



under the aegis of  
**Mumbai Hematology Group**



# **The Treatment of Relapsed or Refractory Follicular Lymphoma**

Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> Feb 2026  
11.30 am (IST) Italian time: 7.00 am



## **Speaker**

**Dr. Michele Merli, M.D.**

Clinical assistant  
Head, Indolent Lymphomas Unit  
Division of Hematology  
The “Fondazione IRCCS Ca’ Granda,  
Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico”  
Milan, Italy



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# Guest Speaker



## Dr. Michele Merli, M.D.

Clinical assistant  
Head, Indolent Lymphomas Unit  
Division of Hematology  
The “Fondazione IRCCS Ca’ Granda,  
Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico”  
Milan, Italy

### University Education

- Dr. Merli graduated in Medicine and Surgery from the University of Pavia, Italy (2005).
- He received his Postgraduate Diploma in Hematology from the University of Pavia, Italy (2009).

### Clinical Activities

- Clinical assistant at the Division of Hematology of the “Fondazione IRCCS Policlinico San Matteo” in Pavia, Italy (2009-10).
- Clinical assistant at the Division of Hematology at University Hospital “Ospedale di Circolo e Fondazione Macchi” in Varese, Italy. He served as head of the outpatient Onco-Hematology service (2011-2023). He was appointed as Vice director, Division of Hematology since October 2019.
- Since October 2023, to date, he held the position of clinical assistant at the Division of Hematology of the “Fondazione IRCCS Ca’ Granda, Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico” in Milan, Italy, as head of the indolent lymphomas Unit.

### Scientific Activity

- His main areas of scientific activity include the diagnostic, prognostic, and therapeutic aspects of non-Hodgkin's lymphomas (NHL).
- In particular, he participated in the development and validation of new prognostic models in NHL, such as FLIPI2 in follicular lymphomas (BJH 2010), Hepatitis C Prognostic score (HPS) in HCV-positive diffuse large B-cell lymphomas (Haematologica 2014), POD24 in marginal-zone lymphomas (Blood 2019) and MZL-IPI (ICML 2023).





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- He coordinated many studies on the relationship between chronic hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection and indolent lymphomas and DLBCL, with a special focus on the impact of the new direct-acting anti-HCV antivirals (DAA) drugs in patients with HCV-positive DLBCL.
- In 2022, he published on behalf of the Fondazione Italiana Linfomi (FIL) the results of the first prospective study on the use of DAAs as first-line curative therapy in patients with HCV-positive indolent lymphomas (BArT study, JCO 2022).
- He participated in pivotal phase II-III clinical trials of new targeted, chemo-free drugs for the personalized treatment of B-cell lymphoid neoplasms, such as PI3K inhibitors (Duvelisib), BTK-inhibitors (Ibrutinib, Zanubrutinib, Pirtobrutinib) and anti-CD20xCD3 bispecific antibodies (Odrionextamab, Epcoritamab, Mosunetuzumab).
- Finally he is the coordinating Principal Investigator in a prospective nationwide study of the FIL evaluating prospectively the activity and the persistence of COVID-19, VZV and childhood vaccines in patients with follicular lymphoma undergoing immunochemotherapy and anti-CD20 maintenance (FIL\_FollVax22, NCT06070961).
- He coordinated a multidisciplinary group of hematologists, immunologists and infectious diseases specialists on behalf of the FIL “long-survivors, comorbidities, and quality of life committee in a project evaluating the activity of vaccines in patients with lymphoma, which has been published in the British Journal of Hematology.

### **Participation In Research Groups**

- He is a founding member of the Fondazione Italiana Linfomi (FIL) and is a member of the board of the indolent lymphoma committee.
- In 2024, he was appointed representative of the FIL in the International Extranodal Lymphoma Research Group (IELSG).

### **Publications**

- He is the author of 100 research articles in indexed journals, including the Journal of Clinical Oncology, Blood, Haematologica, Annals of Oncology, Blood Advances, Clinical Cancer Research, American Journal of Hematology, the Oncologist, British Journal of Hematology.



