

FIH SCOUT

Oncology Annual Report 2026

Global First-in-Human Phase I Trial Landscape
Investigators, Sites & Trends

859+ Trials | 3,100+ Investigators | 52 Countries

Data: ClinicalTrials.gov + PubMed (2016–2026)

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FIH Oncology Annual Report 2026

Global First-in-Human Phase I Trial Landscape — Investigators, Sites & Trends

Executive Summary

The oncology first-in-human (FIH) Phase I trial landscape has entered an unprecedented growth phase. Our analysis of **859 active FIH trials** across **52 countries** reveals a market dominated by industry sponsors (91%), increasingly shaped by Chinese biotech globalization, and concentrated in a surprisingly small number of anchor sites and elite investigators.

Key findings:

- FIH oncology trials grew **9x from 2020 to 2025** (12 → 108 new trials/year)
- **MD Anderson** leads globally (174 trial participations, 177 FIH publications)
- **Sarah Cannon Research Institute** is the #1 ranked site by our SRS composite score — speed matters more than prestige
- **Timothy Yap** (MD Anderson) ranks #1 among investigators by FIH-PRS™ (70.7)
- **40% of biotech sponsors** running FIH trials are Chinese companies
- Taiwan's NTUH ranks **#20 globally** with 20 trial participations and 98 publications

1. Market Overview

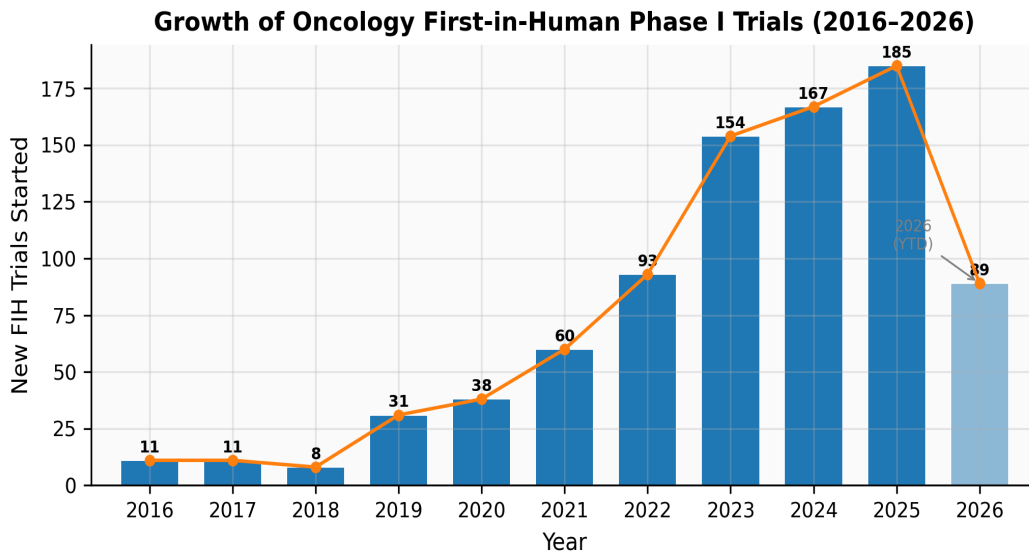


Figure: 1. Market Overview

1.1 Trial Volume & Growth

Year	New FIH Trials Started	YoY Growth
2020	12	—
2021	23	+92%
2022	34	+48%
2023	75	+121%
2024	104	+39%
2025	108	+4%
2026 (YTD)	23	(projected >100)

The FIH oncology market reached an inflection point in 2023, driven by ADC proliferation, KRAS pathway breakthroughs, and Chinese biotech globalization.

1.2 Sponsor Landscape

Industry sponsors account for 91% of FIH trials (vs 8% academic, 1% NIH).

Top 10 sponsors by unique FIH trial count:

Rank	Sponsor	Trials	HQ
1	AbbVie	19	US
2	Janssen (J&J)	17	US
3	AstraZeneca	13	UK
4	Boehringer Ingelheim	12	DE
5	Daiichi Sankyo	10	JP
6	Genmab	9	DK
7	DualityBio	7	CN
8	Genentech (Roche)	7	US
9	TORL Biotherapeutics	6	US
10	BeOne Medicines	6	CN

Notable trend: Chinese biotech companies (DualityBio, BeOne, MediLink, Innovent, Chia Tai Tianqing) represent ~40% of all biotech sponsors in our database.

