

# ASCO Direct GI Symposium 2026 | Scientific Program

Day 1 | Saturday | 14th March 2026 | Nashik

Time From	Time To	Duration	Topic	Faculty
<b>Day 1   Workshop   Workshop on Robotic Oncosurgery</b>				
<b>Chairpersons: Dr Pramod Premchand Shinde</b>				
9:00 AM	9:20 AM	20 min	<b>Introduction to Robotic GI Surgery</b> Fundamentals of Robotic Surgery (FRS)   Human Factors: Situational Awareness in robotic or Errors & Violations	Speaker: Dr Vijaykumar
9:20 AM	9:40 AM	20 min	<b>Non-Technical Skills</b> Team Training Workshop   Simulation Team Training	Speaker: Dr Ganesh Gorthi
9:40 AM	10:00 AM	20 min	<b>Robot Setup &amp; Configuration</b> Start up and calibration   Docking sequence, Instrumentation   Types of retractors and retractor setting   Patient cart positioning, port placement   Troubleshooting	Speaker: Sukanya Puruma
10:00 AM	10:20 AM	20 min	<b>Technical Skills</b> Dry lab (skill development model)   Retractor setting on Mannequin   Simulation Skill Development	Speaker: Dr Shyam Mohan (SO) ©
10:20 AM	10:30 AM	10 min	Tea	
10:30 AM	12:45 PM	135 min	<b>Simulation Workshop</b> <b>Track 1: Intuitive, Track 2: CMR</b>	Session Lead for Intuitive: Dr Shyam Mohan Session Lead for CMR: Dr Raj Nagarkar (SO)
12:45 PM	1:15 PM	30 min	<b>QA   Assessments   Panel Discussion</b>	Session Lead
1:15 PM	1:45 PM	30 min	Lunch	
<b>Day 1   Surgical Oncology Symposium   Key advances GI Oncosurgery</b>				
<b>Chairpersons: Dr Raj Nagarkar</b>				
1:45 PM	2:05 PM	20 min	<b>Keynote Talk : Changing FACE and PHASE of therapeutic strategies in Gastrointestinal Malignancies an update – 2026.</b>	Speaker: Dr Gopinath KS
2:05 PM	2:25 PM	20 min	<b>Minimally Invasive Techniques:</b> Advancements in laparoscopic surgery	Speaker: Dr Shishir Shetty (SO) ©
2:25 PM	2:45 PM	20 min	<b>Precision and Personalized Medicine:</b> Emerging techniques to personalize surgery to individual patients. Role of Genomics in surgery. Surgical Risk and Prognosis stratification.	Speaker: Dr Nilesh Patil (SO)
2:45 PM	3:05 PM	20 min	<b>Multimodal and Combination Therapies:</b> Interplay of surgery with novel IO and TT agents for certain metastatic colorectal cancers and newer surgical options for neuroendocrine tumors. Wait and watch strategies	Speaker: Dr Jyoti Bajpai (MO)
3:05 PM	3:10 PM	05 min	Tea	
3:10 PM	3:30 PM	20 min	<b>Locoregional Treatments:</b> Evolving strategies for advanced or metastatic disease, including cytoreductive surgery combined with hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy (HIPEC).	Speaker: Dr. Ninad Katdare
3:30 PM	3:50 PM	20 min	<b>Improved Perioperative and Postoperative Care:</b> The use of enhanced recovery after surgery (ERAS) protocols and a focus on patient-centered outcomes.	Speaker: Dr Balaji Ramani (SO)
3:50 PM	4:10 PM	20 min	<b>Newer approaches to Organ Preservation:</b> Spinctor Preserving Surgeries in Rectal Cancers	Speaker: Dr Akash Dhuru (SO)
4:10 PM	4:30 PM	20 min	<b>AI based advances</b> that drive better outcomes for surgical oncologists	Speaker: Dr Neelesh Srivastav (SO)
			<b>Moderators</b>	<b>Panelists</b>
4:30 PM	5:00 PM	30 min	<b>Plenary &amp; Panel Discussion:</b> AI replaces surgeons? Lap vs Robotic? Improved operability vs Neoadjuvant?	Moderator: Dr Raj Nagarkar Panelist: Dr Avinash Gaikwad (SO)
<b>Special Dinner Symposium</b>				
<b>Time From</b>	<b>Time To</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Resource Persons</b>	
7:15 PM	7:45 PM	30 min	<b>Topic: Each cancer is a data warehouse, each patient is a source of insight</b>	
7:15 PM	7:30 PM	15 min	<b>Panel Discussion</b>	
7:30 PM	9:30 PM	120 min	Dinner	