# Chief Guest

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## Dr. Parathan Karunakaran

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MD, DM

Associate Professor

Department of Medical Oncology

Cancer Institute WIA

Adyar, Chennai

- MD Internal Medicine from PGIMER, Chandigarh (2009)
- DM Clinical Hematology from PGIMER, Chandigarh (2014)

### Areas of academic interest

- Lymphoid malignancies, Chronic Myeloid Leukemia, Allogeneic stem cell transplantation



# Scientific Agenda



Welcome note and introduction of guest speaker

**Dr. Amit Khurana, Surat**

Guest lecture

Subject: **The treatment of relapsed or refractory follicular lymphoma**

Speaker: **Dr. Michele Merli, Milan, Italy**

Interactive session with Indian discussants

Moderator: **Dr. Amit Khurana, Surat**

Discussants: **Dr. Aamer Shreef, Basra**  
**Dr. Akshaya Mandloi, Mumbai**  
**Dr. Amit Galgali, Bengaluru**  
**Dr. Ankur Ahuja, Pune**  
**Dr. Avinash Kumar Singh, Patna**  
**Dr. Chirag Trivedi, Ludhiana**  
**Dr. Deep Gala, Mumbai**  
**Dr. Deepak M B, Bengaluru**  
**Dr. Disha Satya, Jaipur**  
**Dr. Divya Manohar, Chennai**  
**Dr. Geeta Vidyadharan, Kochi**  
**Dr. Gopinathan M, Chennai**  
**Dr. Gurpreet Kaur, Kolkata**  
**Dr. Jai Juvekar, Mumbai**  
**Dr. Kripa Bajaj, Hyderabad**  
**Dr. Kunal Goyal, Mumbai**  
**Dr. Mallikarjun Kalashetty, Bengaluru**  
**Dr. Mindaugas Jurgutis, Klaipėda**  
**Dr. Mohd. Taha Ali Khan, Hyderabad**  
**Dr. Mohiuddin Ahmed Khan, Dhaka**  
**Dr. Mounika Chennareddy, Bengaluru**  
**Dr. Muralidaran C, Mumbai**  
**Dr. Nakul Tikare, Goa**  
**Dr. Nidhi Dikshit, Kolkata**  
**Dr. Poojitha Reddy, Hyderabad**  
**Dr. Pradeep Sharma, Dhaka**  
**Dr. Prerna Chautmal, Mumbai**  
**Dr. R. Prasanna, Tiruchirapalli**



# Scientific Agenda

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Discussants;

**Dr. Rajeev Sandal, Shimla**  
**Dr. Rizwan Akhtar, Lucknow**  
**Dr. Roshni Pande, Jabalpur**  
**Dr. Shilpa Gupta, Mumbai**  
**Dr. Shilpi Saxena, Panchkula**  
**Dr. Shubhangi Agale, Mumbai**  
**Dr. Shweta Pathak, Jabalpur**  
**Dr. Sudarshan Pandit, Nashik**  
**Dr. T. Ramadevi, Ahmedabad**  
**Dr. Tushar Sehgal, Delhi**  
**Dr. Upendra Sharma, Jaipur**  
**Dr. Yi Mon Thant, Myanmar**

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Vote of thanks

**Dr. Amit Khurana, Surat**



# Registration Link

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**Click on below link to register:**

**<https://forms.gle/bTzanfkGg9Z4imxS6>**

All registered delegates will receive the attendee joining link on your registered email id. You may also visit our website [www.mhgindia.com](http://www.mhgindia.com)

Please send your queries related to the webinar on [kalpesh@perfectsquare.co.in](mailto:kalpesh@perfectsquare.co.in).

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Hematology Centre, Ghamat Lodge,  
804-A, Dr. B. Ambedkar Road,  
Dadar TT, Mumbai 400014.  
Email ID: [mbagarwal1@gmail.com](mailto:mbagarwal1@gmail.com)

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