



Ovarian Cancer
Midwest Focus
Conference

November 2-3, 2026
Rochester, MN

Hosted by



Department of Obstetrics,
Gynecology & Women's Health

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



Exhibitors

We are deeply grateful to our exhibitors whose generous support helps make this event possible.



Welcome

Welcome to the 8th annual Ovarian Cancer Midwest Focus Conference!

PROGRAM CHAIRS

Martina Bazzaro, PhD

University of Minnesota – School of Medicine

Ronny Drapkin, MD, PhD

University of Pennsylvania – Perelman School of Medicine

Andrew K. Godwin, PhD

University of Kansas Medical Center – Kansas Institute for Precision Medicine

Gottfried E. Konecny, MD

University of California – Los Angeles

Alexandre G. Maia, PhD

Mayo Clinic

Paola Vermeer, PhD

Sanford Research and University of South Dakota

Boris Winterhoff, MD, MS

University of Minnesota – School of Medicine



2026 Keynotes

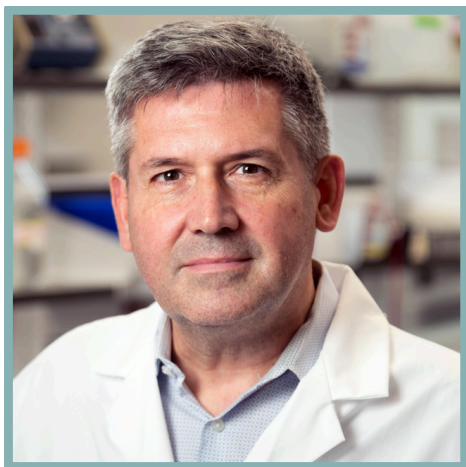


Ethel N. Ruvelson Keynote Speaker

Ursula Matulonis, MD

Chief of the Division of Gynecologic Oncology
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Professor of Medicine
Harvard Medical School

Dr. Ursula A. Matulonis is Chief of the Division of Gynecologic Oncology at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and a Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. She co-leads the Harvard Cancer Consortium's Gynecologic Cancer Program and serves on the NCI Gynecologic Cancer Steering Committee. Internationally recognized for leading clinical trials in PARP inhibitors, immunotherapies, and antibody-drug conjugates, Dr. Matulonis has authored extensive ovarian cancer research and earned the Rosalind Franklin Prize for Excellence in Ovarian Cancer Research.



John L. McKelvey Keynote Speaker

Jose Conejo-Garcia, MD, PhD

Immuno-Oncology Program Co-Leader
Duke Cancer Institute
Professor of Immunology
Duke University School of Medicine

Dr. Conejo-Garcia is a Professor of Immunology at Duke University School of Medicine and co-leader of the Immuno-Oncology Program at Duke Cancer Institute. After completing his MD, PhD, and clinical training in Spain, he held research and leadership roles at UPenn, Dartmouth, The Wistar Institute, and Moffitt Cancer Center. His current research focuses on developing novel immunotherapies, including tumor cell-penetrating antibodies and cellular therapies, to treat advanced ovarian cancer and other malignancies.

Day 1

November 2, 2026



Breakfast: 7:15 - 8:00 AM

Welcome & Opening Remarks: 8:00 - 8:10 AM

SESSION 1

MODERATORS: MARTINA BAZZARO, PHD & ALEX MAIA, PHD

TIME	TITLE	PRESENTER
8:10 - 9:00 AM	Targeting genomic vulnerabilities to improve ovarian cancer therapeutics	<u>Ethel N. Ruvelson Keynote Speaker</u> Ursula Matulonis, MD Harvard Medical School
9:00 - 9:10 AM	Question & Answer Session	
9:10 - 9:30 AM	Genetic, epigenetic, and functional characterization of DTP cells in vitro and in situ in ovarian cancer	Jeremy Chien, PhD University of California - Davis
9:30 - 9:35 AM	Question & Answer Session	
9:35 - 9:55 AM	Clinical Trials in Ovarian Cancer	Andrea Wahner Hendrickson, MD Mayo Clinic
9:55 - 10:00 AM	Question & Answer Session	
10:00 - 10:20 AM	Identification of ovarian cancer protein biomarkers in Pap tests	Amy Skubitz, PhD University of Minnesota
10:20 - 10:25 AM	Question & Answer Session	
10:25 - 10:40 AM	Break	

TIME	TITLE	PRESENTER
10:40 – 11:25 AM	Flash Talks	
	Aging Reprograms Macrophage Phenotype, Function, and Inflammatory Signaling in Ovarian Cancer Microenvironments	Hailey Axemaker, BS Sanford Research
	Omentum-on-a-Chip Reveals How Adiposopathy Drives Ovarian Cancer Colonization of the Omental Metastatic Niche	Amrita Bhagia, MA, BA Sanford Research Institute / University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine
	Multiplex Base Editing of Immune Checkpoints Enhances the Antitumor Function of Tumor-Infiltrating Lymphocytes in Ovarian Cancer	Priyanka Gupta, PhD University of Minnesota
11:25 – 11:30 AM	Transition	
11:30 – 12:00 PM	Community Awards	
	Lifetime Achievement Award for Outstanding Support for Ovarian Cancer Research	Presented to Amy Skubitz, PhD
	Award for Inspiration and Philanthropy	Presented to Chemo Chicks Received by Kathy Pohland
	Award for Excellence in Community Outreach	Presented to Vonda Wall and Katie Karow
12:00 – 1:00 PM	Lunch & Poster Session	
1:00 – 1:10 PM	Natera Exhibitor Presentation	
1:10 – 1:20 PM	Corcept Exhibitor Presentation	

