



## **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 Normanno (Italy); Lorenza Rimassa (Italy); Jens Ricke (Germany); Anna Saborowski (Germany); Gonzalo Sapisochin (Spain); Mariami Tchiabrishvili (Georgia)*

**March 20, 2026 (Friday)**

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

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| 15:40-16:40 | <p><b>Systemic therapies in the advanced setting:</b> Chair - Anna Saborowski</p> <p>Which are current recommendations of advanced disease? The must haves (Angela Lamarca) 20 min</p> <p>Systemic therapy for BTC patients in Georgia – how to prioritize in LMICs? (Elene Mariamidze) 15 min</p> <p>Q&amp;A 20 min</p> |
| 16:40-17:00 | <p><b>Mentorship Session:</b> Chair - Elene Mariamidze</p> <p>Building a career in GI Oncology in LMICs: resources available withing the COST action (Rocio Macias) 15 min</p>   |
| 17:00-18:00 | <p><b>Multidisciplinary and molecular Tumor board:</b> Chair - Teresa Macarulla 5-10 min lecture</p> <p>Cases (submitted &amp; presented by attendees)</p> <p>Interactive Panel with International &amp; Georgian Experts</p>  |
| 20:00       | Optional dinner (not part of the official program; at participants' own expense)   |

### March 21, 2026 (Saturday)

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