti-microbial genes in macrophages upon infection. For his post-doctoral work, he joined the team of Christoph Bock at the Center for Molecular Medicine of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (CeMM). Working closely with bioinformaticians in an interdisciplinary environment he developed and established new sequencing technologies for epigenetic profiling to identify and characterize developmental cell fates in health and disease. Adding to the interdisciplinary aspects of his work he collaborated closely with clinicians to identify the cell type of origin and molecular underpinnings of tumor progression in rare diseases driven by macrophages. In 2019 he was appointed a junior group leader position at the Department of Dermatology of the Medical University of Vienna and became the head of the innate immune activation lab (INIMAC).
With his team he aims to explore the role of innate immune cells, such as macrophages and natural killer cells, in shaping the tumor microenvironment and in response to infectious diseases using cutting-edge technologies in an interdisciplinary setting.

His work resulted in highly cited publications in scientific journals including Science, Cancer Discovery, Immunity, CellStemCell and Molecular Cancer. His doctoral thesis was awarded with the prestigious "Award of Excellence" of the Austrian Ministry of Sciences as well as the "Ursula and Fritz Melchers -Award" from the Austrian society of Immunology and Allergology. More recently he received the "Research Award of the Austrian Society of Biotechnology" and the "MEDA-Award" for non-melanoma skin cancer research of the Austrian Society of Dermatology and Venerology.

Prof Ellen Heitzer
Clinical Laboratory Geneticist
Medical University of Graz, Austria

Ellen Heitzer is an EU registered Clinical Laboratory Geneticist at the Institute of Human Genetics at the Medical University of Graz in AUSTRIA, where she is heading the Research Unit for "Liquid Biopsies for personalized medicine in cancer". In 2022 she was appointed Professor for Liquid Biopsies. Professor Heitzer is particularly interested in circulating tumor DNA (ctDNA) and in cell-free ctDNA and her group has developed and applied a set of techniques for the analysis of ctDNA to non-invasively investigate tumor evolution or use ctDNA as a response marker. Her expertise has been recognized internationally, which is reflected by the invitations to international congresses or reviews and book chapters in international journals. As a steering committee member of the European Liquid Biopsy Society (ELBS) she

advocates for the standardization and guidelines of LB approaches to enable a widespread clinical use. As an EU registered Clinical Laboratory Geneticist and head of the molecular genetics branch of the D&F Institute for Human Genetics, Prof. Heitzer is also involved in routine diagnostics of hereditary diseases with a special focus on familial tumor syndromes. Moreover, she is driving the continuous development and implementation of molecular genetic methods, in particular next generation sequencing.

Speaker Biographies

The 2026 Training Schools Faculty (in alphabetical order)

Priv.-Doz. Dr.med.univ. Peter Horak, PhD
Deputy Head of Division of Translational Medical Oncology
NCT Heidelberg, DKFZ Heidelberg and Heidelberg University Hospital

Dr. Horak is a board-certified hematologist and oncologist who currently serves as Deputy Head of the Division of Translational Medical Oncology at the National Center for Tumor Diseases (NCT) Heidelberg. Trained at the University of Vienna, he completed postdoctoral research at the Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center and Harvard Medical School, focusing on molecular oncology. Dr. Horak is a leading clinician-scientist in precision oncology and a driving force in the DKFZ/NCT/DKTK MASTER program, advancing the comprehensive molecular and functional profiling of tumors to enable personalized therapies for advanced rare cancers. He also leads national and international expert groups that shape guidelines for integrating and translating biomarker-driven precision medicine into everyday clinical practice.

At NCT Heidelberg, he heads the multidisciplinary molecular tumor board and helps establish the Interdisciplinary Laboratory for Precision Medicine, accelerating the implementation of next-generation diagnostics and personalized treatment strategies

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Prof. Mohammad Ilyas
Professor of Pathology
University of Nottingham

Prof Ilyas studied Medicine at Bristol University and undertook his DPhil in Sir Walter Bodmer's lab in Oxford. He was awarded his DPhil and attained his MRCPath (Histopathology) by exam in 1999. Between 2000 and 2004 he worked as an MRC Clinician Scientist (Honorary Consultant) in Oxford and in July 2005 he took up the post of Professor of Pathology (Honorary Consultant) at Nottingham University. He was the deputy director of the Nottingham Molecular Pathology Node and is the lead for the pathology academic trainee programme. He has both basic science and translational research interests - the former are focused mainly on the genetic basis of colorectal cancer and, in particular, the role of Wnt signalling and the development of novel in-vitro models of cancer. The latter are in the development of molecular diagnostics and digital image analysis as tools for prognostication and prediction of therapy response. His lab has worked on developing the mutation detection in liquid biopsies and Histogenic Molecular Mapping (HMM) for pathway delineation in tissue section.

Speaker Biographies

The 2026 Training Schools Faculty (in alphabetical order)

Dr Antonios Koussounadis
Bioinformatics Team Lead
Saphetor SA

Biologist by training, Antonis received his PhD in Computational Biology from University of Aberdeen, Scotland, working on protein structure modelling. He has been employed in the biotech industry for several years researching technologies in antibody humanisation and immunogenicity testing of biologicals. During his postdoc at UCL, he developed a biomedical text mining based methodology for protein structure classification using machine learning.

His first taste on NGS data analysis was at the University of St Andrews, working on effects of chemotherapy in gene expression in ovarian cancer and then went on working in this field. In MUW, he was involved in genomics and transcriptomics research and in the development of custom pipelines. He is currently working with Saphetor SA (varsome.com) specialising in variant calling, annotation and prioritisation. He enjoys analysing genomic data and applying biological interpretation methods to derive insights into fundamental biological processes and the causes of genetic disease.

Prof Sigurd Lax
Professor of Pathology
Head, Department of Pathology, Hospital Graz II
Teaching Hospital, Medical University of Graz, Austria

Sigurd F. Lax, MD, received his medical degree at the Karl-Franzens-University Graz, Austria, in 1987, where he also spent his residency and training in pathology until 1993. From 1995 to 1997 he was an Erwin Schrödinger postdoctoral research fellow of the Austrian Science Foundation (FWF) at Johns Hopkins University Department of Pathology in Baltimore, MD, USA, where he worked on clinicopathological aspects and molecular pathogenesis of endometrial carcinoma. After returning to Graz, he received his habilitation and was promoted to university docent and associate professor. He also established a research group on molecular pathology of gynecologic and breast tumors. In 2002 he became in charge of building up a new department of pathology in the newly established Hospital Graz West (now Graz II) and was appointed its head. Besides the Medical University of Graz, Dr. Lax also teaches at the Johannes Kepler University Linz, School of Medicine; from 2019-2021 he was as part time full professor (§99 UG) in charge of implementing and teaching pathology in the new medical curriculum; and at the University of Maribor (Slovenia), School of Medicine.

Dr. Lax has served on the editorial board of several journals: International Journal of Gynecological Pathologists, Pathologie and Virchows Archive; the latter since 2013 as Associate Editor and since 2020 as senior editorial consultant. Since 2023 he is Associate Editor of Pathobiology. From 2018 – 2023 he was standing

member of the editorial board of the 5th edition of the WHO classification of tumours.

Dr. Lax has published more than 200 peer-reviewed scientific papers listed in Pubmed (H-index 51), 25 book chapters and his publications were more than 14500 times cited (Google Scholar). He is regularly invited as speaker on national and international conferences. His research focus are tumors of the female genital organs and the breast with emphasis on molecular pathology and pathology of COVID-19.

Dr. Lax served the Austrian Society of Pathology/ Austrian IAP division (2013-14) and the German IAP division (2015-17) as president and on the board of directors of both societies as well as the International Society of Gynecological Pathologists. He chaired the Gyn and Breast Pathology Working Group of the German Society of Pathology (2005-2017). 2018 he became Vice President for Europe of the IAP, 2020 member and 2022 chair of the Finance Committee of the IAP. Dr. Lax is also active in the International Consortium for Cancer Reporting (ICCR) as member and since 2022 chair of the dataset steering committee (DSC).

