

NZHPA Education Grant Report 2026

Heena Solanki

Expert Medical Oncology Pharmacist

Te Whatu Ora-Capital, Coast and Hutt Valley

Email: heena.solanki@ccdhb.org.nz

I attended the **World Conference on Lung Cancer (WCLC 2026)** hosted by [International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer \(IASLC\)](#) from September 12–15, 2026, in **Seoul, South Korea** at the COEX Convention & Exhibition Center (Gangnam) this year.

There were over 5,700 international delegates and 1,677 abstracts at the conference.

Key focus was thoracic oncology, featuring advances in non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), small cell lung cancer (SCLC), targeted therapies, antibody-drug conjugates (ADCs), and immunotherapy resistance.

Some key highlights were:

Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC): Featured major clinical updates, including frontline antibody-drug conjugate (ADC) trials like the Phase 3 DESTINY-Lung04 trial evaluating Enhertu (trastuzumab deruxtecan) in HER2-mutant NSCLC.

Small Cell Lung Cancer (SCLC): Highlighted shifts in the SCLC therapeutic landscape, such as pragmatic trials comparing MRI follow-ups versus prophylactic cranial irradiation (PCI) and new data on second-line ADC therapies over standard chemotherapy.

The collaboration brought together a diverse group of clinical and non-clinical health professionals, including representatives from allied health, clinical trials, biotechnology engineering, clinical nursing specialists and medical doctors from respiratory, medical oncology, public health screening, and cardiothoracic backgrounds—worked cohesively toward the shared goal of enhancing patient outcomes and experiences.

Networking with colleagues—including approximately 20 attendees from Auckland, Hamilton, Wellington, Christchurch, and Dunedin, as well as international participants—proved valuable. The plenary sessions provided useful daily highlights, and the poster sessions inspired innovative concepts from international contexts.

Next Meeting: The IASLC announced that **WCLC 2027** will take place from **September 11–14, 2027**, in **Denver, Colorado, USA**.

