



5th Annual Meeting of Irish Head and Neck Society 21-23 May, 2026

International Guest Speakers

Ronnie Ghossein Pathology Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center New York USA

Mark Zafereo Otolaryngology MD Anderson Cancer Center Texas USA

Mario Fernandez Otolaryngology Madrid Spain

Miro Tedla Otolaryngology Bratislava Slovakia

Ricard Simo Otolaryngology London UK

Grainne Brady Speech and Language Therapy London UK

Vincent Vander Poorten Otolaryngology Leuven Belgium

Richard Shaw Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Liverpool UK

Giovanni Succo Otolaryngology Venice Italy

Isabel Vilaseca Otolaryngology Barcelona Spain

Andreas Dietz Leipzig Germany

Nancy Lee Radiation Oncology Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center New York USA

Heath Skinner Radiation Oncology USA

Shree Bhide Clinical Oncology London UK

Terry Day Charleston South Carolina USA

Neil Sharma Otolaryngology Birmingham UK

Emma Hallam Therapeutic Radiography Nottingham UK

Justin Roe Speech and Language Therapy London UK



5th Annual Meeting of Irish Head and Neck Society
21-23 May, 2026

Scientific Program – At a glance

Thursday 21st May

10.00-11.00 **Thyroid Free papers x6**

11.00-12.00 **Parathyroid section**

11.00-11.20 Neil Sharma: “Pearls and Pitfalls with intraoperative PTH monitoring”

11.20-11.40 Ricard Simo: “Approach to non-localized hyperparathyroidism”

11.40-12.00 Case based discussion

12.00-13.30 *Lunch*

13.45-15.15 **Thyroid Section 1**

13.50-14.10 Neil Sharma “Hypoparathyroidism and Thyroidectomy”

14.10-14.30 Mario Fernandez “Alternatives to conventional open thyroidectomy – are they worth it?”

14.30-14.50 Julie McCarthy “Molecular testing for indeterminate thyroid nodules”.

15.15-15.45 *Coffee break*

15.30-17.00 **Thyroid Section 2**

15.30-16.00 Ronnie Ghossein “The new WHO classification of thyroid tumours”

16.00-16.20 Mark Zafereo: “Targeted therapy and surgery in aggressive thyroid cancer”

16.20-17.00 Ricard Simo: Cased based discussion of dilemmas in Thyroid Cancer



Friday 22nd May

- 8.45-9.00** Welcome: Professor Patrick Sheahan
- 9.00-10.40** **Session 1: Patient centred care**
- 9.05-9.30** Patient Speech –Patient will speak on their journey in Head and Neck Cancer through diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation
- 9.30-9.40** Andreas Dietz: “Make Sense Campaign”
- 9.40-9.50** Terry Day: “Transforming Head and Neck Cancer Patient Care through Advocacy: The Head and Neck Cancer Alliance”
- 9.50-10.05** Grainne Brady “Patient centred decision making with a focus on recurrent disease”
- 10.15-10.40** Keynote: Nancy Lee “Personalization of care of HPV-positive oropharynx cancer”
- 10.40-11.10* *Coffee Break*
- 11.10-12.45** **Session 2: Larynx**
- 11.15-11.35** Isabel Vilaseca: “Pushing the limits in transoral laser microsurgery. Does it make sense beyond T1?”
- 11.35-11.55** Giovanni Succo: “OPHL as viable surgical option for early challenging cases”
- 11.55-12.15** Andreas Dietz: “Current view on organ preservation of advanced larynx and hypopharynx cancer”
- 12.15-12.45** Larynx panel
- 12.45-14.00* *Lunch*
- 13.25-13.50** **E-poster session 1**



14.00-15.20 Plenary session

14.05-14.25 Vincent Vander Poorten: “Recurrent Pleomorphic Adenoma – the benign tragedy: current standard of care in workup and treatment”

14.25-14.45 Richard Shaw “Evidence based management of osteoradionecrosis”

14.45-15.05 Terry Day “Deliberation and Decisions in Optimizing Salvage Surgery for Recurrent Head and Neck Cancer”

15.20-15.50 Coffee break

15.50-16.15 Keynote lecture:

Ronnie Ghossein “The new WHO classification of thyroid tumours part II”

16.15-17.15 IHNS Tumour Board

Moderator: Prasad Kothari (Cork)

Saturday 23rd May

9.00-9.50 Free papers 1

9.50-10.15 Keynote Session

9.50-10.10 Heath Skinner “Trials, Triumphs, and the Tyranny of the New: Head and Neck Cancer in 2026”

10.10-10.30 Shree Bhide – “Clinical implementation of ctDNA as a biomarker in HNSCC : Are we there yet?”