# ASCO Direct GI Symposium 2026 | Scientific Program

Day 2 | Sunday | 15th March 2026 | Nashik

Time From	Time To	Duration	Abstract ID	Topic	Faculty
<b>Day 2   Workshop   Highlights from ASCO Gastrointestinal Symposium 2026</b>					
					<b>Chairperson: Dr Gopinath K S (MO)</b>
9:00 AM	9:20 AM	20 min		Invited Talk Topic: Managing CRCs with precision medicine (TBC)	Speaker: Dr Govind Babu (MO)
<b>Session 1   Esophago-Gastric Tumors</b>					<b>Chairperson: Dr Govind Babu (MO)</b>
			Abs 289	Adjuvant oxaliplatin with S-1 (SOX) versus S-1 in patients with stage II-III gastric or gastro-oesophageal junction adenocarcinoma (CAPITAL): A randomised, open-label, phase 3 trial	Speaker: Dr Neelam Singh (MO)
			Abs TPS473	Zolbetuximab + pembrolizumab and chemotherapy as first-line treatment for patients with CLDN18.2-positive, HER2-negative, PD-L1-positive locally advanced unresectable or metastatic G/GEJ adenocarcinoma: Phase 3, double-blind, randomized trial (LUCERNA)	Speaker: Dr Darshana Rane (MO)
9:20 AM	10:00 AM	40 min	Abs TPS468	An open-label, randomized, multicenter, phase 3 study of trastuzumab deruxtecan (T-DXd) + chemotherapy (chemo) ± pembrolizumab (pembro) versus chemo + trastuzumab ± pembro in first-line metastatic HER2+ gastric or gastroesophageal junction (GEJ) cancer: DESTINY-Gastric05	Speaker: Dr Gayatri Raheja (MO)
			Abs 343	Analysis of 5-fluorouracil, leucovorin, oxaliplatin, and docetaxel (FLOT) administration in MATTERHORN: A randomized, phase 3 study of durvalumab (D) plus FLOT in resectable gastric/gastroesophageal junction (G/GEJ) adenocarcinoma	Speaker: Dr Chandrashekhar Pethe (MO)
			Abs LBA285 01	Zanidatamab + chemotherapy (CT) ± tislelizumab for first-line (1L) HER2-positive (HER2+) locally advanced, unresectable, or metastatic gastroesophageal adenocarcinoma (mGEA): Primary analysis from HERIZON-GEA-	Speaker: Dr Aditya Dhanawat (MO)
			Abs TPS461	Randomized controlled phase II trial comparing nivolumab, ipilimumab plus radiotherapy versus nivolumab plus ipilimumab for metastatic or recurrent esophageal cancer: Japan Clinical Oncology Group study JCOG2311 (ART NOUVEAU)	Speaker: Dr Mukesh Choudhari (MO) ©
<b>Moderators: Dr Suresh Babu (MO)</b>					<b>Panelists</b>
10:00 AM	10:30 AM	30 min		Panel Discussion	Dr Kirthi Koushik (RO) © Dr Deepanjali Patel (RO) Dr Srinivas BJ (MO) Dr Avinash Gaikwad (SO)
					<b>Chairperson: Dr Raj Nagarkar</b>
10:30 AM	11:15 AM	45 min		<b>Keynote Conversation</b> Topic: Genomics in GI Tumors	Moderator: Dr Omshree Shetty Expert Comments: Dr Jyoti Bajpai (MO), Ms Sindhura (Gen), Dr Priyank Tripathi (CP)
11:15 AM	11:30 AM	15 min		Inauguration, Welcome Remarks, Industry Introductions	Organizing Committee, Scientific Committee, Sponsors