Dr. Michaela Th. Mayrhofer
Lead for ELSI
Independent Ethics Advisor
Medizinische Universität Innsbruck

Dr. Mayrhofer is asocial scientist by training, having pursued her academic career in Vienna, Louvain-la-Neuve, Essex, and Paris, including research and teaching positions at institutions such as the Centre de Recherche Médecine, Sciences, Santé et Société (Paris), the University of Vienna, the Institute of Technology and Society Studies at Alpen-Adria-Universität (Klagenfurt/Vienna/Graz), the Technical University of Vienna, the Fondation Brocher (Geneva), and the Medical University of Graz.

In addition to her research activities in the context of national and EU projects, Dr. Mayrhofer has been actively involved in teaching, contributing to undergraduate and postgraduate education across various institutions. Moreover, she has held fellowships at the Institut für Technik- und Wissenschaftsforschung at Alpen-Adria-Universität Klagenfurt and at the University of Newcastle. Mayrhofer also contributed to academic publishing as a member of the editorial board of the Austrian Journal of Political Science (2013–2017) and currently serves as a review editor for Frontiers in Genetics (since 2023).

From 2013 to 2025, she was part of BBMRI-ERIC, the European research infrastructure for biobanks and biomolecular resources. During this time, Dr. Mayrhofer served as Co-Interim Director General (Feb–Aug 2020) and led the ELSI Services & Research department (2019–2025). Under her leadership, the

ELSI network—comprising around 40 experts across BBMRI Member States—has been involved in over 30 research projects, including the recently granted PERIFORMANCE project that I coordinated until submission.

She continues to serve in several advisory boards or independent ethics advisor, offering her expertise in ethical, legal and societal aspects. Dr. Mayrhofer research focuses on the governance of life sciences, data protection, resources and potentiality, as well as the ethics of artificial intelligence.

Most recently, she founded Papillon Pathways e.U and joined the Institute of Human Genetics at the Medical University of Innsbruck as the lead for ELSI, especially for Humangenom Austria (HG-AT).

Dr André Oszwald
Pathologist
Department of Pathology, Medical University of Vienna

Dr Oszwald studied medicine at the Medical University of Vienna, spent a lot of time working in the Department of Physiology doing cell cultures, microscopy and image analyses. He then continued to pursue his PhD in the Department of Pathology, where he worked on murine models of glomerulonephritis, comparisons to human disease, and first had access to spatial transcriptomics (via GeoMx Tech Access Program). Since then he has been coordinating the spatial profiling projects at the Department alongside his training in pathology, focussing on genitourinary pathology (under the supervision of Prof. Eva Compérat) and molecular pathology.

Dr Susan Richman, FHEA
Lecturer in Pathology
Programme Co-Lead for MRes Medicine
Division of Pathology and Data Analytics
University of Leeds

Susan Richman has been a researcher in Leeds for over 20 years and is currently a Lecturer in Pathology based in the Leeds Institute of Medical Research. She has been actively involved in advanced colorectal cancer clinical trials, overseeing prospective and retrospective tissue-based translational research. She has been a Trial Management Group member on a number of nationwide clinical trials including FOCUS4, FOCUS3 and PICCOLO, and is currently a Co-Investigator on a £1.5m Yorkshire Cancer Research Programme grant, which will require extensive tissue-based translational research over the coming years. She is also a Co-Investigator, and overseeing the day-to-day running of a liquid biopsy study, where the University of Leeds are working in collaboration with a commercial partner, to

improve patient experience and outcomes in bowel cancer screening. She is currently funded through the CRUK Grand Challenge 'OPTIMISTICC', and is involved in colorectal cancer microbiome research. Susan is the Programme Co-Lead for the MRes in Medicine degree in Leeds, and sits on the School of Medicine Research Ethics Committee.

Mag. Marie Salin

To be posted

Source:
https://www.salinconsulting.com/about

Dr Ana-Iris Schiefer
Associate Professor
Department of Pathology, Medical University of Vienna

Ana-Iris Schiefer is an Associate Professor at the Department of Pathology, Medical University of Vienna. She started her academic career already as a medical student in the laboratory of Univ. Prof. Dr. Dontscho Kerjaschki. After obtaining her MD degree in 2005 in Vienna she started her residency at the Department of Pathology, Medical University of Vienna. Since 2012 she is a consultant with a main focus on haematopathology (where she is reference pathologist for clinical studies) and molecular pathology. Her research interest is concentrated on haematopathology with a focus on diffuse large b-cell lymphoma and follicular lymphoma. After her habilitation in 2017 she did a research fellowship at the St. Anna Kinderkrankenhaus, Vienna.

Speaker Biographies

The 2026 Training Schools Faculty (in alphabetical order)

Dr Klaus Schmetterer
Associate Professor
Medical University of Vienna, Austria

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Klaus Schmetterer studied Molecular Biology and Human Medicine at the University of Vienna. For his Master and PhD thesis he joined the laboratory of Winfried Pickl, MD at the Institute of Immunology, Medical University of Vienna. In 2010 he obtained his MD degree from the Medical University of Vienna, followed by his PhD degree in Molecular Biology in 2011. In 2012 he joined the Department of Laboratory Medicine at the Medical University of Vienna for his residency, which he finished in 2018. In parallel, he started to establish a research group in cellular and molecular immunology. In 2018 he obtained the Venia docendi ("Habilitation") from the Medical University of Vienna and since 2021 he holds a tenure track position as Associate Professor at the Medical Unveirsity of Vienna.
Source: https://labormedizin.meduniwien.ac.at/forschung/forschungsgruppen/schmetterer-group/

Prof. Dr. Ron HN van Schaik
IFCC Expert-center Pharmacogenetics
Dept. Clinical Chemistry
Erasmus MC - University Medical Center

Prof. Dr. Ron H.N. van Schaik (PhD/FACB) is a European Specialist Laboratory Medicine and Full Professor Pharmacogenetics (2013) and Clinical Chemistry (2023). He is head of the Dept. Clinical Chemistry at Erasmus MC - University Medical Center Rotterdam and Director of the International (IFCC) Expert-Center for Pharmacogenetics. Main interest is the implementation of pharmacogenetic testing in routine clinical practice. He published >400 peer reviewed articles (h-index 90; Google Scholar). Specific research topics include pharmacogenetics in oncology, cardiology, psychiatry and pain medication, as well as ctDNA/liquid biopsy analyses and opioid use disorder. Prof. van Schaik participates in national (DPWG) and international groups on pharmacogenetics (ESPT, PGRN, CPIC, PharmVar, AMP, EMA) and chairs the Dutch Network Clinical Pharmacogenetics. He is recipient of the Ortho Clinical Diagnostics Award for Outstanding Research (2001), the AACC Outstanding Speaker Award (2009) and the AACC/Mol Pathology Award for Outstanding Scientific Research (2010).

Speaker Biographies

The 2026 Training Schools Faculty (in alphabetical order)

Károly Szuhai, MD, PhD
Associate Professor
Department of Cell and Chemical Biology, Leiden University Medical Center, The Netherlands

Dr. Károly Szuhai is Associate Professor at Leiden University Medical Center, where he leads research in molecular pathology with a focus on bone and soft tissue tumors. He is internationally recognized for pioneering diagnostic applications of array-based comparative genomic hybridization (array-CGH) and multicolor fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH) karyotyping, which have become essential tools in clinical diagnostics and translational research.
His recent work emphasizes next-generation sequencing (NGS) to uncover novel genomic alterations. Key discoveries include the MYOD1 p.L122R mutation in spindle cell rhabdomyosarcoma, the EWSR1::NFATc2 fusion in undifferentiated small round cell tumors, and GRM1 overexpression in chondromyxoid fibroma- all now recognized in the WHO classification of soft tissue and bone tumors. Dr. Szuhai has also contributed to the molecular characterization of vascular tumors using hiPSC-derived endothelial models and identified a common variant in the T gene associated with chordoma.

With over 220 peer-reviewed publications and contributions to international tumor classification efforts, Dr. Szuhai is a leading figure in molecular diagnostics. His lecture, **"Soft Tissue Tumor Diagnostics"**, will highlight how cytogenetic and sequencing technologies are transforming precision diagnostics, illustrated with real-world examples from his research.

