

**MARCH 19-20, 2026** PROGRAM



March 19-20, 2026

INTERNATIONAL  
EXPERT MEETING ON  
**OCULAR GVHD 2026**

Center for Integrated Oncology,  
Cologne, Germany

---

**SCIENTIFIC LEAD:** Philipp Steven and Christof Scheid

---

**PROGRAM COMMITTEE:** Philipp Steven, Christof Scheid, Stephanie Lee, Daniel Wolff, Sandeep Jain, Michael E. Stern

---



**UNIKLINIK  
KÖLN**



Centrum für Integrierte Onkologie  
Aachen Bonn Köln Düsseldorf

# OCULAR GVHD 2026 PROGRAM

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18th 2026** Individual arrival

**THURSDAY, MARCH 19th 2026**

---

08.45 Welcome address: *Michael Hallek*

---

Opening remarks day 1: *Philipp Steven*

---

9.00-10.10 Session 1: Progress in understanding ocular GVHD pathogenesis  
Chairs: *Daniel Wolff and Avik Shome*

1. Role of NFkB in ocular GVHD - *Avik Shome, Cologne*
2. Single-cell RNAseq analysis of experimental oGVHD - *Ajay Sharma, Irvine*
3. Immune dysregulation and tissue remodeling in ocular GVHD - *Yoko Ogawa, Tokio*

---

10.10-10.30 Coffee break

---

10.30-12.00 Session 2: Novel targets and therapies for ocular GVHD  
Chairs: *Yoko Ogawa and Sandeep Jain*

1. Window of opportunity - *Sandeep Jain, Chicago*
2. Non-pharmacological therapies for ocular GVHD - *Margarita Calonge, Valladolid*
3. Drug-repurposing in ocular GVHD - *Murugesan Vanathi, New Delhi*
4. From Clinical Phenotype to transcriptional Targets: A Drug Discovery Platform applicable for oGVHD - *Christoph Ullmer, Basel*

---

12.00-13.00 Lunch break

---

13.00-13.45 Keynote: Targeting new treatments to specific organs - *Stephanie Lee, Seattle*

---

---

13.45-15.00 Session 3: Early detection and/or prophylaxis of ocular GVHD  
Chairs: *Stephanie Lee and Leonie Menghesha*

1. Diagnosing OGVHD earlier: Diagnostic Challenges and Opportunities - *Sarah Sunshine, Baltimore*
  2. The BEACON study - *Leonie Menghesha, Cologne*
  3. Navigating the dilemma of systemic therapy for organ-specific GVHD - *Daniel Wolff, Regensburg*
- 

15.00-15.30 Coffee break

---

15.30-16.40 Session 4: Surgery, advanced management and prevention of complications of ocular GVHD  
Chairs: *Tina Dietrich-Ntoukas and Bjoern Bachmann*

1. To dos and not to dos in catastrophic ocular GVHD - *Tina Dietrich-Ntoukas, Berlin*
  2. Scleral lenses in ocular GVHD - *Philip Keye, Freiburg*
  3. Specialized-care program in ocular GVHD - *Tarik Isik, Cologne*
- 

16.40-17.15 E-Poster Session  
Chair: *Philipp Steven*

1. Adjunct Therapy with Topical Recombinant Deoxyribonuclease (DNase) in Dry Eye Disease - *Sridevi Nair, New Delhi*
2. Selecting between autologous serum, punctal cautery, and dacryocystectomy in severe ocular GVHD: Clinical outcomes and decision-making criteria - *Prajakta Dandekar, Mumbai*
3. Metabolic Alterations in Murine Skin Following induced Graft-versus-Host Disease - *Arghavan Lotfi, Bonn*

## FRIDAY, MARCH 20th 2026

9.00 Opening remarks day 2: *Christof Scheid*

9.15-10.00 Keynote: The role of neutrophils in acute GVHD - *Robert Zeiser, Freiburg*

10.00-11.30 Session 5: Interplay between systemic and organ-specific GVHD

Chairs: *Michael E. Stern and Robert Zeiser*

1. Manifestation of systemic immunity in the eye – *Michael E. Stern, Irvine/Cologne*
2. Role of monocytes in innate immunity of the ocular surface - *Stephen Pflugfelder, Houston*
3. Current understanding of the impact of intestinal microbiome on HSCT alloreactive phenomena and outcome - *Daniela Weber, Regensburg*
4. Cell death, inflammation and disease - *Hamid Kashkar, Cologne*

11.30-11.45 Coffee break

11.45-13.15 Session 6: Skin GVHD

Chairs: *Jana Nätlitz and Thomas Krieg*

1. Pathophysiology of fibrotic remodeling in cutaneous cGVHD - *Jörg Distler, Duesseldorf*
2. Under the Skin: The Pathophysiology of Cutaneous Graft-versus-Host Disease - *Johanna Strobl, Vienna*
3. Bicentric data of dermatological care for GvHD patients - *Suzan Al-Gburi, Cologne*
4. Metabolic kinetics in cutaneous GvHD development - *Jana Nätlitz, Bonn*