Day 1

November 2, 2026



SESSION 2

MODERATORS: RONNY DRAPKIN, MD, PHD & PAOLA VERMEER, PHD

TIME	TITLE	PRESENTER
1:20 – 1:30 PM	Caris Life Sciences Exhibitor Presentation	
1:30 – 1:50 PM	A Complex TiME: How aging drives tumor progression	Ashani Weeraratna, PhD Johns Hopkins
1:50 – 1:55 PM	Question & Answer Session	
1:55 – 2:15 PM	New targeted treatments to improve outcomes for women with endometrial cancers: recent clinical advances.	Matthew Powell, MD Washington University School of Medicine
2:15 – 2:20 PM	Question & Answer Session	
2:20 – 2:40 PM	Pearls and pitfalls of submitting a SPORE grant	David Mutch, MD Washington University School of Medicine
2:40 – 2:45 PM	Question & Answer Session	
2:45 – 3:00 PM	Break	
3:00 – 3:20 PM	Targeting transposable elements to reverse ovarian cancer immune evasion	Kate Chiappinelli, PhD George Washington University
3:20 – 3:25 PM	Question & Answer Session	

TIME	TITLE	PRESENTER
3:25 – 3:45 PM	Precise risk estimation for inherited variants in cancer predisposition genes	Fergus Couch, PhD Mayo Clinic
3:45 – 3:50 PM	Question & Answer Session	
3:50 – 4:10 PM	The neural regulation of pediatric cancer	Kathryn R. Taylor, PhD Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
4:10 – 4:15 PM	Question & Answer Session	
4:15 – 4:20 PM	Closing Remarks	
4:20 – 6:00 PM	Poster Session	
5:30 – 9:00 PM	Social Event	

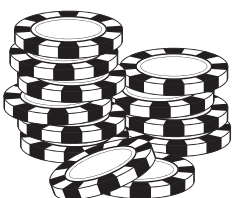
Reception

Join Us for Dinner, Drinks, and Casino Games!

5:30pm – 9:00pm

Elizabethan Room, Kahler Hotel

First Floor, Near the Lobby



Day 2

November 3, 2026



Breakfast & Poster Session: 7:15 - 8:00 AM

Welcome & Opening Remarks: 8:00 - 8:05 AM

SESSION 3

MODERATORS: GOTTFRIED E. KONECNY, MD & BORIS WINTERHOFF, MD, MS

TIME	TITLE	PRESENTER
8:05 - 8:50 AM	Spotlight: Patient Advocacy	
8:50 - 9:00 AM	Transition	
9:00 - 9:50 AM	Closing in: Cracking Ovarian Cancer's Resistance to Immunotherapy	<u>John L. McKelvey Keynote Speaker</u> Jose Conejo-Garcia, MD, PhD Duke University School of Medicine
9:50 - 10:00 AM	Question & Answer Session	
10:00 - 10:20 AM	Harnessing Therapeutic Vulnerabilities in ARID1A mutated ovarian cancers	Stéphanie Gaillard, MD, PhD Johns Hopkins
10:20 - 10:25 AM	Question & Answer Session	
10:25 - 10:40 AM	Break	
10:40 - 11:25 AM	Flash Talks	
	PAX8-Dependent Signaling Modifies the Microenvironment and Immune Regulation of High-Grade Serous Ovarian Cancer	Joohyun Im University of Illinois Chicago
	Hyperactivated Homologous Recombination Creates a Nucleotide Metabolism Vulnerability in Ovarian Cancer	Shinya Kusumoto UCLA
	Inhibition of oncogenic miR-181a processing as a therapeutic strategy in high-grade serous ovarian carcinoma	Grace McIntyre University of Michigan

TIME	TITLE	PRESENTER
11:25 – 11:30 AM	Transition	
11:30 – 11:50 AM	Claudin-6 as a novel therapeutic target in ovarian cancer	Jordyn Silverstein, MD, MSc UCLA
11:50 – 11:55 AM	Question & Answer Session	
11:55 – 12:15 AM	Improving the failure rate of Ovarian Cancer Clinical Trials	Gordon B. Mills, MD, PhD Oregon Health & Sciences University
12:15 – 12:20 PM	Question & Answer Session	
12:20 – 12:40 PM	Unraveling Innovative Therapies through Tumor Analysis and Genetic Insights	Analisa DiFeo, PhD University of Michigan School of Medicine
12:40 – 12:45 PM	Question & Answer Session	
12:45 PM	Flash Talk & Poster Awards Closing Remarks	
Grab-and-Go Lunch		



On behalf of the OCMF Program Chairs, we extend our sincere gratitude to this year's speakers, exhibitors, and participants. As we continue the fight against ovarian cancer, your contributions and collaboration are vital to expanding education across all levels of research.

Join us in 2027 for the 9th annual OCMF Conference in Minneapolis, MN