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Dear Early Career Researchers,

This June, as you well know, will be a very important month for our ECR community, as it will be the first PTCOG conference featuring a series of events specific to us. We are excited to present in this newsletter detailed information about all the events dedicated to the ECR members at the PTCOG conference, to be held from 10th to 15th June 2024 in Singapore.

You can find the official PTCOG 62 program [here](#).

ECR Event Highlights (with details below):

- **ECR Plenary Session**
- **Mentor Networking Lunch**
- **ECR Subcommittee Meeting**
- Subcommittee **Presentations**
- **ECR Social Event**

In addition to our ECR-specific events, we would like to highlight some other events of general interest, such as:

- The beginning of the **Educational Program** on 10th June at 8.30 am
- The **Scientific Meeting Welcome Reception & Exhibition Opening** on 11th June from 5.30 to 7.30 pm

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Award Lecture, this year delivered by Professor Tony Lomax

- The highly anticipated **Networking Event**, which will be held at the Fullerton Bay Hotel Clifford Pier, on 13th June from 7:30 pm

We hope to see you soon in Singapore!



Are you joining us in Singapore? We have a dedicated #ptcog62-conference channel on our Slack platform to chat about all things PTCOG with other ECRs attendees, don't miss out!



To join, use the link provided on sign-up. If you haven't received the link, please [reach out](#) and we'll get you connected!

ECR Plenary Session

“Open Source Thinking: The Future of Data Sharing for Medical Research”



Where ? At PTCOG 62 in Singapore



When? Thu 13th June, 14:15-15:00

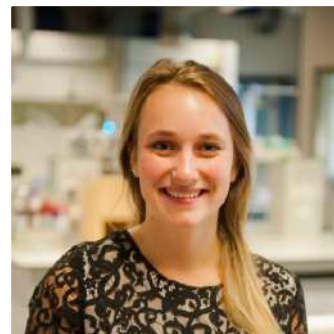
The PTCOG Early Career Researcher (ECR) Subcommittee is excited to present the inaugural ECR plenary session at PTCOG 2024, focusing on the role of data sharing in advancing particle therapy research. Our speakers will discuss different aspects of open-source practices, highlighting publicly available pre-clinical datasets, and open-source codebases in medical research. Topics will include strategic data sharing formats, reporting mechanisms, the benefits and challenges of going open-source, with some exemplary cases, and how the PTCOG community could support or benefit from such projects. The session will conclude with a panel discussion addressing the significance and practicalities of data sharing, encouraging active engagement from the audience.

With an emphasis on open-source thinking, this session aims to explore the future trajectory of particle therapy research, its potential positive impact on clinical daily

Speakers:

- *Sophie Wuyckens, UCLouvain, Belgium*

Sophie Wuyckens graduated in Particle Physics and Cosmology from UCLouvain in 2018. After embarking on her research journey in particle physics, Sophie made the decision to shift her focus to medical physics. She successfully completed her PhD on proton arc therapy in January 2024 within the MIRO laboratory at UCLouvain, where she is now working as a postdoctoral researcher. Sophie is part of the OpenTPS team, and has helped to develop this open-source proton treatment planning tool for the particle physics community.



- *Isabella Collizzi, Paul Scherrer Institute, Switzerland*

Isabella is currently pursuing her PhD at PSI Switzerland, with a primary focus on high and ultra-high dose rates. Her research has centered on optimizing treatment times, developing ridge filters, and improving beamline capabilities. Currently, Isabella's work is focused on FLASH radiotherapy, in which she is working towards creating a comprehensive database of in vivo studies to better understand the underlying parameters. Isabella's work in this area is helping to support the development of clinical trials.



More info: <https://ptcog62.org/ptcog-ecr-plenary-session/>

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Mentor Networking Lunch

The Mentor Lunch seeks to create a conducive environment for established senior mentors and aspiring junior mentees to engage in open and insightful discussions on science, career opportunities, and challenges. This event aims to facilitate networking, knowledge exchange, and mentorship connections that will benefit participants throughout their professional journeys.

The ECR Mentor Networking Lunch aims to provide an informal setting for early-career researchers to connect with more established members of the PTCOG community, and engage in discussions on science and career development.

We will have two sessions

- Research Careers: **Wednesday 12th June, 11:30-12:30.**
- Industry and Clinical Careers: **Thursday 13th June, 12:00-13:00.**

Registered participants only

[PTCOG62 - ECR Mentor Networking Lunch](#)

[Registration](#)



Mentor information

Research Careers Session:

- **Anita Mahajan**

*Professor of Radiation Oncology
in the Mayo Clinic Department of
Radiation Oncology and Medical
Director of Particle Therapy
Rochester and vice-chairperson
of the PTCOG Steering
Committee.*



Anita Mahajan is a Professor of Radiation Oncology in the Mayo Clinic Department of Radiation Oncology and serves as the Medical Director of Particle Therapy Rochester. She is responsible for the daily operations of the existing four room

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completed medical school and residency at McGill University in Montreal and then a fellowship in proton therapy at Massachusetts General Hospital. After working in Boston and MD Anderson, she moved to Mayo Clinic in 2017. Anita's clinical expertise is in the treatment of pediatric patients with cancer and adult patients with central nervous system tumors. She has a strong interest in improving radiotherapy treatment approaches with new technologies and has led research initiatives to help improve patient outcomes. To improve overall quality and outcomes for pediatric patients and proton therapy, she has assumed leadership roles in multiple national and international cooperative groups.

