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3RD ANNUAL  
*Southern*  
*California*  
BRAIN TUMOR CONFERENCE

Friday, March 27, 2026



Hosted by  
Keck Medicine of USC



American  
Brain Tumor  
Association®

# HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS CONFERENCE AGENDA

7:30 AM

**Registration and Continental Breakfast**

8:00 AM

**Introduction Video with Dean Carolyn Meltzer**

8:05 AM

**Welcome:** Amy Ross, PhD, USC Board of Trustee

8:08 AM

**Opening:** Josh Neman, PhD, David D. Tran, MD, PhD, and Gabriel Zada, MD, MS, Program Directors

## Session I: Surgical/Neuro-Oncology

**Moderator:** Frank Attenello, MD, MS

8:15 AM

**Minimizing Morbidity, Maximizing Recovery: A Modern Approach to Brain Tumor Surgery:**  
Walavan Sivakumar, MD

8:35 AM

**Immunotherapy for Glioblastoma:** John S. Yu, MD

## Session II: Clinical Trials

**Moderator:** Frances Chow, MD

8:55 AM

**Leveraging Digital Pathology and Machine Learning for Pediatric Brain Tumor Classification:**  
Jennifer Cotter, MD

9:15 AM

**Keto for Brain Tumors: Past, Present and Future:**  
Jethro L. Hu, MD

9:35 AM

**Break**

## Session III: Translational Research

**Moderator:** David D. Tran, MD, PhD, Program Director

9:50 AM

**Genetic Engineering and Ultrasound Controllable CAR T Therapy for Brain Tumors:** Peter Wang, PhD

10:10 AM

**Reference-Conditioned AI for Reliable Brain Tumor Contouring:** Ruishan Liu, PhD

10:30 AM

**Sonogenetic Engineering for Next-Generation Brain Tumor Immunotherapy:** Longwei Liu, MD

## Session IV: Brain Tumor Imaging/ Radiation

**Moderator:** Aram Modrek, MD, PhD

10:55 AM

**AI-Enhanced Precision Radiation Therapy: Journey Through the Connectome to Clinical Trials in Brain Metastases:**  
Jona Hattangadi-Gluth, MD

11:20 AM

**Neuroprotective Strategies to Remediate Radiation-Induced Cognitive Impairments:**  
Munyal Acharya, MD

11:40 AM

**Narrowing Precision, Expanding Indications: Advances in Radiosurgery in 2026:**  
Eric L. Chang, MD

12:00 PM

**Lunch**

## Keynote Lecture

**Moderator:** Gabriel Zada, MD, MS, Program Director

1:20 PM

**Immune Restoration in Glioblastoma: Reframing Standard-of-Care Beyond Cytotoxic and Radiation-Induced Immune Collapse:** Patrick Soon-Shiong, MD

1:50 PM

**Break**

## Session V: Translational Research

**Moderator:** Josh Neman, PhD, Program Director

2:00 PM

**Advancing Cellular Immunotherapies for the Treatment of Cancer:** Saul J. Priceman, MD

2:20 PM

**Sex-Specific Chromatin Remodeling in Gliomagenesis:** Thomas Beaumont, MD, PhD

2:40 PM

**Out of Time: Circadian Disruption as a Therapeutic Target in Glioblastoma:** Priscilla Chan, PhD

3:00 PM

**Closing Remarks:** Josh Neman, PhD, Program Director

3:05 PM

**Poster Session**

4:30 PM

**Adjourn**



USC Brain Tumor Center gratefully acknowledges the generous support of  
**The Hayden M. Gidan Compassionate Care Fund**



# PATIENT CONFERENCE AGENDA

In Collaboration  
with the



American  
Brain Tumor  
Association®

7:30 AM

**Registration and Continental Breakfast**

8:00 AM - 9:35 AM

**General Session Medical Education Talks:** *Patients are welcome to listen.*

9:35 AM - 10:00 AM

**Break**

10:00 AM - 10:15 AM

**The American Brain Tumor Association (ABTA): A Resource for Patients and Caregivers:** Come to this session and you'll gain an in-depth look at ABTA's mission, educational resources, and patient caregiver support services, as well as the many ways you can get involved. You may be surprised by the breadth and depth of how ABTA is serving the brain tumor community.