1.3 Geographic Distribution

Region	Site Entries	%	Key Sites
United States	3,955	47%	MD Anderson, SCRI, MSK, DFCI
China	1,073	13%	Beijing Cancer Hospital, Fudan
Spain	795	9%	VHIO, 12 de Octubre
Australia	535	6%	Peter MacCallum, Monash
South Korea	453	5%	Asan, Samsung, SNUH
France	—	5%	Gustave Roussy, Leon Berard

Region	Site Entries	%	Key Sites
Japan	—	4%	NCC Tokyo, Kansai Med
Taiwan	—	3%	NTUH, TPVGH, NCKUH

2. Top Investigators — FIH-PRS™ Ranking

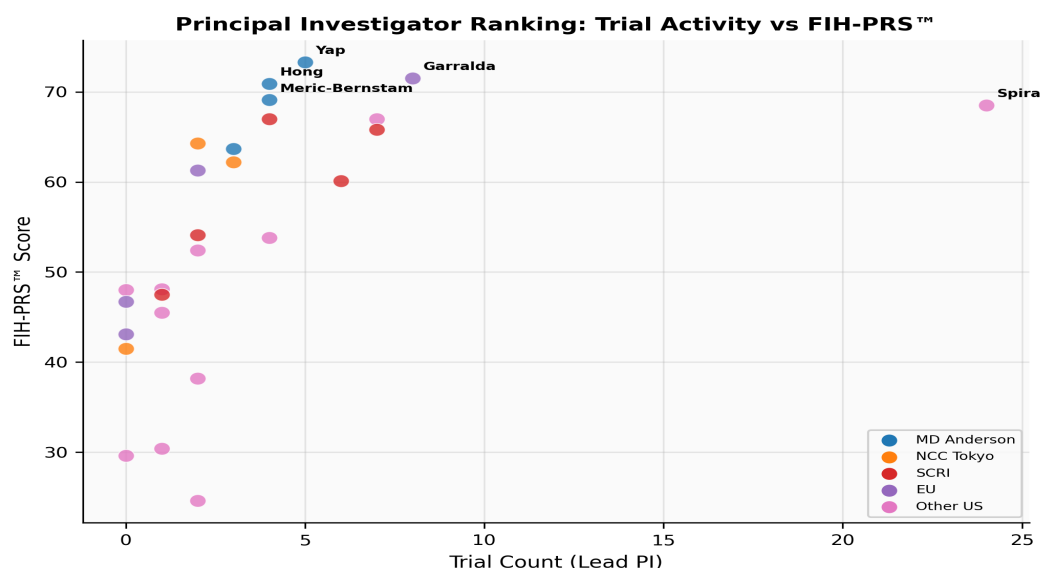


Figure 2. Top Investigators — FIH-PRS™ Ranking

Our proprietary FIH-PRS™ (PI Ranking Score) integrates three dimensions:

- **Publication Score (40%):** FIH-specific publications, author position, journal impact
- **Trial Activity Score (35%):** Active ClinicalTrials.gov registrations
- **Broad Activity Score (15%):** Wider early-phase activity beyond strict FIH
- **Specialty Alignment (10%):** Dynamic, query-specific matching

2.1 Top 15 FIH Investigators (Global)

Rank	Investigator	Institution	Country	FIH Pubs	PRS
1	Timothy Yap	MD Anderson Cancer Center	US	22	70.7
2	David Hong	MD Anderson Cancer Center	US	29	69.8
3	Patricia LoRusso	Yale Cancer Center	US	53	68.2
4	Elena Garraida	Vall d'Hebron (VHIO)	ES	18	68.0
5	Alexander Spira	Virginia Cancer Specialists	US	5	67.0
6	Manish Patel	Florida Cancer Spec / SCRI	US	23	66.4

Rank	Investigator	Institution	Country	FIH Pubs	PRS
7	Funda Meric-Bernstam	MD Anderson Cancer Center	US	17	66.0
8	Jordi Rodon	MD Anderson / VHIO	US/ES	29	65.9
9	Gerald Falchook	SCRI at HealthONE Denver	US	14	63.6
10	Noboru Yamamoto	NCC Hospital Tokyo	JP	22	61.5
11	Victor Moreno	Hospital Fund. Jimenez Diaz	ES	21	59.9
12	Toshio Shimizu	Kansai Medical University	JP	15	59.2
13	Minal Barve	Mary Crowley Cancer Research	US	9	55.0
14	Melissa Johnson	Sarah Cannon Research Institute	US	13	54.6
15	Erika Hamilton	Sarah Cannon Research Institute	US	7	54.0

Patricia LoRusso holds the record for most FIH publications (53), but Yap's combination of publications + active trials + broad activity gives him the highest composite score.