- **Marco Schwarz**

*Professor at the Radiation
Oncology department of the
University of Washington (US).
Physics representative in the
PTCOG Scientific subcommittee.*



Marco Schwarz is a medical physicist and a professor at the Radiation Oncology department of the University of Washington and Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center (Seattle, US). He received his education in physics and his training in medical physics in Italy. He worked in the early part of his career in Torino (IT) as a medical physicist in radiotherapy. In 2001 he moved to the Netherlands Cancer Institute (NKI) in Amsterdam for a PhD project on the design and clinical implementation of IMRT techniques. In 2006 he came back to Italy to start a proton therapy project. Within this initiative he spent one year at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. From 2014 to 2022 he was the head of medical physics at the Proton Therapy Centre in Trento (IT). Over the past 15 years he has been involved with ESTRO with several roles; he is now faculty member of the Particle Therapy Course, and co-chair of the "Education and training" package of the European Particle Therapy Network (EPTN).

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- **Marta Missiaggia**

Postdoctoral fellow in physics at the Radiation Oncology department of the University of Miami (FL, US). PTCOG-ECR member.



Marta Missiaggia is a Postdoctoral fellow at the University of Miami (joint Miller School of Medicine and Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center), and her research is focused on assessing the biological damage induced by radiation using microdosimetry, both with an experimental and a theoretical approach. She received her bachelor, master and Ph.D. degrees at the University of Trento, in Italy. She has a broad background in physics, with specific training and expertise in radiation physics, focusing on the biological effect of radiation. Besides research, Marta has been heavily involved in organizing national and international meetings and conferences. Finally, she is an active member of both the Scholar In Training Committee and the Finance Committee of the Radiation Research Society.

- **Ye Zhang**

Scientist (tenured) at Paul Scherrer Institut PSI



Ye Zhang received her PhD from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETHz) in 2013 and subsequently worked as a research scientist in Varian Medical Systems before re-joining Paul Scherrer Institut in 2016 as a postdoc researcher. She has been a tenure-track scientist since 2018 and was successfully tenured in 2022. Her main research interests lie in developing 4D treatments for scanned proton therapy, especially for 4D treatment planning and optimization, image guidance, motion modeling and real-time adaptive radiotherapy. In addition, she is exploring the potential of artificial intelligence, upright treatment and online MR guidance for proton therapy.

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- **Sora Fallaha**

Director and Founder, Ticura Global Pty Ltd; Regional Representative of Sumitomo Heavy Industries, Ltd. Medical Accelerators Division for Australia, New Zealand and Middle East; Adjunct Fellow, Menzies Health Institute Queensland, Griffith University.



Sora Fallaha obtained her PhD at the Griffith University, Australia, in 2017, following an academic path that was as brilliant as it was tough. After completing her bachelor's degree in Medical Analysis at the University of Jordan, Sora moved to Australia in 2012 to pursue a Master of Medical Research at Griffith's Gold Coast campus, which she completed the following year. Sora secured multiple scholarships from Griffith to self-finance her second semester of Master's studies, fund her PhD and help her parents to dedicate their financial help to their families in Syria facing escalating conflicts. Her brilliant performance was recognised with the Academic Excellence Award of 2012-2013 by the University Vice Chancellor. During her PhD in cancer research she published high impact research in major journals in this field. Sora is now not only the director of TICura Global Pty Ltd, which she herself founded, but also the regional representative of the medical accelerators division for Australia, New Zealand and Middle east of Sumitomo Heavy Industries Ltd. Additionally, she has never left her research ambitions and is also an adjunct fellow at the Menzies Health Institute Queensland of Griffith University.

- **Luk Herremans**

Chief Market Officer at IBA Particle Therapy



Luk Herremans brings a wealth of experience to the field from various industries. Joining IBA in 2014, Luk has held several key positions, including Chief Market

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also served as the Vice President for Sales, Marketing & Business Development at IBt Bebig, and had earlier roles at CR Bard and KU Leuven. Throughout his career, Luk has demonstrated expertise in sales, marketing and business development in the field of healthcare technologies.

- **Zoltán Perkó**

*Senior Applied Scientist at
Radformation and Computational
Physics Researcher at TU Delft*



Zoltán Perkó is an internationally recognized expert of computational physics and deep learning, specializing in their applications in radiation therapy. Zoltán has significant academic research experience, with a PhD from Delft University of Technology (TU Delft) and postdoctoral positions at Massachusetts General Hospital & Harvard Medical School, and as an associate professor at TU Delft, where he set up his own research group. Zoltán's research focuses on leveraging physics simulations and AI to improve cancer care, particularly in developing adaptive radiotherapy treatments and biologically personalized patient treatments. In 2023, Zoltán joined Radformation Inc. as a Senior Applied Scientist to continue to drive innovation within the company to improve all aspects of the radiotherapy workflow.