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10.30-11.15 *Coffee break*

10.45-11.05 **E-poster session 2**

11.15-12.15 **Session 5:**

11.15-11.30 Emma Hallam “Management of late cervical fibrosis in Head and Neck Cancer patients”

11.30-11.45 Miro Tedla “Dysphagia in patients with Head and Neck Cancer”

11.45-12.00 Justin Roe “Chemoradiotherapy pathway from diagnosis to late effects”

12.15-13.00 **Free Papers 2**

13.15 Presentation of Prizes: Eleanor O’Sullivan (Cork)

13.20 Close of meeting



Scientific Program – At a glance

Thursday 21st May

10.00-11.00 Thyroid Free papers x6

Moderators: Sharjeel Paul (Kilkenny), Fergal Kavanagh (Waterford)

10.00-10.10 Impact of systematic post-dissection vagal stimulation on surgical strategy during thyroidectomy.

Nadia H Van Den Berg¹, James Griffin¹, Patrick Sheahan^{1,2}.

1 Dept of Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery, South Infirmery Victoria University Hospital, Cork; 2 ENTO Research Unit, College of Medicine and Health, University College Cork

10.10-10.20 The Use of ThyroSeq in Indeterminate Thyroid Nodules.

Adrinda Affendi¹, Ian McDermott², Julie McCarthy², Patrick Sheahan¹.

1. Dept of Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery, South Infirmery-Victoria University Hospital, Cork;
2. Dept of Histopathology, Cork University Hospital

10.20-10.30 Intraoperative Fluobeam Imaging for Parathyroid Preservation in Total Thyroidectomy: A Retrospective Analysis.

Áine O'Brien, Ana Ionescu, Patrick Sheahan.

Dept of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery, South Infirmery Victoria University Hospital, Cork

10.30-10.40 Post operative hypocalcaemia after total thyroidectomy a comparison between Graves and non Graves cases.

Bevin Arthurs, Patrick Sheahan

Dept of Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery, South Infirmery Victoria University Hospital, Cork



10.40-10.50 Parathyroidectomy - Does Inappropriately Normal PTH Influence Surgical Outcomes?
A 10-year Retrospective Single Centre Cohort Study.

Rhodri Hill^{1,2}, Alix Lammie^{1,2}, Eoghan Mooney^{1,2}, James Griffin^{1,2}, Mahmoud Taha¹, Roisin Sharkey¹,
Ellie Fahy¹, Cathal Moran¹, Aoife Lowery^{3,4}, Orla Young^{1,5}.

1 Dept of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery, University Hospital Galway; 2 Royal College of
Surgeons in Ireland; 3 Dept of General Surgery, University Hospital Galway; 4 School of Medicine,
Dept of Surgery, University of Galway; 5 School of Medicine, Dept of Otolaryngology Head and Neck
Surgery, University of Galway

10.50-11.00. Does Intraoperative Parathyroid Hormone Monitoring Improve Surgical Success in
Primary Hyperparathyroidism? A Single-Centre Experience.

Ednilson Lang, Adrinda Affendia, Ana Ionescu, Patrick Sheahan.

Dept of Otolaryngology and Head & Neck Surgery, South Infirmity Victoria University Hospital, Cork

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Moderators: Orla Young (Galway), Ruth Prichard (Dublin)

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11.40-12.00 Case based discussion

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it?"



14.30-14.50 Julie McCarthy “Molecular testing for indeterminate thyroid nodules”.

14.50-15.15 Discussion

15.15-15.45 Coffee break

15.30-17.00 **Thyroid Section 2**

Moderators: Esther O’Regan (Dublin), Emer Lang (Waterford)

15.30-16.00 Ronnie Ghossein “The new WHO classification of thyroid tumours”

16.00-16.20 Mark Zafereo: “Targeted therapy and surgery in aggressive thyroid cancer”

16.20-17.00 Thyroid Panel –

Moderator: Ricard Simo

Panel: All Thyroid Faculty

Cased based discussion of dilemmas in Thyroid Cancer

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9.00-10.40 **Session 1: Patient centred care**

Moderators: Eleanor O’Sullivan (Cork), Conall Fitzgerald (Dublin)

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- 11.10-12.45** **Session 2: Larynx**
Moderators: Tom Moran (Dublin), Paul Lennon (Dublin)
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Moderator: Ricard Simo
- 12.45-14.00 Lunch*
- 13.25-13.50** **E-poster session 1**
Moderators: Conall Fitzgerald (Dublin), Eleanor O’Sullivan (Cork)
- 14.00-15.20** **Plenary session**
Moderators: John Ed O’Connell (Dublin), James Paul O’Neill (Dublin)
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15.20-15.50 Coffee break

15.50-16.15 Keynote lecture:

Ronnie Ghossein “The new WHO classification of thyroid tumours part II”

Moderators: Linda Feeley (Cork)

