



BIG MEMBER GROUPS' OTHER ACTIVITIES

ABCSCG

Austrian Breast and Colorectal Cancer Study Group

Scientific progress and stability amid global challenges

Although global economic challenges of recent years have somewhat eased, ongoing political and financial tensions continue to impact various sectors. Despite these uncertainties, ABCSCG has maintained a stable research environment through strategic policies and negotiations, safeguarding continuous scientific progress. For 40 years, we have conducted cutting-edge clinical and translational breast cancer research, but also developed a capable operational structure and, in 2024, we celebrated four decades of success and steady advancements for our patients.

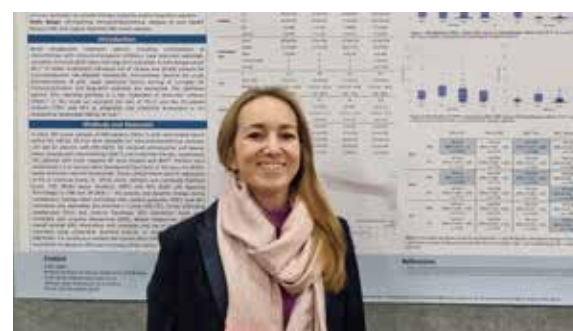
Academic achievements and global presence: presentations and publications

2024 was again marked by the ABCSCG's strong international scientific presence, reflected in numerous presentations and high-impact publications. One of the highlights of the year was the continued prominence of the **ABCSCG 34** trial at all major international breast cancer conferences. At EBCC-14 in Milan, Ulrike Heber presented a poster entitled "PD-L1 and IRF1 expression is associated with improved therapy response in the prospective randomized neoadjuvant ABCSCG 34 trial". Christian Singer and his presentation "Addition of the MUC-1 Vaccine Tecemotide to Neoadjuvant Systemic Therapy Improves Survival of Patients with Early Breast Cancer: Results from the Prospective Randomized ABCSCG 34 Trial" received attention at ASCO in Chicago. Daniel Egle supplemented this with a poster at ASCO on "Association of ctDNA in patients with long-term outcome of breast cancer patients undergoing neoadjuvant treatment in the randomized ABCSCG 34 clinical trial".



Poster@ASCO - Dr Daniel Egle, Prof Michael Gnant, Prof Christian Singer

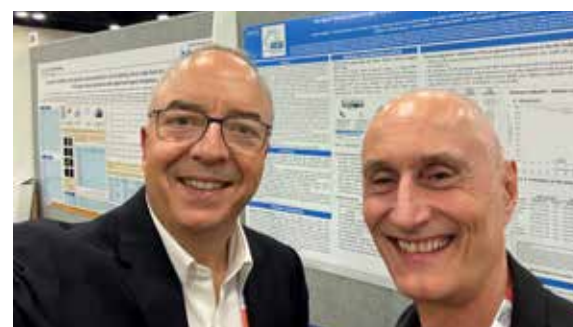
Finally, another ABCSCG 34 trial poster entitled "Immune activation of tumor cells and microenvironment as assessed by PD-L1 expression and interferon gamma signalling predict long term disease-free and overall survival: Results of the prospective randomized neoadjuvant ABCSCG 34 trial" was presented by Ulrike Heber at SABCS in San Antonio. These well-received (sub study) results of a trial with its immunotherapy already long completed, showed that persistence and academic interest in gaining long-term follow-up data of (neo)adjuvant studies can lead to remarkable observations in the interest of generating new knowledge.



Poster@SABCS - Ulrike M. Heber

The long-standing impact of the **ABCSCG 42 / PALLAS** trial was highlighted at ASCO with key presentations by Otto Metzger and Angela DeMichele on the trial's contribution to advancing knowledge of endocrine therapy sensitivity and stage-specific outcomes.

Our translational research collaboration with Cepheid resulted in a poster presentation at SABCS by Martin Filipits on the predictive capabilities of the Xpert® Breast Cancer Insight assay in assessing distant recurrence and overall survival in oestrogen receptor-positive, HER2-negative early breast cancer, validating data from the **ABCSCG 8** study.



Poster@SABCS - Prof Michael Gnant, Prof Martin Filipits

In addition to conference presentations, ABCSCG investigators made significant methodological contributions by publishing our studies in the most prestigious scientific journals. These include Eva Valentina Klocker's work on next-generation sequencing-based ctDNA analysis in *Molecular Oncology* (<https://doi.org/10.1002/1878-0261.13671>), Kerstin Wimmer's analysis of the CTS5 tool in *Breast Cancer Research and Treatment* (<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10549-023-07186-6>), Andreas Gleiss' research on statistical modelling in the *Biometrical Journal* (<https://doi.org/10.1002/bimj.202300140>), Dominik Hlauschek's analysis of standardised efficacy endpoint definitions for adjuvant trials in *JAMA* (<https://doi.org/10.1001/jamaoncol.2024.3888>), and Michael Gnant's article on the future of clinical trials in the *Magazine of European Medical Oncology* (<https://doi.org/10.1007/s12254-024-00969-7>), to name a few.

Beyond the 19 high-impact publications in 2024, ABCSCG extended its audience through more than 70 articles in popular science magazines. Our collaboration with the Austrian Cancer Aid to co-publish *krebs:hilfe!* magazine and our contributions to *Dialog Darm* on colorectal cancer further strengthened our commitment to public outreach.

Operational developments and international clinical research

Operationally, 2024 was also a year of significant progress. The transition of ABCSCG 42 / PALLAS, ABCSCG 45 and ABCSCG 52 / ATHENE to the EU Clinical Trials Information System (CTIS) was seamless and timely, ensuring compliance with evolving regulatory requirements. The two CAMBRIA studies (ABCSCG 60 and 62) were launched with remarkable success, achieving impressive recruitment figures in Austria and solidifying our reputation as a key player in international clinical research. Our "Transparency Model" has proven beneficial in CAMBRIA-2, leading to enhanced data quality and strong statistical expertise. Preparations for new ABCSCG study protocols such as ABCSCG 61 / TEODOR, ABCSCG 63 / ERIKA, ABCSCG 64 / neoGRACE, as well as a joint EU collaboration (ABCSCG 65 / DEFINITIVE) progressed in 2024, setting the stage for these important studies to start in 2025.

Commitment to education and scientific exchange

Education and knowledge sharing remained a cornerstone of ABCSCG's mission in 2024. We organised a total of eight CME-accredited educational events, offering both national and international programmes via on-site and digital formats. Attendance at our on-site events reached record levels, underlining the strong demand for high-quality continuing medical education. These initiatives foster interdisciplinary collaboration and ensure effective dissemination of the latest research findings to the medical community. Internationally, the CDK4/6 inhibitor webinar attracted participants from 15 countries, reflecting the global interest in our educational efforts. Importantly, our initiatives target not only breast cancer specialists but referring physicians and young medical professionals as well. This year, dedicated sessions at the Annual Meeting even gave young investigators the opportunity to present our ongoing recruiting studies, interact with experts, and explore future collaborations.

ABCSCG's participation in charity events: running for a cause

In addition to research and education, ABCSCG team members from the trial office actively participated in charitable initiatives to support cancer research and promote health awareness. A major highlight was our participation in the 18th Medical University of Vienna Cancer Research Run, where our team helped raise funds for cancer research projects. In addition to the Cancer Research Run, we also participated in the Vienna Night Run and set a new record with four relay teams in the Vienna City Marathon, highlighting the importance of physical activity in cancer prevention and overall well-being.



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