Prof. Zsuzsanna Varga
Senior Physician
University of Zurich, Switzerland

To be Posted

Speaker Biographies

The 2026 Training Schools Faculty (in alphabetical order)

Dr Adelheid Wöhrer
Assistant Professor
Medical University of Vienna, Austria

Dr Wöhrer is a neuropathologist and Principal Investigator at the Division of Neuropathology and Neurochemistry. The main focus of her research is the deep phenotypic characterization of malignant brain tumors such as glioblastoma and primary CNS lymphoma. Dr. Wöhrer typically studies population-scale cohorts, which they recruit through a disease registry and the local neurobiobank, and bring together digital pathology, neuroimaging and genomic/epigenomic methods. She is particularly interested in the longitudinal tumor evolution including clonal outgrowth as well as the unique environment of aging brains.

Source: https://www.meduniwien.ac.at/web/forschung/researcher-profiles/researcher-profiles/detail/?res=adelheid_woehrer&cHash=1a03bbbba8837b596c74e226645ba60a

Speaker Biographies

The 2026 Training Schools Faculty (in alphabetical order)

Scientific Lead

Prof. Renate Kain, MD, PhD
Head of the Department of Pathology
Medical University of Vienna

Dr. Renate KAIN, PhD, Professor of Pathology, received her medical training at the University of Vienna. She is an expert renal histopathologist and trained clinical microbiologist with a special interest in small vessel vasculitis and extensive expertise in cell biology, biochemistry, immunology and glycobiology. She obtained her PhD from the University of Aberdeen working on proteomic analysis auf antigenic targets in autoimmunity. Her research focuses on exploring basic disease mechanisms in autoimmunity using small vessel vasculitis as model system by combining the insights derived from morphological examination of injured tissues with advanced molecular techniques and translating the findings to the clinical setting of the disease.

As Head of the Department of Pathology she actively promotes novel developments like digital pathology for clinical and translational studies. She is partner in the Infrastructural project co-ordinated by MUG for digital pathology that links the Pathologies of the Medical Universities of Graz, Innsbruck and Vienna and the Veterinary University Vienna Austria funded through the Austrian Ministry of Sciences. Dr Kain has co-ordinated the training program of the EC funded initial training network TranSVIR, and co-ordinated the EC funded projects INTRICATE and RELENT. She was partner in the ITN HELICAL (https://helical-itn.eu/) designed to prepare the next generation of health informatics researchers and is academic lead of Work package 3 in the IMI2 project BIGPICTURE (https://bigpicture.eu/), designed to establish a large database of pathology images to accelerate the development of artificial intelligence in medicine.

Contact Details

The 2026 Molecular Diagnostics Training Schools Faculty (in alphabetical order)	
Berger walter.berger@meduniwien.ac.at	Oszwald andre.oszwald@meduniwien.ac.at
Bernkopf marie.bernkopf@ccri.at	Richman s.d.richman@leeds.ac.uk
Brettle davidbrettle@nhs.net	Schiefer ana-iris.schiefer@meduniwien.ac.at
Bock cbock@cemm.oeaw.ac.at	Szuhai ccb-sec@lumc.nl
Brcic Luka.Brcic2@kages.at	van Schaik r.vanschaik@erasmusmc.nl
Farlik-Födinger matthias.farlik@meduniwien.ac.at	
Heitzer ellen.heitzer@medunigraz.at	
Horak peter.horak@nct-heidelberg.de	
Ilyas Mohammad.Ilyas@nottingham.ac.uk	
Other Contacts	
MUV Department of Pathology	renate.kain@meduniwien.ac.at
Nottingham Molecular Pathology Node	MS-NMPN@nottingham.ac.uk / www.NMPN.info
Austrian Society of Pathology	office@oegpath.at

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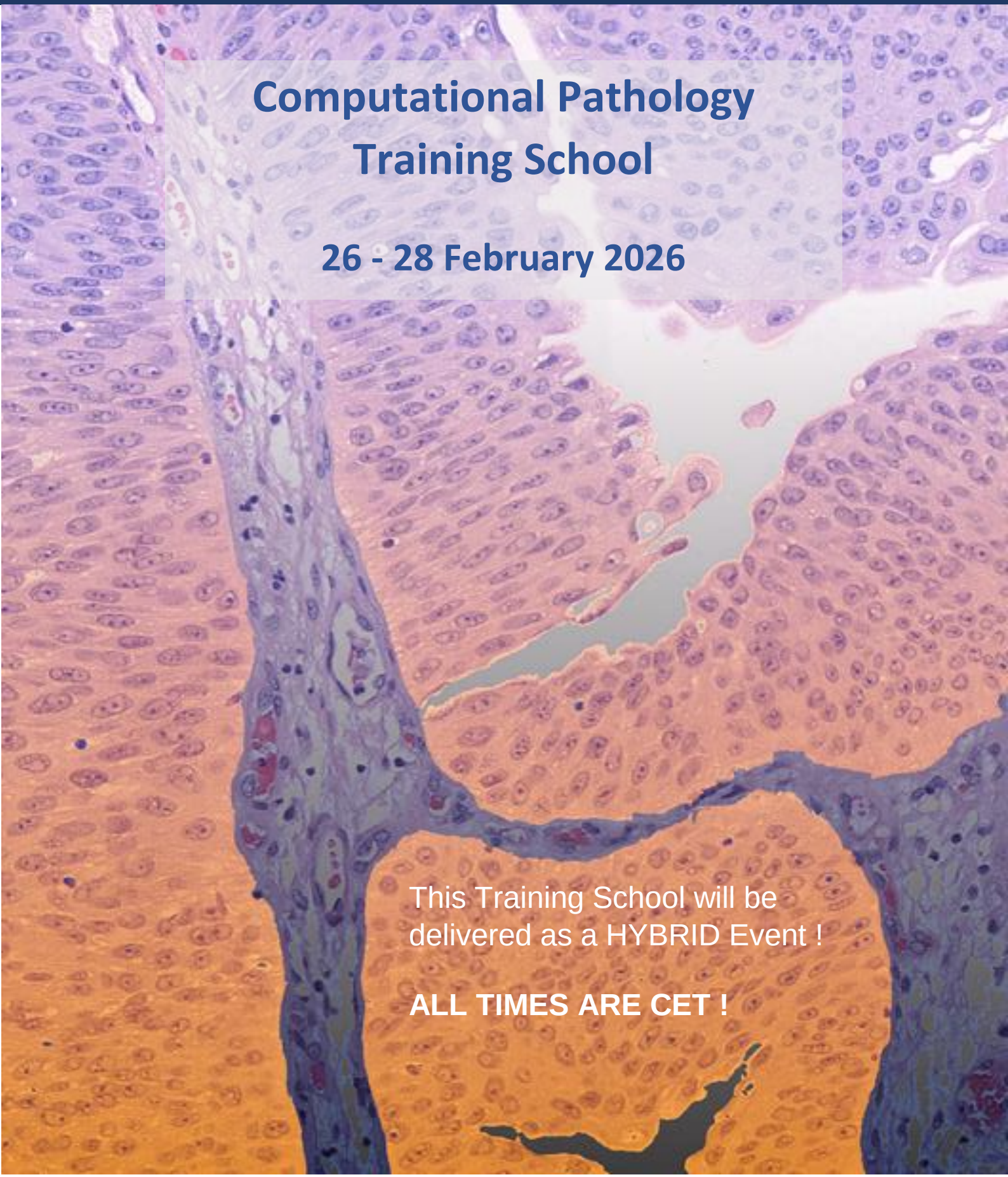
Booth:

The MU Vienna Department of Pathology
&
The Nottingham Molecular Pathology Node

Computational Pathology Training School

26 - 28 February 2026



This Training School will be delivered as a HYBRID Event !

ALL TIMES ARE CET !