16.15-17.15 IHNS Tumour Board

Moderator: Prasad Kothari (Cork)

Discussion of controversial Head & Neck Cancer cases with International Faculty

Saturday 23rd May

8.50-9.50 Free papers x6

Moderators: Killian Nugent (Cork), John Kinsella (Dublin)

8.50-9.00 Surgical outcomes in KEYNOTE-689: Neoadjuvant and adjuvant pembrolizumab in resectable locally advanced head and neck squamous cell carcinoma (LA HNSCC)

R. Bryan Bell¹, Ravindra Uppaluri^{2,3}, Robert I. Haddad^{2,3}, Yungan Tao⁴, Christophe Le Tourneau⁵, Nancy Y. Lee⁶, William Westra⁷, Rebecca Chernock⁸, Makoto Tahara⁹, Kevin Harrington¹⁰, Arkadiy L. Klochikhin¹¹, Coro Bescos¹², Gustavo V. Alves¹³, Brett G. M. Hughes¹⁴, Marc Oliva¹⁵, Iane P. F. Lima¹⁶, Chih-Chin Liu¹⁷, Kimberly Benjamin¹⁷, Behzad Bidadi¹⁷, Douglas Adkins¹⁸

1 Providence Cancer Institute, Earle A. Chiles Research Institute, Portland, OR, USA; 2 Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, USA; 3 Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, MA, USA; 4 Institut Gustave Roussy, Villejuif, France; 5 Institut Curie, Paris, France; 6 Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY, USA; 7 Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Hospital, New York, NY, USA; 8 Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO, USA; 9



National Cancer Center Hospital East, Kashiwa, Japan; 10 Institute of Cancer Research, London, UK; 11 Yaroslavl Regional Clinical Oncology, Yaroslavl, Russian Federation; 12 Vall d'Hebron Institute of Oncology (VHIO)/Vall d'Hebron University Hospital, Barcelona, Spain; 13 Centro Integrado de Pesquisa em Oncologia, Hospital Nossa Senhora de Conceição, Porto Alegre, Brazil; 14 Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital and University of Queensland, Brisbane, QLD, Australia; 15 Institut Català d'Oncologia (ICO) L'Hospitalet and Institut d'Investigació Biomèdica de Bellvitge (IDIBELL), Barcelona, Spain; 16 CRIO—Centro Regional Integrado de Oncologia, Fortaleza, Brazil; 17 Merck & Co., Inc., Rahway, NJ, USA; 18 Washington University School of Medicine Robert Ebert and Greg Stubblefield Head and Neck Tumor Center, Alvin J. Siteman Cancer Center, and Barnes Jewish Hospital, St. Louis, MO, USA

Presented by Grainne O'Dowd (*non-CME*)

9.00-9.06 Oncologic Outcomes of Cutaneous Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the Head and Neck in Immunocompromised Patients: A Retrospective Cohort Study.

Danielle James¹, Khalid Munir², Eric O'Farrell¹, Jack Woods¹, Tom Moran^{1,2}, Fergal O'Duffy^{1,2,3}.

1. Dept of Otorhinolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery, St. Vincent's University Hospital, Dublin; 2. Dept of Otorhinolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery, Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, Dublin; 3. School of Medicine, University College Dublin

9.06-9.12 Biphenotypic Sinonasal Sarcoma – Experience of the National Skull Base Cancer Centre.

Alison McHugh¹, Maria Lyons¹, Heleb Barrett², Seamus Looby³, Peter Lacy¹, Robbie Woods¹.

1 Dept of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery; 2 Dept of Pathology; 3 Dept of Radiology, Beaumont Hospital, Dublin

9.12-9.18 Development of an Oesophageal Self-Dilation Pathway for Chronic Dysphagia Post Laryngectomy. Caoimhe Mulgrew¹, Sorcha McManus¹, Roisin Dunne¹, John Kinsella², Paul Lennon², David Prichard³.

1 Dept of Speech & Language Therapy; 2 Dept of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery; 3 Dept of Gastroenterology, St. James's Hospital, Dublin



9.18-9.25 Discussion

9.25-9.31 Beyond Timing: Functional and Mechanical Predictors of Tracheoesophageal Speech and Associated Complications After Total Laryngectomy — A 14-Year Single Centre Cohort Study.

Niall Dent¹; Nick O’Keeffe¹; Holly Jones¹; Eric Farrell¹; Sorcha Mc Manus²; Conall Fitzgerald¹.

1 Dept of Otorhinolaryngology; and 2 Dept of Speech and Language, St James Hospital, Dublin

9.31-9.37 ‘Keep Plugging Away’ for RIG Patients’.

Aoife Gorham¹, Niamh Flanagan¹, Lesley Feeney², Maria Dobrei², Niall McEniff², Sandra Brady¹, Laura Healy¹.

