

COST Training School 2026/ WG3

Biliary Tract Cancers: Practical Approaches in Challenging Environments

Venue: University of Barcelona - Faculty of Medicine, Lecture Hall 14 - Dolores Aleu i Riera
Carrer de Casanova, 143, Eixample, 08036 Barcelona, Spain

Dates: March 20–21, 2026

Trainees: aprox 20-25

Support: BTC School of Oncology - COST

Course Organizers:

Dr. Elene Mariamidze (Georgia)

Dr. Angela Lamarca (Spain)

Dr. Anna Saborowski (Germany)

Local host:

Teresa Macarulla (Spain) – Medical Oncology

Faculty

Julien Edeline (France), Oncology/ focus locoregional

Gonzalo Sapisochin (Spain), Surgery

Lorenza Rimassa, (Italy) Oncology/ Epidemiology

John Bridgewater (UK), Oncology –Microbiome /targeted therapies

Prakash Manoharan (UK) - Radiologist and Nuclear Medicine Physician

Jens Ricke (Germany) Radiology and Interventional radiology

Nicola Normano (Italy), Mol Pathology

Maria Hawkins (UK), Radiotherapy

AGENDA

Day 1 – Friday, March 20, 2026

Registration & Welcome Coffee 8:30-9:00

Opening Remarks 10 min 9- 9:15 – Dr. Anna Saborowski (Germany)

9:15 – 10:00 Epidemiology and Risk Factors – Chair: Anna Saborowski

- Epidemiology and Risk Factors of BTC in Europe (Lorenza Rimassa, Italy) – 15 MIN
- Situation in Georgia and the Caucasus Region (Dr. Elene Mariamidze, Georgia) – 15 MIN
- Q&A – 15 MIN

10:00- 10:45 Diagnosis: Imaging & Endoscopy – Chair: Angela Lamarca

- Current guidelines for diagnosis of BTC (Imaging and nuclear imaging) (Prakash Manoharan, UK) – 15 MIN
- Real life situation in terms of imaging and diagnosis – 15 MIN
- Q&A – 15 MIN

COFFEE 10:45-11:15

11:15- 12:00 Pathology & Molecular Pathology: Chair: Elene Mariamidze

- Current recommendations, guidelines, state of the art techniques for diagnosis and molecular assessment of BTC – Nicola Normano, Italy – 15 MIN
- Molecular Testing in LMIC Settings: What is Feasible and Impactful –15 MIN
- QA- 15 MIN

12:00-13:00 - Locoregional Therapies in BTC: Chair: Anna Saborowski

- Locoregional Therapies - are we there yet? Jens Ricke, Germany – 15 MIN
- Is there space for radiotherapy? Maria Hawkins, UK – 15 MIN
- Georgian reality – 15 MIN
- QA – 15 MIN

LUNCH 13:00-14:00

14:00-15:00 - Surgery & Transplantation associated systemic strategies: Chair: Angela Lamarca

- Global Guidelines for surgery, definition of resectability and transplantation in BTC - Gonzalo Sapisochin, Spain- 15 MIN
- Neoadjuvant and adjuvant systemic approaches – emerging evidence and definitions – Julien Edeline, France 15 MIN
- Surgical Outcomes in Georgia – Local Data, Challenges and how LMICs can improve BTC surgical care - 15 MIN
- QA 15 MIN

3:00-3:30 COFFEE

3:30- 4:30 Systemic therapy in the advanced setting: Anna Saborowski

- Which are current recommendations of advanced disease? The must haves - John Bridgewater, UK – 20 MIN
- Systemic therapy for BTC patients in Georgia – how to prioritize in LMICs? – Elene Mariamidze, Georgia – 15 MIN
- QA – 20 MIN

16:30-17:00 Mentorship Session: Chair- Elene Mariamidze

- Building a Career in GI Oncology in LMICs (mentoring options in COST action) – 15 MIN
- Group Picture – 15 MIN

17:00- 18:00 Multidisciplinary and molecular Tumor board – chair: Teresa Macarulla

- 5-10 min lecture
- Cases (submitted & presented by attendees)
- Interactive Panel

20:00 - DINNER

Day 2 – Saturday, March 21, 2026

8:30-9:00 Centralization of care in biliary tract cancers: Chair- Elene Mariamidze

- In favour – Anna Saborowski, Germany - 10 MIN
- Against – Angela Lamarca, Spain - 10 MIN
- QA – 10 min

9:00 - Workshops (5 working groups, 5 trainees per workshop + 1/2 faculty) – aim: each group to provide a list of priorities for centralization of care in BTC (development of consensus paper)

- Diagnosis – lead Prakash Manoharan and John Bridgewater
- Molecular pathology – lead Nicola Normano, Anna Saborowski and Tian Tian
- Loco-regional therapies – lead Jens Ricke, Maria Hawkins and Teresa Macarulla
- Surgery and biliary drainage – lead Gonzalo Sapisochin and Angela Lamarca
- Systemic therapy chemotherapy and immunotherapy and clinical trials – lead Lorenza Rimassa, Elene Mariamidze and Julien Edeline

Farewell, certificate allocations