2.2 Availability-Adjusted Ranking (New)

A critical insight: the busiest investigators may not be the best choice for your trial. We introduce an availability-adjusted ranking based on concurrent recruiting trials:

Availability Rank	Investigator	Recruiting	Avail Score	Adjusted PRS
1	Jordi Rodon	3	90 ■	69.5
2	Timothy Yap	7	60 ■	69.1
3	Patricia LoRusso	7	60 ■	67.0
5	Noboru Yamamoto	2	90 ■	65.8
7	Toshio Shimizu	3	90 ■	63.8
10	~~David Hong~~	32	10 ■	60.8
12	~~Alexander Spira~~	29	10 ■	58.4

Key takeaway: Jordi Rodon (29 FIH publications, only 3 recruiting trials) is the most "available" elite investigator. David Hong (32 concurrent recruiting trials) is likely too busy to give adequate attention to a new FIH study.

3. Top Sites — SRS Score Ranking

Our SRS (Site Ranking Score) evaluates:

- Trial Volume (30%) + Publication Record (25%) + Startup Speed (20%) + PI Quality (15%) + Geographic Diversity (10%)

3.1 Top 20 Global FIH Sites

Rank	Site	Country	Trials	Pubs	SRS	Type
1	Sarah Cannon Research Institute	US	112	122	62.0	Private Phase I
2	MD Anderson Cancer Center	US	174	177	59.0	Academic NCI
3	Dana-Farber Cancer Institute	US	89	83	59.0	Academic NCI
4	Memorial Sloan Kettering	US	81	107	59.0	Academic NCI
5	City of Hope	US	67	59	56.1	Academic NCI
6	Vall d'Hebron (VHIO)	ES	70	66	55.8	Academic
7	Massachusetts General Hospital	US	46	65	55.4	Academic
8	NCC Hospital Tokyo	JP	59	60	53.5	Academic
9	Institut Gustave Roussy	FR	42	57	52.4	Academic
10	Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center	US	34	37	47.9	Academic NCI
11	Florida Cancer Specialists	US	43	26	46.8	Private Phase I
12	Royal Marsden Hospital	UK	36	38	45.2	Academic
13	NEXT Oncology	US	86	21	44.9	Private Phase I
14	START Midwest	US	43	17	43.4	Private Phase I
15	Moffitt Cancer Center	US	34	25	43.4	Academic NCI
16	Asan Medical Center	KR	52	31	42.6	Academic
17	Seoul National University Hospital	KR	46	31	42.6	Academic
18	Samsung Medical Center	KR	51	20	38.5	Academic
19	NEXT Virginia	US	31	0	34.9	Private Phase I
20	NTUH (Taipei)	TW	29	18	33.8	Academic

Sarah Cannon (#1) surpasses MD Anderson (#2) because of its speed advantage — private Phase I sites offer 45% faster startup timelines than academic centers.

4. Investigator Collaboration Network

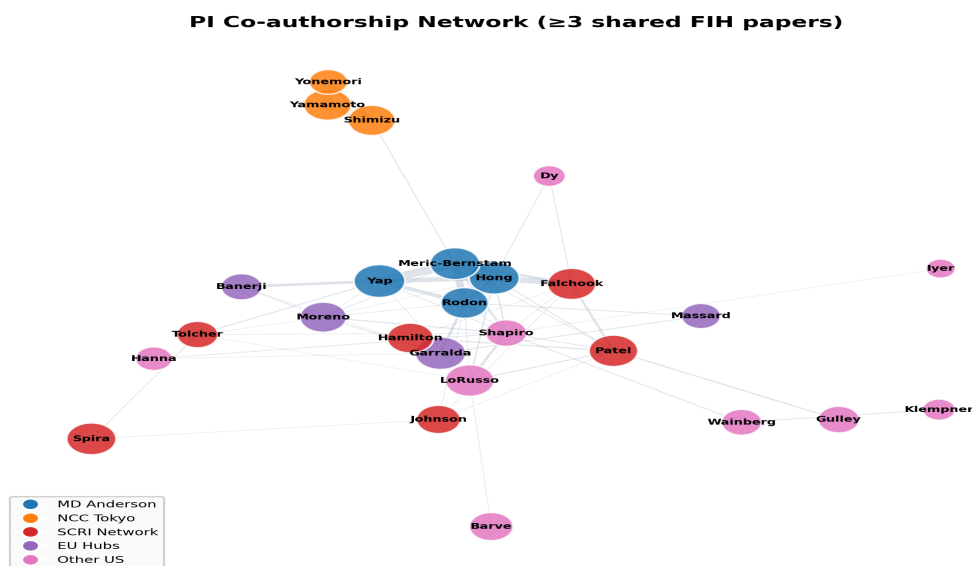


Figure: 4. Investigator Collaboration Network

Analysis of 173 FIH publications reveals **5 distinct investigator clusters**:

