Oncology Research Center Day 2026

Vulnerabilities in Cancer: From Biology to Better Health and Care

Friday 18 December 2026

Landmark Plateau, UZ Brussel

Congress Room 'Den Agora', Level 0, Landmark Building, UZ Brussel

09:00-09:15 **Arrival and registration**

Landmark Plateau, level 0, Landmark Building, UZ Brussel

Introduction ORC	
09:15-09:30	Isabelle Houbracken (program manager Oncology Research Center)
Session I	
Moderators: TBD	
09:30-9:50	**ORC Partner Research talk I: Nanobody-based diagnostic imaging of immune cell dynamics to improve immunotherapy outcome** **Timo De Groof** MITH VUB
9:50-10:10	**Short ORC research pitches** Presenting authors from ORC research groups
10:10-10:30	**ORC Partner Research talk II: Reducing Vulnerability in Cancer: The Role of Physiotherapy, Exercise, and Rehabilitation Across the Care Continuum** **Nele Adriaenssens** RERE VUB-UZ Brussel
10:30-10:50	**Short ORC research pitches** Presenting authors from ORC research groups
10:50-11:10	**Coffee break and networking moment**
Session II	
Moderators: TBD	
11:10-11:30	**ORC Partner Research talk III: Reproductive outcome after oncofertility preservation** **Michel De Vos** VUB-UZ Brussel, Oncofertility
11:30-11:50	**ORC Partner Research talk IV: Modulating the tumor-associated macrophage phenotype in cancer** **Jo Van Ginderachter** BCIM VUB
11:50-12:10	**ORC Partner Research talk V: TBD** **TBD**
12:10-12:20	**Sponsor talk: Thermo Fisher** **Fran Dummond, Biosciences Division** **Masha Olenic, Fisher Scientific**
12:20-12:30	**Closing + Best pitch awards**
Lunch	
12:30-13:30	**Lunch and networking moment** *'t Stamenei + De Foyer, Landmark Plateau, level 0, Landmark Building, UZ Brussel*

List of speakers ORC pitches:

Session I

- Lauren van den Broecke (TORC): Title TBD
- Joëlle Cosyns (TORC): Beyond the Bone Marrow: Exploring the role of the Gut Microbiome in Multiple Myeloma disease progression and therapy
- Ellis Michiels (TORC): Spatial multi-omics to reveal therapeutic targets in pancreatic adenosquamous carcinoma - project in collab with University of Peking
- Karine Breckpot (TORC): CHIMERNA clinical trial
- Joran Geeraerts (EOLC): What is a Change in Quality of Life? A Multi-Case Mixed-Methods Investigation at the End of Life in Advanced Cancer.

Session II

- Adrian Gutierrez (REDM): Title TBD
- Iris Apale (REDM): Title TBD
- Joran Geeraerts (EOLC): The State of Palliative Care Integration in Belgian Oncology: Insights from the Belgian JANE-2 Expert Panel
- Delphine Mergaerts (TORC): NeoSenti study
- Isabeau Vanacker (TORC): Intricity study

Registration and latest program via: https://orc.vub.be/event/orc-day-2026/

Accreditation will be applied for. For more info: orc@vub.be or sven.dhaese@uzbrussel.be