

PROJECT ABSTRACTS – PHD CALL: APRIL 2026

a. Laboratory of Methodology for Clinical Research, Department of Clinical Oncology

Area of Research: Determinants of Immunotherapy Outcomes in Gynecological Cancers

Immune-checkpoint inhibitors targeting PD-1/PD-L1 have improved outcomes in advanced endometrial cancer, particularly in MMRd/MSI patients, and are now part of clinical practice. AtTEnd is an international, academic, phase III trial, sponsored by the Mario Negri Institute, investigating the addition of atezolizumab to standard platinum-based chemotherapy in patients with advanced or recurrent endometrial carcinoma.

This project aims to contextualize AtTEnd results within the current therapeutic landscape and to identify determinants of immunotherapy efficacy and toxicity by integrating host-related factors (clinical and tumor characteristics), systemic immune response, and treatment exposures.

The analysis will leverage a database of 549 patients with detailed clinical, laboratory, and treatment data, enabling identification of predictors of response and toxicity, including interactions with concomitant therapies. Pooled analyses with international European Network of Gynaecological Oncological Trial groups (ENGOT) studies will validate findings, increase statistical power, and allow assessment of rare adverse events, enhancing robustness and generalizability. Furthermore, it will provide the opportunity to explore whether the associations observed in our study are agent-specific or tumor-specific.

Preferred academic and scientific backgrounds: Degree in a scientific field, preferably in pharmacology/pharmacy or a related discipline. Preferred expertise includes pharmacovigilance and experience in adverse event management and knowledge of clinical trial methodology.