IST INNOVATION FORUM

MEDSIR

IST INNOVATION FORUM · GU

Interactive workshop on urological malignancies

Event playbook

3rd September 2026 | University of Surrey, Guildford, UK

Event overview



The IST Innovation Forum is an educational medical platform created to share expert insight, foster scientific exchange, and stimulate new ideas. The Guildford edition focused on genitourinary (GU) cancers and on the role of investigator-initiated trials (IITs) in translating day-to-day clinical questions into practical, biomarker-driven study concepts. Against a rapidly evolving GU cancer landscape, with expanding therapeutic options but persistent challenges in patient selection, treatment resistance, and biomarker implementation, forums like this provide a valuable setting to turn unmet clinical needs into collaborative, hypothesis-driven research.

The opening roundtable explored the challenges and unmet needs associated with investigator-initiated trials across different geographical contexts and hospital settings, drawing on the perspectives and expertise of an international panel of GU cancer specialists.

Date	Thursday, 3 September 2026
Venue	University of Surrey, Stag Hill campus, Guildford, UK
Format	In-person scientific workshop and networking lunch
Duration	3 hours: 2 hours scientific program and 1 hour networking
Experts	7 international
Scientific scope	Prostate, renal, bladder cancers

Goals of the event

- Create high-quality engagement opportunities with specialists in GU cancers
- Provide expert insight on international challenges and diversity in investigator-initiated trials
- Enable multidisciplinary teams to convert clinical needs into focused, feasible study proposals

From molecular hunting to scientific discussion

One of MEDSIR's defining strengths is identifying emerging scientific opportunities and transforming them into investigator-led innovation.

The IST Innovation Forum extends this capability through a structured molecular and asset search and asset-curation process that creates a unique foundation for high-value scientific discussions.

Molecules are assessed for scientific novelty, relevance to unmet clinical needs, development maturity and the remaining opportunity to discuss positioning, patient selection, study design and translational research. MEDSIR also engages with the relevant pharmaceutical companies in advance to confirm their openness to receiving investigator-initiated research concepts involving the selected assets.

This curated starting point is a distinctive component of the MEDSIR model: investigators generate and refine the study ideas, while MEDSIR identifies the scientific opportunities and creates the conditions for productive concept development.

Event format and workshop dynamics

1	**Orient**	Welcome, MEDSIR introduction and framing of the IIT challenge.
2	**Exchange**	Mentor-led roundtable on international challenges and diversity in GU clinical research.
3	**Co-create**	Three disease-focused working groups brainstorm an IIT concept based on a curated panel of strategic molecules.
4	**Challenge**	Groups present proposals and receive cross-group questions and discussion.
5	**Connect**	Networking lunch supports follow-up conversations and relationship-building.

Facilitation principles

- Start from a clearly defined unmet clinical need.
- Keep the proposal feasible within an IIT framework.
- Use one molecule per group to maintain focus.
- Balance scientific ambition with operational practicality.
- Create space for every participant to contribute.
- Capture decisions, assumptions and unresolved questions as the concept develops.

Selected molecules and scientific rationale

Disease area	Selected molecule
Prostate cancer	**PSMA-targeted dual-masked T-cell engager**
Renal cancer	**DLL4/VEGF-A bispecific antibody**
Bladder cancer	**FGFR3 inhibitor**

Agenda

9:30 - 9:40	Welcome and MEDSIR presentation
9:40 - 10:00	Roundtable: Challenges and needs in GU investigator-initiated trials across geographical and hospital settings
10:00 - 11:00	Workshop presentation and hands-on group work
11:00 - 11:30	Proposal presentations and discussion
11:30 - 12:30	Networking lunch





Scientific leadership: mentor and speaker panel



Giuseppe Banna - Lead mentor

United Kingdom | Portsmouth Hospitals University NHS Trust / University of Portsmouth
GU malignancies, translational research, precision oncology and immunotherapy.



Pasquale Rescigno - Mentor & speaker

United Kingdom | Newcastle University
GU malignancies, translational cancer research, precision oncology and biomarker-driven trials.



Natalia Gandur Quiroga - Mentor

Argentina | Instituto de Oncología Ángel H. Roffo
Clinical management and research in GU malignancies.



Deborah Mukherji - Mentor

United Arab Emirates | Clemenceau Medical Center Dubai
GU cancers, survivorship, supportive care and patient-centred oncology.

Scientific leadership: mentor and speaker panel



Stefanie Zschäbitz - Mentor

Germany | Universitätsklinikum Heidelberg
Precision oncology, translational cancer research and innovative GU treatment approaches.