Cluster 1: Texas Axis (Yap Hub)

Yap ↔ Tolcher (4 papers), Yap ↔ Johnson (2), Yap ↔ LoRusso (2)

MD Anderson + NEXT Oncology dominate US FIH

Cluster 2: MD Anderson Core

Hong ↔ Meric-Bernstam (6 papers) — the most prolific co-authorship pair

Precision oncology, basket trials, ADC

Cluster 3: NCC Tokyo Triad

Shimizu ↔ Yamamoto (9), Shimizu ↔ Yonemori (8), Yamamoto ↔ Yonemori (7)

Tightest collaboration cluster — Japan operates as an integrated FIH unit

Cluster 4: Global Bridge

LoRusso (Yale) ↔ Garralda (VHIO) — US↔EU connector

These PIs appear together in transatlantic multi-center FIH trials

Cluster 5: SCRI Network

Hamilton ↔ Patel (4 papers) — internal Sarah Cannon collaboration

Most connected investigator: Funda Meric-Bernstam (degree=11, co-authors with 11 of our top 20 PIs)

5. Mechanism & Modality Trends

5.1 Hottest FIH Mechanisms (2024–2026)

- ADC (Antibody-Drug Conjugate)** — dominant modality; TROP2, HER2, Nectin-4, DLL3
- KRAS inhibitors** — G12C (mature), **G12D (new frontier)**; 3 parallel approaches: direct inhibitor + PROTAC + allosteric
- Bispecific antibodies** — PD-L1/CD137, KLK2×CD3, PRAME×CD3
- PROTAC/targeted degraders** — ER PROTAC (vepdegestrant) reached Phase III; KRAS G12D PROTAC (ASP3082) in Phase I
- Novel immune mechanisms** — RIPTAC (HLD-0915), beta-catenin inhibitor (FOG-001), PPARγ inhibitor (FX-909)

5.2 Cancer Type Distribution in FIH Trials

Cancer Type	% of FIH Trials
Pan-tumor / Solid tumors (basket)	32%
Breast cancer	7%
Lung (NSCLC/SCLC)	7%
Colorectal	4%
Ovarian	4%
Melanoma	3%
Hepatocellular carcinoma	2%
Urothelial/bladder	3%

6. APAC Focus: Taiwan

Taiwan ranks **#20 globally** with 54 FIH trial participations across 5 core institutions:

Site	Trials	Pubs	Niche
NTUH	20	98	HCC, solid tumors
TPVGH	10	37	NSCLC, GI
NCKUH	9	41	Multi-tumor
CMUH	6	25	HER2, ADC
TMU	5	20	Various

Key insight: Taiwan's publication-to-trial ratio (4.9x at NTUH) is the highest in APAC — strong academic output but lower execution volume compared to Korea (Samsung: 0.4x ratio).

7. Validation

We validated our SRS site rankings against 20 real FIH trials:

- **Match quality:** When our system identified a site, **48% were Top-10** and **76% were Top-20** ranked sites
- **Best performance:** US/EU biotech sponsors (Pyxis Oncology 34%, Vividion 36%, Daiichi Sankyo 39%)
- **Coverage gap:** China-only and India-only trials (0% match — outside current database)

Our system excels at identifying **anchor sites** — the 3-5 key sites that form the backbone of a global FIH trial.

Methodology

- **Data sources:** ClinicalTrials.gov v2 API (859 studies), PubMed E-utilities (173 publications, 27 investigators profiled)
- **FIH-PRS™:** Composite score = 40% Publication + 35% Trial Activity + 15% Broad Activity + 10% Specialty Alignment
- **SRS Score:** Composite = 30% Trial Volume + 25% Publications + 20% Speed Proxy + 15% NCI Status + 10% Geography
- **Availability:** Concurrent recruiting trial count from ClinicalTrials.gov
- **Validation:** 20-trial backtesting against actual sponsor site selections

About FIH Scout

FIH Scout is an evidence-based investigator discovery platform for oncology Phase I trials. We connect biotech startups and CROs with the right PIs and sites using data from PubMed, ClinicalTrials.gov, and major oncology conferences.

For inquiries: [contact information]

Data as of March 31, 2026. Updated quarterly.