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			<b>Session 2   Pancreatic Tumors</b>		<b>Chairperson: Dr Govind Babu (MO)</b>		
11:30 AM	12:10 PM	40 min	Abs 675	Impact of response to gemcitabine-based neoadjuvant therapy on the outcomes of gemcitabine plus nab-paclitaxel after recurrence in pancreatic cancer. J Clin Oncol 44, 2026 (suppl 2; abstr 675)	Speaker: Dr Siddharth Turkar (MO)		
			Abs 711	Preoperative NALIRIFOX versus upfront surgery in high-risk resectable pancreatic cancer: A randomized, multi-center trial. J Clin Oncol 44, 2026 (suppl 2; abstr 711)	Speaker: Dr Pinaki Mahato (MO) ©		
			Abs 734	Evaluation of modified gemcitabine/nab-paclitaxel schedules in first line therapy for advanced pancreatic cancer: MI-OPTS-2 study. J Clin Oncol 44, 2026 (suppl 2; abstr 734)	Speaker: Dr Nishitha Shetty (MO)		
			Abs 765	Impact of Ca19-9 reduction on resectability and survival in pancreatic cancer patients following neoadjuvant or conversion chemotherapy. J Clin Oncol 44, 2026 (suppl 2; abstr 765)	Speaker: Dr Lovin Wilson (MO) ©		
			ABS 731	Continuous, maintenance or intermittent first line (1L) therapy for advanced pancreatic cancer (aPC): MI-OPTS-1 study. J Clin Oncol 44, 2026 (suppl 2; abstr 731)	Speaker: Dr Prabhat Bhargava (MO)		
			<b>Moderators: Dr Govind Babu (MO)</b>	<b>Panelists</b>			
12:10 PM	12:40 PM	30 min	Panel Discussion		Dr Deepanjali Patel (RO) © Dr Shishir Shetty (SO) © Dr Amrita Srivastava (RO)		
12:40 PM	1:00 PM	20 min	<b>Industry Talk: Advanced Electrosurgical Units</b>		Dr Raj Nagarkar		
1:00 PM	1:20 PM	20 min	Lunch				
			<b>Session 3   Hepatocellular Carcinoma</b>		<b>Chairperson: Dr Indushekhar Subbanna (IR)</b>		
1:20 PM	2:05 PM	45 min	Abs 516	Bevacizumab-atezolizumab (B-A), durvalumab-tremelimumab (D-T) and lenvatinib (L) in advanced hepatocellular carcinoma patient therapy: An efficacy comparison study based on real-world evidence. J Clin Oncol 44, 2026 (suppl 2; abstr 516).	Speaker: Dr Srinivas BJ (MO)		
			Abs 541	Safety outcomes with tremelimumab (T) rechallenge in the phase 3 HIMALAYA study of T plus durvalumab (D) in unresectable hepatocellular carcinoma. J Clin Oncol 44, 2026 (suppl 2; abstr 541)	Speaker: Dr Siddharth Lath (MO)		
			Abs 554	A phase II randomized study of atezolizumab plus multikinase inhibitor (MKI) versus MKI alone in patients with advanced hepatocellular carcinoma previously treated with atezolizumab plus bevacizumab (Atezo/Bev). J Clin Oncol 44, 2026 (suppl 2; abstr 554).	Speaker: Dr Shantanu Kukarni (MO)		
			Abs 495	Reevaluating complete response: Assessing whether imaging alone is sufficient to predict survival after transarterial radioembolization in hepatocellular carcinoma. J Clin Oncol 44, 2026 (suppl 2; abstr 495)	Speaker: Dr Aman Sondoule (MO)		
			Abs 542	Differential efficacy of immunotherapy in hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) based on etiology: A systematic review and meta-analysis in viral vs. non-viral HCC. J Clin Oncol 44, 2026 (suppl 2; abstr 542)	Speaker: Dr Sanjay Ahire (MO)		