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You can jump to the Speaker Biographies by clicking on Speaker Names in the Programme. To return, click **BACK "←"**in your Quick Access Toolbar (can be added by selecting the symbol from the drop-down menu for **All Commands/Weitere Befehle**)

In the PDF, use the **Back Button** (right-click toolbar, select **More Tools**, scroll down to **Page Navigation Toolbar**, check **Previous and Next button** boxes to select them.)

Foreword
Computational Pathology Training School 2026

From Prof. Renate Kain

Dear Delegates,

I would like to welcome you all to the seventh **Computational Pathology Training School (formerly Digital Pathology & Image Analysis Training School**, to be held as a hybrid event. The school is supported by the **Austrian Society of Pathology** and the **Nottingham Molecular Pathology Node**.

Established in co-operation with the University of Nottingham, the Computational Pathology Training School (CPTS) has developed into a highly successful joint venture. As last year, we are covering the basics of molecular diagnostics, computational pathology in **pre-recorded lectures** that provide the foundation for those of you who have little or no experience in either biological background or technical/methodological approaches. These pre-recorded lectures will be available to you before the beginning of the Training School and are the basis for the specialized lectures on recent developments in technological approaches as well as worked examples.

An apt introduction to our **Computational Pathology Training School** is the statement:

Computational Pathology: Prepare, the future is here!

The CPTS is aimed at both, Trainee and Consultant Pathologists and non-clinical scientists/computer experts, who may have some experience with digital pathology and platforms, but are looking to deepen their knowledge. Thus the training school aims at bringing together histopathologists and computational scientists to foster mutual understanding and collaboration. As digital technologies are transforming histopathology diagnosis and research, the training school will outline some of the basic challenges encountered during image analysis and introduce the concepts of stereology and segmentation analysis. In view of the rapid need for integration of image analysis with molecular diagnostics development, we shall explore both the spatial reasoning of imaging and assessment of multiple biomarkers on digital platforms.

We have a world class faculty to deliver the teaching materials and to deal with any questions. The school has one industrial Sponsor and they have been invited to give a brief presentation of computational pathology from an industrial perspective.

I hope you enjoy and benefit from the two training schools. We can only hope that the basic language of image analysis is no longer alien and the clinical perspective contextualized after the three-day CPTS, but if you come away agreeing with my introductory statements, then the school will have achieved its aims!

Best wishes,

Renate Kain

Renate Kain
Professor of Pathology
Medical University of Vienna

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Computational Pathology Training School 2026

Sunday, 22 February 2026

Pre-Conference Tutorials (Optional)

ONLINE ONLY

Tutorials for the Computational Pathology Training School (optional)

Registered attendees can watch the tutorials below via the links emailed to them.

Basics of Digital Imaging Including Lexicons

Prof Vincenzo Della Mea - University of Udine, Italy

What is a Whole Slide Image?

Dr Christopher Kaltenecker - Medical University of Vienna, Austria

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Computational Pathology Training School 2026

Day 1 – Thursday, 26 February 2026

Exploring Terms and Technologies I

Morning Session Chair: ***Prof. M. Ilyas***

08:25	**Introduction** Prof. Mohammad Ilyas - University of Nottingham, UK
	Whole Slide Image Generation
08:30	**Roadmap to Digitize Pathological Workflows** Dr Anna Boden - Linköping University, Sweden
09:15	**End to End Quality in Digital Pathology** Prof. David Brettle - Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, UK
10:00	**Comfort break**
10:30	**Implementing Digital Pathology: The Step from Research to Diagnostics** DI Markus Plass - Medical University of Graz, Austria
11:15	**Image Registration** DI Stefan Brandstätter – Medical University of Vienna, Austria
12:00	**Lunch break**
	Afternoon Session Chair: ***Prof. TBA***
12:45	**Industrial Presentation: AI in Pathology: tool, authority or colleague?** Astra Zeneca, Dr. Michael Handschur
13:00	**Assessing Immunohistochemistry – Scoring Methods and Pitfalls** Dr Abhik Mukherjee - University of Nottingham, UK
13:45	**Digital Pathology: where are we on the hype cycle?** Prof. Mohammad Ilyas - University of Nottingham, UK
	Thinking Like a Computational Pathologist – Methods in Computational Pathology
14:30	**From Pixel to Tissue - Introduction to Computational Pathology for Pathologists** Prof. Andrew Janowczyk - Emory University, Atlanta, USA
15:15	**Quantitative Histo-Morphometry – from Pixels to Diagnosis** Dr Alain Pitiot - Ilixa Ltd, Ludwig Boltzmann Institute, Austria; University of Nottingham, UK
16:00	**Comfort break**
16:30	**Explainable ML Models for Computational Imaging** Prof. Georg Langs – Medical University of Vienna, Austria
17:15	**Information Management and Standardization** Dr Maximilian Koeller - Medical University of Vienna, Austria
18:00	**Multiple Instance Learning with an emphasis of Vision Transformers / Foundation Models in Computational Pathology** Prof. Guillaume Jaume – University of Lausanne, Switzerland
18:45	**Wrap-up Day 1 of CPTS**

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Computational Pathology Training School 2026

Day 2 – Friday, 27 February 2026

Exploring Terms and Technologies II

Morning Session Chair: *Prof. M. Ilyas*

What Is Machine Learning in the Context of Computational Pathology?	
08:30	**General Introduction to Machine Learning for Pathologists** Prof. Vincenzo Della Mea - University of Udine, Italy
09:15	**Histogenic Molecular Mapping – Multivariate Analysis of IHC Biomarkers** Dr Alain Pitiot - Ilixa Ltd, Ludwig Boltzmann Institute, Austria; University of Nottingham, UK
10:00	**Comfort break**
10:30	**Convolutional Neural Networks: Leaving the Field of Histomorphometry** Prof. Vincenzo Della Mea - University of Udine, Italy
11:15	**Machine Learning Tasks in Computational Pathology (Segmentation, Classification, Regression)** Prof. Andrew Janowczyk - Emory University, Atlanta, USA
12:00	**Introduction to QuPath** Prof. Peter Bankhead - University of Edinburgh, UK
12:45	**Lunch break**
	Afternoon Session Chair: *Prof. TBA*
13:30	**How to Create a Dataset for Computational Pathology and What Points to Consider** Dr Christof A. Bertram – University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna
13:45	**High-Throughput Quality Control, Annotation, and Labeling in Digital Pathology Repositories for Biomarker Discovery** Prof. Andrew Janowczyk - Emory University, Atlanta, USA
14:30	**Comfort break**
How to Translate a Pathological Question into Computational Pathology	
15:30	**Computational Tools for Deployment of AI Algorithms in Pathology** Dr Shan Raza – University of Warwick, UK
16:15	**Data Augmentation, Stain Normalisation and Artefact Detection** Khrystyna Faryna - Radboudumc, The Netherlands
16:45	**AI in Heart Transplantation** Dr. Jana Lipkova– UC Irvine; California, USA
16:45	**Wrap-up Day 2 of CPTS**

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Computational Pathology Training School 2026

Day 3 – Saturday, 28 February 2026

Worked Examples

Session Chair: ***TBA***

How to Translate a Pathological Question into Computational Pathology	
08:30	**Prostate – Computational Pathology in Uropathology** Prof. Jeroen van der Laak- Radboudumc, The Netherlands
09:00	**Breast – Computational Pathology in Senology** Prof. Zsuzsanna Bago-Horvath - Medical University of Vienna, Austria
09:30	**GI Tract – Computational Pathology in Gastroenterology - ONLINE** Dr Sophia J. Wagner - Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Boston, USA
10:00	**Kidney - Computational Pathology in Nephropathology** Prof. Peter Boor – RWTH Aachen University, Germany
10:45	**MALDI Imaging – Applications in Pathology - ONLINE** Dr Kristina Schwamborn - Technical University Munich, Germany
11:30	**Comfort break**
12:30	**Digital Intelligence for Tissue Pathology** Prof. Arvydas Laurinavičius - VUHSK, Vilnius, Lithuania
13:15	**AI in the Oncology Setting - ONLINE** Prof. Jakob N Kather - Technical University Dresden, Germany
14:00	**Future Outlook - The Remarkable Potential of Deep Learning for Histopathology** Prof. Jeroen van der Laak - Radboudumc, The Netherlands
14:45	**Wrap-up Day 3 and Close of CPTS**

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Speaker Biographies (in alphabetical order)

The 2026 Training Schools Faculty

Prof Zsuzsanna Bago-Horvath
Associate Professor
Medical University of Vienna

Zsuzsanna Bago-Horvath, MD, PhD, is an associate professor of Pathology at the Department of Pathology of the Medical University of Vienna. She is a specialized breast pathologist who is a member of the European Working Group for Breast Screening Pathology, Executive Board Member for the Austrian Society of Senology and Austrian Society for Pathology. As a member of the Austrian Breast and Colorectal Cancer Study Group (ABCSG), she contributes to clinical studies as a reference pathologist.

