

Draft Agenda — COST Training School 2026

“Advanced Preclinical Models for Biliary Tract Cancers”

Dates: March 26–27, 2026

Location: Department of Experimental and Clinical Medicine, University of Florence, Florence, Italy

Application deadline: November 4, 2025

Agenda Overview

March 26, 2026 (Thursday)

- **08:30–09:00** – Registration, Welcome Coffee & Opening Remarks
- **09:00–10:15** – Introduction and keynote lectures: *State-of-the-art experimental models for biliary tract cancers*
- **10:45–13:15** – Practical sessions on advanced preclinical model systems
- **14:15–16:45** – Parallel sessions (applications of models, mentorship/career advice, and translational implementation)
- **17:15–18:30** – State-of-the-Art Lecture: *Modeling and AI in Cancer Research – The Next Generation of Translation* (Sebastian Försch, Mainz)
- **19:00–21:00** – Networking Dinner

March 27, 2026 (Friday)

- **09:00–10:15** – Morning keynotes on innovative in vivo models
- **10:45–11:45** – Hybrid practical session (in vivo demonstrations)
- **11:45–12:45** – Post-school quiz, wrap-up, and closing remarks

Event Description

The COST Training School 2026, “Advanced Preclinical Models for Biliary Tract Cancers”, aims to provide early-career researchers and clinicians with an in-depth understanding of cutting-edge in vitro and in vivo model systems for biliary tract cancer research. Hosted by the University of Florence, this two-day program will combine keynote lectures, hands-on sessions, and interactive discussions led by leading experts in organoids, tumor-on-chip systems, PDX/PDOX, scaffold-based models, and genetically engineered mouse models. Participants will gain both fundamental and translational insights into how these systems can enhance preclinical research and inform clinical trial design. The training school will foster collaboration and mentorship while offering a platform for knowledge exchange and skill development in an emerging field of high biomedical relevance.