			Abs 539	Optimizing the sequencing and timing of transarterial chemoembolization and systemic therapy in advanced hepatocellular carcinoma	Speaker: Dr Amogh Anvekar (IR)		
			Abs 540	Sequential transarterial chemoembolization and stereotactic body radiotherapy followed by immunotherapy using single tremelimumab regular interval durvalumab in locally advanced, unresectable HCC (START-FIT using STRIDE): A single-arm, phase II, multi-centre study	Speaker: Dr Amol Ratnakar Bhalekar (IR)		
			Abs 506	Transarterial chemoembolization (TACE) combined with sintilimab and bevacizumab versus TACE alone in patients with Barcelona Clinic Liver Cancer stage B unresectable hepatocellular carcinoma: A retrospective, propensity score-matched analysis	Speaker: Dr Ajit Patil (IR)		
2:05 PM	2:15 PM	10 min	Expert Comments		Speaker: Dr Indushekhar Subbanna (IR) ©		
			<b>Moderators: Dr Anbarasan Sekhar (MO)</b>	<b>Panelists</b>			
2:15 PM	2:45 PM	30 min	Panel Discussion		Dr Vikas Kothavade (RO) © Dr Akash Dhuru (SO) <b>Chairpersons: (MO)</b>		
2:45 PM	3:05 PM	20 min	Invited Talk Topic: Wait and watch strategies for CRC		Speaker: Dr Sachin Trivedi (MO)		
			<b>Session 4   CRC Tumors</b>		<b>Chairperson: Dr Shantanu Kulkarni (MO)</b>		
3:05 PM	3:30 PM	25 min	Abs 13	BREAKWATER: Primary analysis of first-line (1L) encorafenib + cetuximab (EC) + FOLFIRI in BRAF V600E-mutant metastatic colorectal cancer (mCRC)	Speaker: Dr Sonal Dhande (MO)		
			Abs 17	FOXTR0T: Predictive effects of ERBB2 and ERBB3 on neoadjuvant panitumumab benefit in RAS/BRAF wild-type locally advanced colon cancer (LACC)	Speaker: Dr Sanjay Agarwal (MO)		
			Abs TPS260	Combining low-dose regorafenib with pembrolizumab for patients with MSI-H colorectal cancer: REGPEM-CRC-01- HCRN G123-643	Speaker: Dr Shruti Kate (MO)		
			Abs TPS265	A phase 2 randomized study comparing telisotuzumab adizutecan monotherapy with standard of care in patients with post-adjuvant circulating tumor DNA-positive colorectal cancer	Speaker: Dr Sandeep Ishi (MO)		
3:30 PM	3:40 PM	10 min	Abs 119	Industry Talk: Neoadjuvant chemotherapy and serplulimab in MSS/pMMR locally advanced rectal cancer (FIRM): a phase II trial	Speaker: Dr Mukul Gharote		
3:40 PM	3:50 PM	10 min	P147	Industry Talk: Neoadjuvant short-course radiotherapy combined with CAPOX and PD-1 inhibitor for MSS/pMMR high-risk locally advanced colon cancer: A randomized, prospective, multicentre, phase II trial (TORCH-C)	Speaker: Dr Kiran Kumar Matta		
			<b>Moderator: Dr Sachin Trivedi (MO)</b>	<b>Panelists</b>			
3:50 PM	4:10 PM	20 min	Panel Discussion		Dr Trinanjan Basu (RO) Dr Sulabhchandra Bhamare (SO)		

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Time From	Time To	Duration	Abstract ID	Topic	Faculty
4:10 PM	4:15 PM	05 min		Closing Remarks, Vote of Thanks and Group Photo	Organizing Committee