The central subject of her expertise and research are prognostic and predictive factors that govern the progression and therapy response in breast cancer. Together with the ABCSG, she participated in the validation of multigenomic assays to aid everyday clinical decisions to offer patients personalized therapy options.

Dr. Peter Bankhead
University of Edinburgh
Position: Reader (Associate Professor)

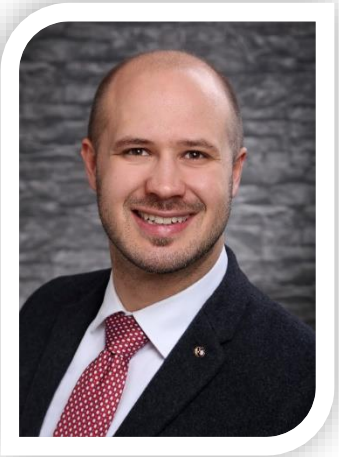
Peter Bankhead completed his PhD at Queen's University Belfast, focusing on the analysis of retinal images and calcium signals in retinal arterioles. He then moved to Germany, becoming a postdoc in the Nikon Imaging Center at Heidelberg University where he spent much of his time helping microscope users interpret their imaging data using open-source software. During this time, he wrote the first version of his popular bioimage analysis handbook for biologists (https://bioimagebook.github.io/).

Upon returning to Belfast as a postdoc at the end of 2012, Peter encountered digital pathology for the first time. After applying existing open software tools to whole slide images with limited success, he wrote his own: QuPath (https://qupath.github.io). After a short time in industry, Peter is now a Reader at the University of Edinburgh, where his group is dedicated to developing open AI and bioimage analysis methods for pathology and other imaging data.

Speaker Biographies

The 2026 Training Schools Faculty (in alphabetical order)

Dr Christof Bertram, PhD, Diplomate ACVP
Assistant Professor for veterinary pathology
University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna



Dr. Bertram is an anatomic pathologist at the University of Veterinary Medicine in Vienna, Austria. The Vetmeduni Vienna is the only veterinary academic educational and research institution in Austria.

Dr. Bertram graduated from the Department of Veterinary Medicine at the Freie Universität Berlin, Germany, and stayed in Berlin for two doctoral studies and a pathology residency of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists. In 2021 he has started a postdoc position at the Vetmeduni where he was appointed to an associate professor in December 2023. His current duties are teaching, directing the biopsy and necropsy service and performing research with a focus on digital pathology and tumor pathology. Dr. Bertram has an extensive research experience on AI applications for automated analysis of histological images, with a focus on mitotic figures in malignant tumors.

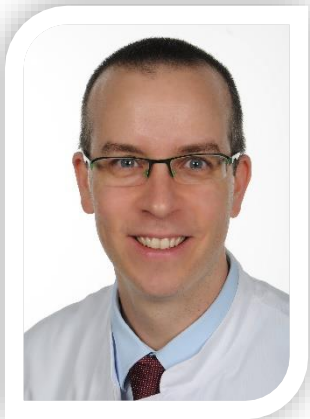
Anna Bodén, MD, PhD
Consultant Pathologist, AI-officer
Department of Clinical Pathology, Center of Medical Visualization and
Department of Biomedical and Clinical Sciences,
Region Östergötland and Linköping University, Sweden

Anna Bodén, MD, PhD
Anna Bodén holds a joint position at Region Östergötland in Sweden as Senior Consultant in Pathology and Regional Lead for Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare and is affilitated to the Center for Medical Image Science and Visualization (CMIV), Linköping University, Linköping, Sweden. She has led the local implementation of digital pathology since 2014 and works as a breast pathologist at the University Hospital in Linköping. Nationally, she chaired the multidisciplinary group that developed Sweden's first guideline for implementing digital pathology, supporting a unified transition to digital pathology. In 2025, Dr. Bodén earned her PhD in Artificial Intelligence in Digital Pathology, focusing on breast cancer diagnostics, human-in-the-loop (HITL) collaboration, and digital image analysis (DIA), including novel visualization methods for pathologists. Her current role includes AI governance and co-leadership in data collection for the European Bigpicture project—an IMI initiative aimed at accelerating AI development and adoption in digital pathology across Europe.

Speaker Biographies

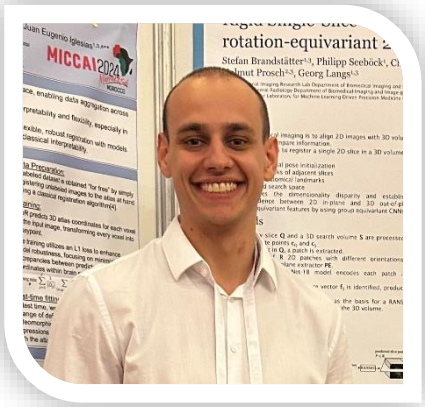
The 2026 Training Schools Faculty (in alphabetical order)

Univ.-Prof. Dr. med. Peter Boor, Ph.D., FERA
Chair of Translational Nephropathology
RWTH Aachen University, Aachen, Germany



Professor Peter Boor received his medical and scientific training at the Medical Schools of Bratislava in Slovakia and Aachen Germany. He is the chair of Translational Nephropathology and senior consultant pathologist at the Institute of Pathology at the RWTH Aachen University. He also leads the Electron Microscopy Facility and Digital Pathology and is the RWTH Lecturer. He is a member of several national and international societies of pathology, renal pathology, and nephrology and received several prestigious awards and prizes for academic, clinical, and teaching excellence. His research group, the LaBooratory of Nephropathology, focuses on diagnostic biomarkers with a particular focus on imaging, digital pathology, and AI, as well as in vivo animal modeling, and understanding of pathological processes in CKD, fibrosis, and (micro)vasculature. He founded and is leading the German National Autopsy Registry (NAREG) and Research Network (NATON) and other research consortia. His scientific work encompasses more than 340 original papers, reviews and editorials, and several book chapters

DI Stefan Brandstätter
Medical University of Vienna



Dipl.-Ing. Stefan Brandstätter, BSc is a PhD candidate and researcher at the Computational Imaging Research Lab (CIR), Department of Biomedical Imaging and Image-guided Therapy, Medical University of Vienna. His research focuses on multimodal medical image analysis with the goal of linking radiological imaging modalities such as CT and MRI with digital histopathology.

He works at the intersection of deep learning, medical imaging, and multimodal representation learning, with particular expertise in computational histopathology, CT, and MRI. His work aims to bridge in vivo radiological imaging and ex vivo tissue-level information to improve the understanding of disease mechanisms and clinical decision-making, particularly in oncology and radiology.

A central part of his research is the development of *SemanticStitcher*, a framework for semantic mosaicing of histopathology image fragments using visual foundation models. In addition, he investigates treatment response prediction in photon-counting CT by integrating histological information and develops methods for cross-scale and cross-modality data alignment.

Starting April 1st, Stefan will be a visiting researcher at the Laboratory for Ex vivo Modeling of Neuroanatomy (LEMoN) at the Athinoula A. Martinos Center for Biomedical Imaging,

Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital, where he will work on combining ex vivo tissue analysis with in vivo MRI.