13.15-14.15 Lunch break

14.15-15.30 Session 7: Patient-centered development of devices and therapies

Chairs: *Florian Kron and Philipp Steven*

1. The ocular GVHD patient - *Patient representative Dominik Bernauer, Cologne*
2. eGVHD App and novel developments - *Helene Schoemans, Leuven*
3. Health economics in GVHD - *Florian Kron, Cologne*

15.30-16.00 Coffee break

16.00-17.30 Session 8: Ocular toxicities beyond GVHD – Bispecifics, check-point inhibitors, ADCs and CAR-T

Chairs: *Christof Scheid and Paul Bröckelmann*

1. iTox - Checkpoint inhibitors - *Paul Bröckelmann, Cologne*
2. Antibody Drug-Conjugates - *Johannes Waldschmidt, Cologne*
3. Bispecifics - *Christof Scheid, Cologne*
4. CAR-T - *Christof Scheid, Cologne*

17.30 Wrap up: What's new, what have we learned

Farewell comments - *Philipp Steven and Christof Scheid*

## INTERNATIONAL EXPERT MEETING ON **Ocular GVHD 2026**

### Contact details:

---

#### **Prof. Dr. Philipp Steven**

Clinic I for Internal Medicine and Department of Ophthalmology  
Competence Center for Ocular GVHD | Center of Integrated Oncology  
Medical Faculty and University Hospital Cologne, University of Cologne | Kerpener Str. 62 | 50937 Cologne  
Telefon: +49 221 478-97790 | Telefax: +49 221 478-3778  
E-Mail: philipp.steven@uk-koeln.de

---

#### **Yvonne Görzig**

Clinic I for Internal Medicine  
Director: Prof. Dr. med. Michael Hallek  
University Hospital Cologne (AöR) | Kerpener Str. 62 | 50937 Cologne  
Telefon: +49 221 478-42890 | Telefax: +49 221 478-3778  
E-Mail: yvonne.goerzig@uk-koeln.de

---

#### **Silke Hellmich & Thomas Nöllgen**

Kompetenznetz Maligne Lymphome  
Clinic I for Internal Medicine  
Director: Prof. Dr. med. Michael Hallek  
University Hospital Cologne (AöR) | Kerpener Str. 62 | 50937 Cologne  
Phone: +49 221 478-96005 or -96007 | Fax: +49 221 478-96001  
E-Mail: silke.hellmich@uk-koeln.de | thomas.noellgen@uk-koeln.de

---

### Location:

This meeting will be held within the **Center for Integrated Oncology (CIO) Cologne** (Building 70) at the **University Hospital Cologne**.

---

Kerpener Straße 62  
D-50937 Köln



**UNIKLINIK  
KÖLN**



Centrum für Integrierte Onkologie  
Aachen Bonn Köln Düsseldorf

# MARCH 19-20, 2026 SPONSORS

## Gold | € 5.000 each



## Silver | € 3.000 each



## Bronze | € 1.500 each



This meeting is also supported by Renate Angermann Stiftung (€5.000), SFB 1607 Immunmodulierende und anti(lymph)angiogene Therapien bei altersbezogenen erblindenden Augenerkrankungen (€2.500).



Immunmodulierende und anti(lymph)-  
angiogene Therapien bei altersbezogenen  
erblindenden Augenerkrankungen



The event website [ocular-gvhd.org](http://ocular-gvhd.org) is provided by Kompetenznetz Maligne Lymphome e.V.

We would like to thank GlaxoSmithKline GmbH & Co. KG, Sun Pharmaceutical Industries (Europe) BV, and URSAPHARM Arzneimittel GmbH for their kind support of this meeting with Sponsorship Package A (Gold Sponsors | €5,000 each). Meise Medizintechnik GmbH, Neovii Biotech GmbH, Sanofi-Aventis Deutschland GmbH, Santen GmbH, Selagine, Inc., and Therakos (UK) Ltd support this meeting with Sponsorship Package B (Silver Sponsor | € 3,000 each). We also thank AbbVie Deutschland GmbH & Co. KG, Bausch + Lomb Incorporated, Bristol-Myers Squibb GmbH & Co. KGaA, EASYLOOK (Markus Jörissen, mobiler Augenoptikermeister Köln), MSD Sharp & Dohme GmbH, OmniVision GmbH, Pfizer Pharma GmbH, and Théa Pharma GmbH for supporting with Package C (Bronze Sponsors | €1,500 each). The sponsors' contributions will be used for event management, venue, catering and working lunches, hotel accommodation for speakers, printing materials and technical equipment. The organizers, the scientific lead and the speakers confirm that the event is product-neutral. Any conflicts of interest of the speakers will be disclosed prior to the presentation.