*Emily Lippert, Senior Program Manager, ABTA*

*Wendy Santana, West Coast Community Manager, ABTA; USC BTC Advisory Board Committee Member*

**Moderator:** *Jinsy Rogers, LCSW, OSW-C*

10:15 AM - 10:45 AM

**Caring for the Whole Person: Supportive and Palliative Care for People Living with Brain Tumors:**

*Monica Zell, MD*

10:45 AM - 11:15 AM

**Couples Coping Together Against Brain Cancer: Supporting Patients, Their Partners and Providers as They Navigate Brain Cancer as a Team:** *Nicole Peeke, LCSE, ACHP-SW, OSW-C and Claudia Cuevas, MSW, LCSW*

11:15 AM - 12:00 PM

**The Patient Perspective and Psychosocial Support:**

*Panel: Ben Fort Miller, Alec Sharpe, Michael Sievert, Esther Lee*

12:00 PM - 1:15 PM

**Lunch**

## Keynote Lecture

**Moderator:** *Gabriel Zada, MD, MS, Program Director*

1:20 PM

**Immune Restoration in Glioblastoma: Reframing Standard-of-Care Beyond Cytotoxic and Radiation-Induced Immune Collapse:** *Patrick Soon-Shiong, MD*

1:50 PM

**Break**

## Translational Research

**Moderator:** *Josh Neman, PhD, Program Director*

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

**General Session Medical Education Talks:** *Patients are welcome to listen.*

3:05 PM

**Poster Session:** *Patients are welcome to stay for the reception for drinks and appetizers.*

4:30 PM

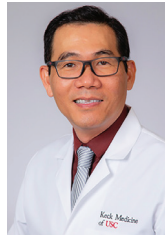
**Adjourn**

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**The Hayden M. Gidan Compassionate Care Fund**

## COURSE DIRECTORS



Josh Neman, PhD



David D. Tran, MD, PhD



Gabriel Zada, MD, MS

## FACULTY

### American Brain Tumor Association

- Emily Lippert
- Wendy Santana

### Cedars Sinai, Los Angeles, California

- Jethro L. Hu, MD
- John S. Yu, MD

### Children's Hospital Los Angeles

- Jennifer Cotter, MD

### City of Hope, Duarte, California

- Claudia Cuevas, MSW, LCSW
- Nicole Peeke, LCSE, ACHP-SE, OSW

### Keck Medicine of USC

- Frank Attenello, MD
- Priscilla Chan, PhD
- Eric L. Chang, MD
- Frances Chow, MD
- Ruishan Liu, PhD
- Longwei Liu, MD
- Aram Modrek, MD, PhD
- Saul J. Priceman, PhD
- Jinsy Rogers, LCSW, OSW-C
- Peter Wang, PhD
- Monica Zell, MD

### Keynote Speaker

- Patrick Soon-Shiong, MBBCh, MSc

### Pacific Neuroscience Institute, Torrance, California

- Walavan Sivakumar, MD

### University of California, Irvine

- Munyal Acharya, PhD

### University of California, San Diego

- Thomas Beaumont, MD, PhD
- Jona Hattangadi-Gluth, MD

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## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Brain tumors and disorders related to brain tumors are a rapidly changing field with continued advances in surgical techniques, adjuvant therapies, radiation oncology modalities, innovative clinical trials, and, most importantly, brain tumor research. We use a multi-disciplinary approach that is integral to the diagnosis and treatment to effectively care for our brain tumor patients. Along the lines of a multi-disciplinary approach, research and evidence-based practices are the pillars of our center.

This program will entail multiple lectures from specialists in the brain tumor research, neuro-oncology, neurosurgery, neuro-imaging, and neuro radiation oncology practices. The experts in each of these fields will be presenting their latest research studies and practices to our guests so we can create a forum on the leading research and treatments for our patients in the community and beyond.

The program will be followed by a poster session/reception.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Know the different modalities of treatment for patients with high-grade tumors.
- Integrate a multidisciplinary approach in the care for patients with both benign and malignant brain tumors.
- Identify the need for social work to be involved in the treatment of patients with high-grade brain tumors.

## TARGET AUDIENCE

This course is intended for neurosurgeons, neuro-oncologists, PhDs, APPs, RNs, medical students, graduate students, and social workers who work with and /or treat patients with tumors. Patients and caregivers are welcome to attend to gain insight into available resources and support.

## ACCREDITATION STATEMENT

The Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

## CREDIT DESIGNATION

The Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California designates this live activity for a maximum of 6.75 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*. **Physicians** should claim only the credits commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

The following may apply *AMA PRA Category 1 credit(s)™* for license renewal:

**Registered Nurses** may report up to 6.75 credit hour(s) toward the CME requirements for license renewal by their state Board of Registered Nurses (BRN). CME may be noted on the license renewal application in lieu of a BRN provider number.

**Physician Assistants:** The National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants states that *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™* accredited courses are acceptable CME requirements for recertification.