Professor David Brettle
Chief Scientific Officer
Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, UK

David Brettle is the Chief Scientific Officer at Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, UK. Prior to this he was the Head of Medical Physics and Engineering at Leeds for 11 years. He is also an Honorary Professor in Health Science at the University of Salford. Whilst Head of Medical Physics and Engineering, completed a term as President of the institute of Physics in Engineering and Medicine. In 2022 he received a lifetime achievement award from the Chief Scientific Officer for NHS England.

His current role includes the professional lead for the Healthcare Scientists in Leeds, research into image quality in digital pathology at the National Pathology Imaging Co-operative and leading on innovation and technology for the two new hospitals being built in Leeds. He is also an innovator in his own right with several health related innovations and numerous patents.

His background is in radiology physics and his digital imaging experience spans over 30 years. Early work included developing some of the first digital mammograms and algorithms. From this work research themes around image probity, digital display, imaging system evaluation and psychophysics have been developed.

Prof Vincenzo Della Mea
Associate Professor
University of Udine, Italy

Prof. Vincenzo Della Mea is associate professor of Medical Informatics at the University of Udine, Italy. His main interests include medical informatics and telemedicine (digital pathology in particular), biomedical ontologies, mobile and wireless systems. He is a member of the Educational Committee of the European Society of Digital and Integrative Pathology (ESDIP).

Vincenzo has been locally responsible for the EU Marie Curie project “AIDPATH” (2013-2017), and previously has been national delegate of the COST Action “EUROTELEPATH” (2008-2011). He is currently local responsible for the EU MSCA project "Bosomshield: A comprehensive CAD system based on radiologic-

and pathologic-image biomarkers for diagnosis and prognosis of breast cancer relapse" (2022-2026).

He is Associate Editor of the Digital Health Journal, academic Editor of the International Journal of Telemedicine Applications and member of the Editorial board of the Journal of Pathology Informatics.

Finally, Vincenzo is a member of the WHO Italian Collaborating Centre for the Family of International Classifications (WHO-FIC) and chair of the Informatics and Terminology Committee of the WHO-FIC Network of Collaborating Centers.

Khrystyna Faryna
PhD candidate
Radboud University Medical Center, Computational Pathology Group

Khrystyna Faryna is a PhD Candidate working on deep learning-based medical image analysis with the Computational Pathology Group, under the supervision of Geert Litjens and Jeroen van der Laak. The primary focus of her research is domain shift and end-to-end outcome prediction from digital slides in computational pathology. She holds a BSc in Physics and Joint MSc in Medical Imaging and Applications (MaIA) as a recipient of the European Union: Erasmus+ EMJMD scholarship. Her past affiliations also include Middle East Technical University (Turkey) and the Carl E. Ravin Advanced Imaging Laboratories at Duke University Medical Center (USA).

Prof. Mohammad Ilyas
Professor of Pathology
University of Nottingham

Prof Ilyas studied Medicine at Bristol University and undertook his DPhil in Sir Walter Bodmer's lab in Oxford. He was awarded his DPhil and attained his MRCPath (Histopathology) by exam in 1999. Between 2000 and 2004 he worked as an MRC Clinician Scientist (Honorary Consultant) in Oxford and in July 2005 he took up the post of Professor of Pathology (Honorary Consultant) at Nottingham University. He was the deputy director of the Nottingham Molecular Pathology Node and is the lead for the pathology academic trainee programme. He has both basic science and translational research interests - the former are focused mainly on the genetic basis of colorectal cancer and, in particular, the role of Wnt signalling and the development of novel in-vitro models of cancer. The latter are in the development of molecular diagnostics and digital image analysis as tools for prognostication and prediction of therapy

response. His lab has worked on developing the mutation detection in liquid biopsies and Histogenic Molecular Mapping (HMM) for pathway delineation in tissue section.

Prof Andrew Janowczyk
Assistant Professor
Emory University, Atlanta, USA

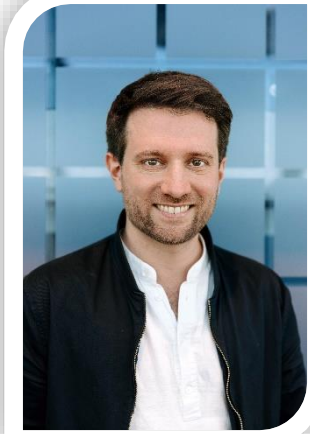
Dr Andrew Janowczyk is an Assistant Professor at the Emory Precision AI for Health Institute (EmPathI) at Emory University, and a data analyst at the Geneva University Hospitals in the Oncology and Pathology departments. For nearly 15 years he has applied computer vision algorithms to digital pathology images to build tools for disease diagnosis, prognosis, and therapy response prediction.
One of his areas of expertise is in leveraging deep learning to build computational models to aid pathologists in many common tasks, such as disease detection and grading. Dr Janowczyk's 2016 Journal of Pathology Informatics Paper entitled "Deep learning for digital pathology image analysis: A comprehensive tutorial with selected use cases" (over 50k views), laid out a generalized approach via open-sourced code and datasets to facilitate the development of the next generation of data scientists.
In 2018, his tool "HistoQC: A quality control pipeline for digital pathology slides" received the Innovation Award at the European Congress of Digital Pathology (ECDP). Later that year, he helped co-found and was elected secretary of the Swiss Digital Pathology Consortium (SDiPath). His newer research focuses on the tasks of predicting prognosis and therapy response. He maintains a research-oriented blog, andrewjanowczyk.com, which aims to provide digital pathology related insights, code, and datasets to the research community. As well, he leads the development of a number of open-source tools to facilitate digital pathology research, available at: histoqc.com, patchsorter.com, quickannotator.com, and cohortfinder.com

Speaker Biographies

The 2026 Training Schools Faculty (in alphabetical order)

Prof. Guillaume Jaume, Ph.D.
Tenure - Track Assistant Professor
Department of Oncology – University of Lausanne (UNIL)
Biomedical Data Science Center – Lausanne University Hospital (CHUV)

Prof. Jaume is a tenure-track assistant professor in the Department of Oncology at The University of Lausanne (UNIL) and the Lausanne University Hospital (CHUV). He completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Harvard Medical School and Brigham & Women's Hospital in the group of Prof. Faisal Mahmood. He obtained his Ph.D. in Electrical and Electronic Engineering from EPFL in collaboration with IBM Research and ETH Zurich in 2022. Guillaume's research focuses on AI for pathology and oncology, with the goal of integrating AI tools into both the clinical and research facets of pathology. His research involves two main objectives: first, enhancing the representation learning of tissue by developing general-purpose foundation models for pathology and oncology; and second, integrating AI tools in drug development to improve drug safety assessment, detect toxicity, and discover safety biomarkers



Prof. Dr. Jakob Nikolas Kather,
Professor of Medicine and Computer Science
TU Dresden University of Technology
Dresden, Germany
National Center of Tumor Diseases (NCT), Heidelberg
Heidelberg, Germany

Professor Jakob Kather holds dual appointments in medicine and computer science at the Dresden University of Technology, Germany, serves as a senior physician in medical oncology at the University Hospital Dresden and holds an additional affiliation with the National Center for Tumor Diseases (NCT) in Heidelberg. His research is focused on applying artificial intelligence in precision oncology. Prof. Kather's research team at TU Dresden is using deep learning techniques to analyze a spectrum of clinical data, including histopathology, radiology images, textual records, and multimodal datasets. Guided by the belief that medical and tech expertise needs to be combined, medical researchers in his team learn computer programming and data analysis, while computer scientists are immersed in cancer biology and oncology. Prof. Kather chairs the "Working group on Artificial Intelligence" at the German Society of Hematology and Oncology (DGHO) and is a member of the pathology task force of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR). His work is supported by numerous European and national grants, which enable the team to develop new deep learning methods for medical data analysis techniques and to apply them in precision oncology. More information is available on www.kather.ai

Speaker Biographies

The 2026 Training Schools Faculty (in alphabetical order)

Dr Maximilian Koeller
Pathology Resident
Department of Pathology, Medical University of Vienna

Maximilian C. Koeller, MD, is a Pathology Resident at the Department of Pathology (Medical University of Vienna) currently pursuing a PhD in Medical Imaging under the supervision of Prof. Renate Kain MD, PhD. During his undergraduate studies he was tutor and head tutor at the Institute of Cell Biology, Histology and Embryology and Institute of Pathology at the Medical University Graz. In 2020 he received, together with his colleagues, the Austrian "Ars Docendi - State Award for excellent Education" in the category "Quality Improvement in Education and Studyability" for their initiative in establishing a novel peer-to-peer based didactical method. His research focuses on the use of Machine Learning and Deep Learning in Nephro- and Uropathology. Furthermore, he is coordinator of the Taskforce Metadata Integration within

Bigpicture (a trans-european IMI-Project, striving to establish a central repository of digital pathology slides to boost the development of artificial intelligence).

