



COST Training School 2026

BTC: Practical Approaches in Challenging Environments

Venue:

University of Barcelona, Faculty of Medicine - Barcelona, Spain

Dates:

March 20-21, 2026

Course Organizers:

Elene Mariamidze (Georgia), Angela Lamarca (Spain) & Anna Saborowski (Germany)

Local host:

Teresa Macarulla (Spain)

Faculty members:

Salome Begijanashvili (Georgia); Alejandro Forner (Spain); Maria Hawkins (UK); Lasha Khmaladze (Georgia); Angela Lamarca (Spain); Teresa Macarulla (Spain); Prakash Manoharan (UK); Elene Mariamidze (Georgia); Nicola Normano (Italy); Lorenza Rimassa (Italy); Jens Ricke (Germany); Anna Saborowski (Germany); Gonzalo Sapisochin (Spain); Mariami Tchiabrishvili (Georgia)

March 20, 2026 (Friday)

8:30-9:00	Registration & Welcome Coffee	
9:00-9:15	Opening Remarks: Dr. Anna Saborowski	
9:15-10:00	Epidemiology and risk factors: Chair - Anna Saborowski Epidemiology and Risk Factors of BTC in Europe (Lorenza Rimassa) 15 min Situation in Georgia and the Caucasus Region (Elene Mariamidze) 15 min Q&A 15 min	
10:00-10:45	Diagnosis: Imaging & Endoscopy: Chair - Angela Lamarca Current guidelines for diagnosis of BTC (Prakash Manoharan) 15 min Real life situation in terms of imaging & diagnosis (Lasha Khmaladze) 15 min Q&A 15 min	
10:45-11:15	Coffee break	
11:15-12:00	Pathology & Molecular Pathology: Chair - Elene Mariamidze Current recommendations, guidelines, state of the art techniques from diagnosis and molecular assessment of BTC (Nicola Normano) 15 min Molecular testing in LMIC settings: What is feasible and impactful (Salome Begijanashvili) 15 min Q&A 15 min	
12:00-13:00	Locoregional Therapies in BTC: Chair - Anna Saborowski Locoregional therapies - are we there yet? (Jens Ricke) 15 min Is there space for radiotherapy? (Maria Hawkins) 15 min Georgian reality (Mariami Tchiabrishvili) 15 min Q&A 15 min	
13:00-14:00	Lunch break	
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) 15 min Neoadjuvant and adjuvant systemic approaches – emerging evidence and definitions (Anna Saborowski) 15 min Q&A 15 min	
15:00-15:40	Group Picture & Coffee break	

15:40-16:40	Systemic therapies in the advanced setting: Chair - Anna Saborowski Which are current recommendations of advanced disease? The must haves (Angela Lamarca) 20 min Systemic therapy for BTC patients in Georgia – how to prioritize in LMICs? (Elene Mariamidze) 15 min Q&A 20 min
16:40-17:00	Mentorship Session: Chair - Elene Mariamidze Building a career in GI Oncology in LMICs: resources available withing the COST action (Rocio Macias) 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 with International & Georgian Experts
20:00	Optional dinner (not part of the official program; at participants' own expense)

March 21, 2026 (Saturday)

8:30-9:00	Centralization of care in biliary tract cancers: Chair - Elene Mariamidze In favor - Anna Saborowski, 10 min Against - Angela Lamarca, 10 min Q&A 10 min
9:00-13:00	Workshops (5 working groups, 4-5 trainees + 1-3 faculty per workshop) Aim: each group to provide a list of priorities for centralization of care in BTC (development of consensus paper) <u>Diagnosis:</u> lead Prakash Manoharan & Alejandro Forner <u>Molecular pathology:</u> lead Nicola Normano & Anna Saborowski <u>Loco-regional therapies:</u> lead Jens Ricke, Maria Hawkins & Teresa Macarulla <u>Surgery and biliary drainage:</u> lead Gonzalo Sapisochin & Angela Lamarca <u>Systemic therapy chemotherapy and immunotherapy and clinical trials:</u> lead Lorenza Rimassa & Elene Mariamidze
13:00	Farewell & Certificate allocations