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## REGISTER FOR COURSE

**Mail:** 1540 Alcazar Street, CHP 223, Los Angeles, CA 90033

*Mail-in registration must be postmarked by March 24, 2026.*

**Online:** <https://keckusc.cloud-cme.com/braintumor2026> **Visa or Mastercard only**

**Phone:** (323) 442-2555 **AMEX, Mastercard or Visa** **Email:** [uscme@usc.edu](mailto:uscme@usc.edu)

**On-site: Live registration:** Available March 27, 2026, 8:00 am, HSC Conference Center.

**Virtual registration:** Available until 9:30 am on March 27.

**Visa or Mastercard only:** <https://keckusc.cloud-cme.com/braintumor2026>

## CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellations must be received by the USC Office of CME (fax or email) by March 24, 2026, 12:00 pm, PST for a refund. A \$30 cancellation fee will be applied. In the event of course cancellation by conference organizers, all registration fees will be fully refunded. USC will not refund any travel costs incurred.

## REGISTRATION

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Southern California Brain Tumor Conference-March 27, 2026

**Location:** HSC Conference Center on the USC Health Sciences Campus: 2200 Trojan Way, Los Angeles, California

Early-bird price for live registration ends March 24, 2026, at 12:00 pm PST. To register after March 24, 2026, register on-site on March 27, 2026, at the venue.

#### Tuition:

MD/DO

Early-Bird \$125

After March 24 \$150

NP/PA/APP or RN/AH

\$100

\$125

Researcher

\$100

\$150

Student/Resident/Fellow

\$50

\$50

Patient

\$75

\$75

TO REGISTER



SCAN HERE

**If you are a Patient:**  Yes, I would like to receive communications from the American Brain Tumor Association.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DEGREE \_\_\_\_\_

MEDICAL LICENSE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIALTY \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS\* \_\_\_\_\_

INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATION \_\_\_\_\_

**SPECIAL DIETARY OR PHYSICAL NEEDS.** We strive to accommodate dietary recommendations. Please note that not all food items may meet special requirements. Food items will be labeled for your convenience. **\*Registration confirmation and event reminder will be emailed.**

#### Method of Payment: No cash payment accepted.

**Check** (Check payable to USC. Check payment must be postmarked by March 24, 2026)

**Credit Card** (American Express by Phone/Mail only, Mastercard or Visa online)

CREDIT CARD NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

EXPIRATION DATE \_\_\_\_\_ SECURITY CODE \_\_\_\_\_

AUTHORIZED SIGNER \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT \$ \_\_\_\_\_

COURSES ARE SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION.

# CALL FOR POSTER SUBMISSION

**Deadline:** Poster presenters must be registered to attend the conference in person.

Posters uploaded by March 12, 2026. ***Use this QR Code for poster session sign up.***

POSTER  
SESSION  
SUBMISSION  
QR CODE



**Poster Formatting Requirements:** In the author list, please underline the name of the poster presenter. If you wish to be included in the poster competition, indicate the presenter's position/title; undergraduate student, graduate student, postdoctoral scientist, or laboratory head, as the four categories of presenters will be judged separately.

The postdoctoral scientist category includes postdoctoral fellows and academic or industrial research scientists (those who are not laboratory heads).

- Laboratory heads include academic faculty members and industry scientists.
- In the author list, please underline the name of the poster presenter. If you wish to be included in the poster competition, indicate the presenter's position/title; undergraduate student, graduate student, postdoctoral scientist, or laboratory head, as the four categories of presenters will be judged separately. The postdoctoral scientist category includes postdoctoral fellows and academic or industrial research scientists (those who are not laboratory heads). Laboratory heads include academic faculty members and industry scientists.
- Poster should have a clear message, a logical layout and easy to comprehend for a non-expert. Ensure each section (e.g., abstract, background, methods, results, conclusions and references) are easy to locate and the figures are well-described.
- Use text fonts that are easy to read on a computer screen or smartphone. Upload in PDF format.

**Poster Review:** Posters will be reviewed and evaluated by representatives of The USC Brain Tumor Center.

- Posters judged in four separate categories; undergraduate students, graduate students, postdoctoral scientists (including postdoctoral fellows and academic or industrial research scientists who are not laboratory heads) and Laboratory heads (academic faculty members and industry scientists).
- Posters judged based on scientific impact, clarity of presentation, and contribution of the author to the overall project.

**Poster Awards:** Up to three posters are selected in each category and recognized with a monetary award (1<sup>st</sup> place- \$200; 2<sup>nd</sup> place-\$100; 3<sup>rd</sup> place \$50). Selections announced March 27, 2026.

# Keck School of Medicine of USC

Office of Continuing Medical Education  
1540 Alcazar Street, CHP 223  
Los Angeles, CA 90033

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of Southern  
California



## **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Southern California Brain Tumor Conference March 27, 2026**

Hybrid Conference  
**USC Health Sciences Campus**  
HSC Conference Center

2200 Trojan Way, Los Angeles, California, 90033

TO REGISTER



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