Prof Georg Langs
Head of the Computational Imaging Research Lab (CIR) and director of Comprehensive Center for Artificial Intelligence (CAIM)
Medical University of Vienna

Photo Credit: Adrian Dalca

Georg Langs is a Full Professor of Machine Learning in Medical Imaging at the Department of Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, Medical University of Vienna. He leads the Computational Imaging Research Lab (CIR), an interdisciplinary research group of 25 scientists from the fields of machine learning, radiology, mathematics, and computer science. Since 2025, G. Langs has been Director of the Comprehensive Center for Artificial Intelligence at the Medical University of Vienna (caim.meduniwien.ac.at). From 2009 to 2011, G. Langs was a Research Scientist at the Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (CSAIL) at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and continues to serve there as a Research Affiliate in the Medical Vision Group (Boston, USA). Prior to that, he was a postdoctoral researcher at the Applied Mathematics Laboratory of École Centrale de Paris (Paris, France). He completed his PhD in Computer Science at Graz University of Technology in 2007 and earned his Master of Science in Mathematics from TU Wien in 2003.
He is a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the European Institute of Biomedical Imaging Research, Associate Faculty at the Complexity Science Hub Vienna, and an advisor to the Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action (ZODIAC), led by the IAEA and WHO.

Speaker Biographies

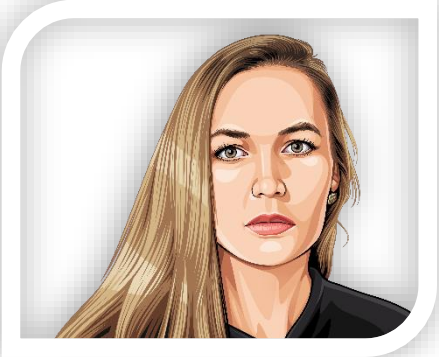
The 2026 Training Schools Faculty (in alphabetical order)

Prof Arvydas Laurinavičius
Professor of Pathology, Forensic Medicine and Pharmacology Department of Vilnius University
Faculty of medicine Director and consultant pathologist of National Center of Pathology, Affiliate of Vilnius University Hospital Santariskiu Klinikos VUHSK, Vilnius, Lithuania

Arvydas Laurinavičius, MD PhD, is Pathology Professor at Vilnius University and Director of the National Center of Pathology, affiliate of the Vilnius University Hospital Santara Clinics, Lithuania. He has graduated from the Medical Faculty of Vilnius University (1981-1987), accomplished PhD program at the Moscow Medical Academy (1989-1992), and Fellowship in Renal Pathology at the Brigham and Women's Hospital / Harvard Medical School (1996-1997).

His research focuses on digital image analytics to derive novel tissue pathology indicators for disease modelling, taking into account tissue microenvironment context.

Dr Jana Lipkova
Assistant
University of Calfornia Irvine (UCI) School of Medicine



Dr Lipkova is currently serving as an Assistant Professor at the University of California Irvine (UCI) School of Medicine, within the Department of Pathology and Department of Biomedical Engineering. Her primary research focus lies at the intersection of technology, innovation, and medicine. She is interested in development of AI methods to address the pressing needs in oncology, organ transplant, immunology and other disease areas, leveraging multimodal data from histology, radiology, genomics, and beyond. Dr. Lipkova believes that the thoughtful application of AI has the potential to transform the healthcare landscape, not only enhancing patient care but also increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of medical professionals.

She completed my postdoc training in AI for Pathology Lab advised by Faisal Mahmood at Harvard Medical School, and also within Brigham and Women's Hospital, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, and the Broad Institute. She obtained her Ph.D. in computer science, with a focus on neuro-oncology at Technical University in Munich, where I worked with Bjoern Menze and John Lowengrub. Prior to my Ph.D. I worked as a research assistant at ETHZ in the Computation Science & Engineering lab of Petros Koumoutsakos working on mathematical modeling and high-performance computing.

Source: https://jana-research.org/jana.html

Speaker Biographies

The 2026 Training Schools Faculty (in alphabetical order)

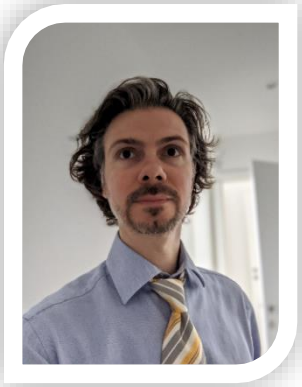
Dr Abhik Mukherjee
Clinical Associate Professor and Consultant Histopathologist
University of Nottingham

Dr Abhik Mukherjee studied Medicine and trained in Radiation Oncology at Calcutta University; and completed an MSc and PhD in Oncology from the University of Nottingham. He subsequently trained in Histopathology at Leicester and Nottingham, where he was an NIHR Academic Clinical Fellow and Lecturer. After attaining his FRCPath (Histopathology) by exam in 2015, he is currently a Clinical Associate Professor(Honorary Consultant and clinical team lead in GI/HPB pathology) at Nottingham University.

His research interests are molecular/computational characterisation of lympho-vascular invasion in cancers, and biomarkers in inflammatory bowel disease. He holds/has held project grants from Innovate-UK/MRC, UKRI, Bowel Research UK, Cancer Research UK, Academy of Medical Sciences and the Pathological Society; and has had the privilege of working on prestigious collaborative projects, [METABRIC: Molecular Taxonomy of the Breast Cancer International Consortium], clinical trials [NEOTANGO, SCOTROC /TRANSCOTROC], and industry-partnered image analyses/computational pathology initiatives [NPIC: Northern Pathology Imaging Collaborative, UK, Optimata, Israel, and Barco, Belgium].

He was co-lead on the MRes in Molecular Pathology for the Nottingham Molecular Pathology Node. Currently, he is Editor in Chief of the Journal of Pathology, Clinical Research and the chair of the Education subcommittee of the Pathological Society of Great Britain and Ireland and was deputy chair of the erstwhile NCRI Clinical Trials Pathology Advisory Group.

Dr Alain Pitiot
Co-Founder & Director, Ilixa Ltd.
Director & CTO, Open Science Tools Ltd.

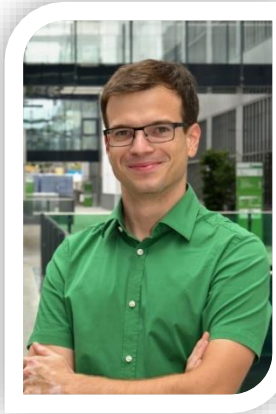


Dr Alain Pitiot is the co-founder and director of Ilixa, a scientific consulting and software development company, and a director and chief technology officer at Open Science Tools, an open-science enterprise developing a desktop and online platform for research in behavioural sciences.
He has over 25 years of experience in algorithm and software development, in both industrial and academic contexts, across Europe and in the USA, with a predilection for the management, visualisation and analysis of biomedical data.

Alain has been involved with various national and international programmes dealing with imaging and image analysis, such as the Austrian BioImaging Industry Board, to which he was elected vice-president, and the European Horizon 2020 COMULIS COST Action, where he co-led the pre-clinical hybrid imaging effort.

He is also an honorary lecturer in the School of Computer Science at the University of Nottingham (UK) and an affiliated researcher at the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Experimental and Clinical Traumatology (Austria).
His scientific interests cover image processing and medical image analysis, with particular expertise in multimodal image registration, image segmentation and computational neuroscience.