Akash Maniam - Mentor

United Kingdom | Portsmouth Hospitals University NHS Trust
Systemic therapies and clinical research in GU cancers.



Ravindran Kanesvaran - Mentor

Singapore | National Cancer Centre Singapore
GU cancers, supportive care, clinical research, education and access to innovation.

Attendee profile

The forum brought together an international audience, reflecting the global scope of the event and the diversity of perspectives represented. Attendees were organized into three working groups to facilitate focused discussions and closer interaction among participants. The format was designed to foster meaningful scientific exchange, encourage active participation, and promote collaborative discussion around the key topics addressed during the forum.



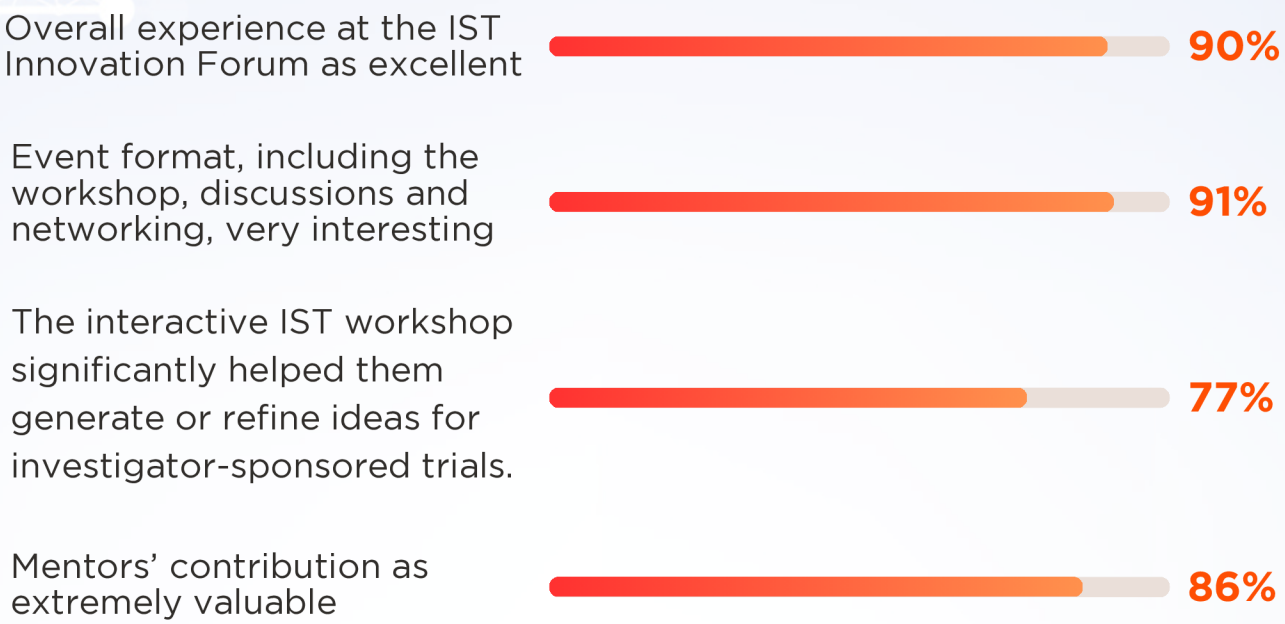
Scientific outputs and event impact

- The workshop successfully generated three high-potential IIT concepts across renal, prostate and bladder cancer, demonstrating the ability of the collaborative format to translate scientific discussion into tangible research ideas. The concepts addressed relevant clinical questions and showed potential for further scientific development and evaluation.
  Each concept explored the potential of a selected asset within a specific GU cancer indication, providing a starting point for further scientific assessment and concept development.

The format successfully combined expert discussion, small-group co-creation and networking. A distinctive feature was MEDSIR's use of carefully curated emerging molecules, selected through molecular hunting, scientific assessment and prior industry engagement to stimulate differentiated IIT concepts. The principal scaling challenge is to increase participation without losing the interactive character of the workshop.

Audience feedback

Rates of the respondents



A recurring theme in participant feedback was strong enthusiasm for extending the brainstorming and scientific discussion, reflecting the high level of engagement generated by the format.

CONTACT US

Please reach out to us for any inquires regarding MEDSIR, our clinical research model or any of our clinical studies.

INFO@MEDSIR.ORG

Diputació 390, 3rd Floor, Barcelona, Spain, 08013.

www.medsir.org