- **Courtney Misher**

*Radiation Therapist at Penn
Medicine & Global Education
Coordinator at OncoLink*



Courtney Misher is a highly skilled and experienced Radiation Therapist, specializing in proton therapy. Her primary focus is on treatment delivery, patient alignment and immobilization, as well as treatment for pediatric patients with general anesthesia. Courtney joined the Roberts Proton Therapy Center at Penn Medicine in 2009, where she has played a key role in developing policies and procedures. Beyond her clinical

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Penn Medicine. Since 2021, she has served as the Global Education Coordinator at OncoLink, focusing on content and curriculum development for various educational programs.

ECR Subcommittee Meeting (Open to Subcommittee Members)



Where ? Hall 406B at PTCOG 62 conference



When? Wed 12th June, 16:30-17:15

Join us at the ECR Subcommittee Meeting to find out about our subcommittee, what we've been up to this year, future plans, and how you can get involved.

Plus, don't miss the chance to vote for your new 2024/2025 chairs! Voting will take place online ahead of the conference, with final votes at the meeting itself.

Interested in joining the PTCOG ECR Operative Group for 2024-2025?

By being on the Operative Group you will:

- **Be involved in organising** ECR activities
- Help to implement **ECR ideas** into the wider PTCOG community
- Have the opportunity to run for **ECR Chair** for the following term

Applications will open after the conference. Come along to the Subcommittee meeting to find out more.

If you can't make it to Singapore this year, stay tuned for further information and for your chance to apply.

Subcommittee Presentation (Open to all)



Where ? Plenary 406A at PTCOG 62 conference



When? Fri 14th June, 14:35-14:45

For a snapshot overview of our ECR Subcommittee, come along to the Subcommittee Presentations where we will showcase our ECR group to the wider

ECR Social Event (Open to all ECRs)



Where ? location TBD



When? Tuesday 11th June, 19:30

We're planning a fun social gathering in Singapore after the Scientific Meeting Welcome Reception to give ECRs a chance to network, unwind and make new connections before the scientific conference kicks off.

Stay tuned on all ECR social activity at PTCOG using the #ptcog62-conference channel on our Slack platform.

Make sure to come and find us at the **ECR Booth** in the Exhibition Hall for more information!

Job Opportunities and Highlights:



Postdoc opportunity on FLASH at Rome 3 University:

In the framework of a recently financed project dedicated to FLASH treatment planning, we are opening a position for a 2-years Post-doc contract, starting in Spring 2024. The candidate should be located in Rome, Italy. The project is focused on the development of treatment planning solutions for FLASH proton therapy, as well as on biophysical modeling of the mechanisms responsible for the differential response associated with the FLASH effect. Interested candidates are invited to contact the project PIs by email: Andrea Attili (andrea.attili@roma3.infn.it), Francesco Tommasino (francesco.tommasino@unitn.it) and Emanuele Scifoni (emanuele.scifoni@tifpa.infn.it)



Radiation Therapist, New York Proton Center (New York, USA)

Find out more [here](#)



Radiation Oncologist for Proton Therapy Program, Open Rank, Stanford University (California, USA)

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PHD Research Fellowship in proton therapy at Haukeland University Hospital (HUS) in Bergen, Norway

Find out more [here](#)

Do you know of any other job opportunities? [Let us know!](#)

Upcoming Conferences:

- **10th Annual Loma Linda Workshop**, July 29-31, Online & Santa Cruz, USA
<http://ionimaging.org/llu2024-overview/>
- **RaySearch European User Meeting 2024**, September 3-5, Stockholm, Sweden
<https://www.raysearchlabs.com/events/>
- **European radiation research society meeting**, September 10-13, Aveiro, Portugal
<https://errs2024.pt/>
- **European Congress of Medical Physics 2024**, September 11-14, Munich, Germany
<https://ecmp2024.org/>
- **RRS Annual Meeting 2024**, September 15-18, Tucson, USA
<https://web.cvent.com/event/f628c567-73e4-4fee-a58b-1e9b6b0c1981/summary>
- **Ion Imaging Workshop**, October 21-22, Vienna, Austria
<https://ionimaging2024.sciencesconf.org/>
- **Flash radiotherapy and particle therapy**, December 4-6, Rome, Italy
<https://frpt-conference.org/welcome-to-frpt-2024/>

Do you know of any other upcoming conferences? [Let us know!](#)

SHARE YOUR IDEAS

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PTCOG-ECR new ideas [form](#). The Operative Group will review and discuss new ideas during periodic meetings, ensuring a collaborative and inclusive decision-making process.

JOIN US!

Feel free to forward this newsletter on to any of your colleagues who might be interested in [joining us](#)!!

Liked this week's issue? Don't forget to spread it out!

Warm regards,

The PTCOG-ECR Subcommittee Operative Group

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