DI Markus Plass, Ph.D.
Researcher
Medical University of Graz



Markus Plass leads the Research Group AI and Foundational Models in Pathology at the Diagnostic and Research Center for Molecular BioMedicine at the Medical University of Graz, Austria. At the university institute, he is responsible for the digital pathology lab. His main research interests are digital pathology, machine learning, and the process optimization of digital workflows.

Dr Shan E Ahmed Raza
Position: Associate Professor in Computer Science
University of Warwick, UK

Dr Shan E Ahmed Raza is an Associate Professor in Computer Science and is associated with the Applied Computing division and the Tissue Image Analytics (TIA) Centre. Before joining Warwick, Dr Raza held a postdoctoral position for two years at the Institute of Cancer Research, UK working on the lung TRACERx project funded by Cancer Research UK (CRUK). Prior to that, he worked for three years as a research fellow at Warwick Computer Science department on a BBSRC funded project exploring the origin of new beta cells during pregnancy. Dr Raza obtained BSc degree in electrical engineering from University of Engineering and Technology (UET), Taxila in 2008 and MS in systems engineering from Pakistan Institute of Engineering and Applied Sciences (PIEAS), Islamabad in 2010.

He obtained a PhD in Computer Science from Warwick in 2014, where his research focused on detection of biomedical anomalies using multiplexed images. During his PhD and postdoc roles, he gained hands on experience in

the wet labs to prepare tissue samples for multiplexed imaging. In his current role,
Dr. Raza is associated with the TIA Centre at Warwick, is a PI on Histomaps and INSPIRE project , Co-PI on the Precision Vision project, Co-I on the PathLAKE-plus, COBIx and BigPicture projects. In the past, he has worked as a Co-I on the PathLAKE project. His research is primarily in the areas of brightfield and multiplexed microscopy image analysis and applied machine learning. Specifically, he is interested in the development of Computational Pathology algorithms for studying tumour microenvironment.

Dr Raza has led the NGFF (next generation file format) workstream in the past which is an Innovate UK initiative on interoperability in healthcare. He has led the development of TIAToolbox for end-to-end deployment of AI algorithms in Computational Pathology and is working closely with the developers on the MONAI project in the pathology working group.

Kristina Schwamborn, MD, PhD
Consultant
Institute of Pathology, Technical University of Munich

Kristina received her M.D. from Heinrich-Heine-University in Dusseldorf, Germany, where she did her thesis work on human herpes virus type 8 transmission. Starting her residency, she joined the Institute of Pathology at the RWTH Aachen University in Germany. She received her Ph.D. from RWTH Aachen University for proteomic studies focusing on prostate and bladder cancer biomarkers. After a two-year postdoctoral fellowship at the Mass Spectrometry Research Center at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN, USA she continued her residency at the Institute of Pathology at the Technical University of Munich, Germany. Currently, she is working as a consultant at the Institute of Pathology at the Technical University of Munich, Germany. Her current research focus centers on the application of imaging mass spectrometry in pathology diagnosis and risk stratification.

Prof Jeroen van der Laak
Professor of Computational Pathology
Radboud University Medical Center, Nijmegen, Netherlands

Jeroen van der Laak is professor of computational Pathology at the department of Pathology of the Radboud University Medical Center in Nijmegen, The Netherlands and guest professor at the Center for Medical Image Science and Visualization (CMIV) in Linköping, Sweden.

His research focuses on the use of artificial intelligence for analysis of digitized histopathological images. His research group was among the first to show the large potential of so-called deep learning algorithms for analysis of whole slide images. Further research focused on improvements in deep learning strategies to increase robustness and accuracy, as well as on application of

deep learning for various tasks in histopathology. In 2016 and 2017, he coordinated the CAMELYON grand challenges.

Dr van der Laak co-authored over 180 peer-reviewed publications and was previously member of the board of directors of the Digital Pathology Association and chair of the 'AI in Pathology' taskforce of the European Society of Pathology. He is organizer of sessions at the European Congress of Pathology, MICCAI and Pathology Visions. Dr van der Laak is coordinator of the Bigpicture project, is USCAP Nathan Kaufman laureate and recipient of the AMMODO award for groundbreaking science. In 2021, he founded the Radboudumc spinoff Aiosyn, for which he is CSO.

Dr Sophia J Wagner
Position
Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Boston, US

Sophia J. Wagner is a PhD candidate at Helmholtz Munich and the Technical University of Munich (TUM), working under the supervision of Dr. Tingying Peng. Her research focuses on developing deep learning models for pathology focusing on cancer research. She has been a visiting researcher at Prof. Faisal Mahmood's lab at Harvard Medical School and Prof. Jakob Nikolas Kather's lab at TU Dresden. She holds a master's degree in mathematics from TUM and a bachelor's degree in mathematics from TU Darmstadt. Most recently, she has been developing a vision-language model for pathology and a transformer-based model for biomarker prediction in colorectal cancer histology.

Scientific Lead

Prof. Renate Kain, MD, PhD
Head of the Department of Pathology
Medical University of Vienna

Dr. Renate KAIN, PhD, Professor of Pathology, received her medical training at the University of Vienna. She is an expert renal histopathologist and trained clinical microbiologist with a special interest in small vessel vasculitis and extensive expertise in cell biology, biochemistry, immunology and glycobiology. She obtained her PhD from the University of Aberdeen working on proteomic analysis auf antigenic targets in autoimmunity. Her research focuses on exploring basic disease mechanisms in autoimmunity using small vessel vasculitis as model system by combining the insights derived from morphological examination of injured tissues with advanced molecular techniques and translating the findings to the clinical setting of the disease.

As Head of the Department of Pathology she actively promotes novel developments like digital pathology for clinical and translational studies. She is partner in the Infrastructural project co-ordinated by MUG for digital pathology that links the Pathologies of the Medical Universities of Graz, Innsbruck and Vienna and the Veterinary University Vienna Austria funded through the Austrian Ministry of Sciences. Dr Kain has co-ordinated the training program of the EC funded initial training network TranSVIR, and co-ordinated the EC funded projects INTRICATE and RELENT. She was partner in the ITN HELICAL (https://helical-itn.eu/) designed to prepare the next generation of health informatics researchers and is academic lead of Work package 3 in the IMI2 project BIGPICTURE (https://bigpicture.eu/), designed to establish a large database of pathology images to accelerate the development of artificial intelligence in medicine.

Contact Details

The 2026 Computational Pathology Training Schools Faculty (in alphabetical order)	
Bago-Horvath zsuzsanna.bago-horvath@meduniwien.ac.at	Lipkova
Bankhead p.bankhead@ed.ac.uk	Langs georg.langs@meduniwien.ac.at
Bertram Christof.Bertram@vetmeduni.ac.at	Laurinavičius Arvydas.Laurinavicius@vpc.lt
Bodén Anna.C.Boden@regionostergotland.se	Mukherjee abhik.mukherjee1@nottingham.ac.uk
Boor pboor@ukaachen.de	Pitiot contact@ilixa.com
Brandstätter stefan.brandstaetter@meduniwien.ac.at	Plass markus.plass@medunigraz.at
Brettle davidbrettle@nhs.net	Raza Shan.Raza@warwick.ac.uk
Della Mea vincenzo.dellamea@uniud.it	Schwamborn kschwamborn@tum.de
Horak peter.horak@nct-heidelberg.de	van der Laak jeroen.vanderlaak@radboudumc.nl
Ilyas Mohammad.Ilyas@nottingham.ac.uk	Wagner sjwagner@bwh.harvard.edu
Janowczyk andrew.r.janowczyk@emory.edu	
Jaume guillaume.jaume@unil.ch	
Kather jakob_nikolas.kather@tu-dresden.de	
Koeller maximilian.koeller@meduniwien.ac.at	

Other Contacts	
MUV Department of Pathology	renate.kain@meduniwien.ac.at
Nottingham Molecular Pathology Node	MS-NMPN@nottingham.ac.uk / www.NMPN.info
Austrian Society of Pathology	office@oegpath.at

DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY
MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA
Vienna Healthcare Group University Hospital Vienna

The University of Nottingham
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