1 Dept of Clinical Nutrition, 2 Dept of Interventional Radiology, St James’s Hospital, Dublin

9.37-9.44 ACCESS-RT: Accessible, Co-designed Care and Engagement of Services for Radiation Therapy. Risk factors associated with hospitalisation during radiation therapy for head and neck cancer.

Katie Allen¹, Kate Fitzgerald¹, Orla McKivitt¹, Eoin McGrath¹, Geena-Maria Barry¹, Jennifer Murphy¹, Claire Curtin², Frances Kingston¹, Sarah Kenny¹, Shirley Loughnane¹, Killian Nugent².

1 Dept of Radiation Oncology, Cork University Hospital; 2 Cork University Dental School & Hospital

9.44-9.50 Discussion

9.50-10.15 Keynote Session

Moderators: Fergal O’Duffy (Dublin), John Gaffney (Galway)

9.50-10.10 Heath Skinner “Trials, Triumphs, and the Tyranny of the New: Head and Neck Cancer in 2026”



10.10-10.30 Shree Bhide – “Clinical implementation of ctDNA as a biomarker in HNSCC : Are we there yet?”

10.30-11.15 Coffee break

10.45-11.05 E-poster session 2

Moderators: Conall Fitzgerald (Dublin), Eleanor O’Sullivan (Cork)

11.15-12.15 Session 5:

Moderators: Teresa Hanevy (Cork), Liam Skinner (Waterford)

11.15-11.30 Emma Hallam “Management of late cervical fibrosis in Head and Neck Cancer patients”

11.30-11.45 Miro Tedla “Dysphagia in patients with Head and Neck Cancer”

11.45-12.00 Justin Roe “Chemoradiotherapy pathway from diagnosis to late effects”

12.00-12.15 Discussion

12.15-13.00 Free Papers x 4

Moderators: Thavakumar Subramaniam (Galway), Eoghan MacEochagain (Dublin)

12.15-12.21 Association of Hypothyroidism With Wound Complications Post-Laryngectomy: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis.

Eoghan Kennedy, Eoin Cleere, Justin Hintze, Conall Fitzgerald.

Dept of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery, St James’s Hospital, Dublin

12.21-12.27 Tumour at margin versus within a millimetre in oral cavity squamous cell carcinoma; comparing two definitions of positive surgical margins: systematic review and meta-analysis.

Eoin Cleere^{1,2}, Bevin Arthurs^{1,2}, Patrick Sheahan¹.

1 Dept of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery, South Infirmary Victoria University Hospital, Cork;

2 The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Dublin



12.27-12.33 Correlation between p16 immunohistochemistry, RNA in-situ hybridization for high-risk human papilloma virus subtypes and tumour morphology in oropharynx squamous carcinoma

Saif Al Mandhari¹, Craig Wakefield¹, Deirdre Callanan², Patrick Sheahan², Linda Feeley¹

1. Department of Pathology, Cork University Hospital; 2. Department of Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery, South Infirmery Victoria University Hospital, Cork

12.33-12.40 Discussion

12.40-12.46 Surgical Approach of Oropharyngeal Squamous Cell Carcinoma (SCC) With Transoral Robotic Surgery Versus Non-robotic Transoral Surgery and Laser.

Suliman Ali¹, Mohammed Yousif², Lakis Liloglou³, Axel Kaehne³, Sadia Khawaja², Abduraheem Mohamed², Sundus Mohamed², Ahmed Gadoura⁴, Etienne Villeneuve¹, Mohammed A. Elkrim¹.

1. Dept of Otolaryngology, Leicester Royal Infirmery, UK; 2. Dept of Surgery and Otolaryngology, University Hospital of Manchester Foundation Trust, UK; 3. Faculty of Health, Social Sciences and Medicine, Edge Hill University, Lancashire, UK; 4. Dept of General Surgery, Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda

12.46-12.52 DETECT Study: Distant mETastasis Evaluation by CT in High-Risk Oropharyngeal and Oral Cavity Cancer.

Jennifer Trousdell¹, John Bruzzi², Sinead Carr¹, Martina O'Donnell¹, John Gaffney¹.

1 Dept of Radiation Oncology; and 2 Dept of Radiology, Galway University Hospital

12.52-12.58 Differences in clinical presentation and treatment decisions between frail and not-frail head and neck cancer patients

Eoin F. Cleere, Justin M. Hintze, Gerard Sexton, James Griffin, Conrad Timon, John Kinsella, Paul Lennon, Conall Fitzgerald

Department of Head and Neck surgery, St James's Hospital, Dublin



12.58-13.05 Discussion

13.15 Presentation of Prizes: Eleanor O'Sullivan (Cork)

13.20 Close of meeting