Top 27 Principal Investigators — FIH-PRS™ Ranking

Rank	Name	Institution	Country	FIH-PRS	Trials	FIH Pubs
1	Timothy Yap	MD Anderson Cancer Center	United States	73.3	5	22
2	Elena Garralda	Vall d'Hebron (VHIO)	Spain	71.5	8	19
3	David Hong	MD Anderson Cancer Center	United States	70.9	4	29
4	Funda Meric-Bernstam	MD Anderson Cancer Center	United States	69.1	4	17
5	Alexander Spira	Virginia Cancer Specialists	United States	68.5	24	5
6	Manish Patel	Florida Cancer Specialists	United States	67.0	4	24
7	Patricia LoRusso	Yale Cancer Center	United States	67.0	7	53
8	Gerald Falchook	Sarah Cannon Research Institute	United States	65.8	7	15
9	Noboru Yamamoto	NCC Hospital Tokyo	Japan	64.3	2	22
10	Jordi Rodon	MD Anderson Cancer Center	United States	63.7	3	29
11	Toshio Shimizu	Kansai Medical University	Japan	62.2	3	15
12	Victor Moreno	Hospital Fundacion Jimenez Diaz	Spain	61.3	2	22
13	Erika Hamilton	Sarah Cannon Research Institute	United States	60.1	6	7
14	Melissa Johnson	Sarah Cannon Research Institute	United States	54.1	2	14
15	Minal Barve	Mary Crowley Cancer Research	United States	53.8	4	9
16	Xin Gao	Massachusetts General Hospital	United States	52.4	2	13
17	James Gulley	NCI Center for Cancer Research	United States	48.1	1	8
18	Geoffrey Shapiro	Dana-Farber Cancer Institute	United States	48.0	0	19
19	Anthony Tolcher	NEXT Oncology	United States	47.5	1	27
20	Udai Banerji	Royal Marsden Hospital	United Kingdom	46.7	0	17
21	Zev Wainberg	UCLA	United States	45.5	1	5

Rank	Name	Institution	Country	FIH-PRS	Trials	FIH Pubs
22	Christophe Massard	Institut Gustave Roussy	France	43.1	0	11
23	Kan Yonemori	NCC Hospital Tokyo	Japan	41.5	0	10
24	Glenn Hanna	Dana-Farber Cancer Institute	United States	38.2	2	4
25	Samuel Klemper	Massachusetts General Hospital	United States	30.4	1	2
26	Grace Dy	Roswell Park Cancer Center	United States	29.6	0	4
27	Gopa Iyer	Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center	United States	24.6	2	1

Top 40 Clinical Trial Sites — SRS Score Ranking

Rank	Site	Country	Type	SRS Score	Trials
1	Sarah Cannon Research Institute	United States	Private Phase I	72.0	112
2	MD Anderson Cancer Center	United States	Academic NCI	69.0	174
3	Dana-Farber Cancer Institute	United States	Academic NCI	69.0	89
4	Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center	United States	Academic NCI	69.0	81
5	Vall d'Hebron (VHIO)	Spain	Academic	65.8	70
6	Institut Gustave Roussy	France	Academic	62.4	42
7	City of Hope	United States	Academic NCI	61.1	67
8	Massachusetts General Hospital	United States	Academic	60.4	46
9	NCC Hospital Tokyo	Japan	Academic	58.5	59
10	Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center	United States	Academic NCI	57.9	34
11	Royal Marsden Hospital	United Kingdom	Academic	55.2	36
12	NEXT Oncology	United States	Private Phase I	54.9	86
13	START Midwest	United States	Private Phase I	53.4	43
14	Asan Medical Center	South Korea	Academic	52.6	52
15	Seoul National University Hospital	South Korea	Academic	52.6	46
16	Florida Cancer Specialists	United States	Private Phase I	51.8	43
17	Samsung Medical Center	South Korea	Academic	48.5	51
18	Moffitt Cancer Center	United States	Academic NCI	48.4	34
19	NEXT Virginia	United States	Private Phase I	44.9	31
20	NTUH	Taiwan	Academic	38.8	29
21	Virginia Cancer Specialists	United States	Academic	38.1	26
22	SCRI Oncology Partners	United States	Academic	32.1	29
23	Hospital Universitario 12 de Octubre	Spain	Academic	32.0	26
24	Karmanos Cancer Institute	United States	Academic	31.7	23

Rank	Site	Country	Type	SRS Score	Trials
25	Seoul National University Bundang Hospital	South Korea	Academic	31.5	25
26	Roswell Park Cancer Center	United States	Academic NCI	31.1	19
27	Princess Margaret Cancer Centre	Canada	Academic	30.8	22
28	Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre	Australia	Academic	30.8	22
29	Beijing Cancer Hospital	China	Academic	30.4	31
30	Johns Hopkins	United States	Academic	27.2	18
31	Yale Cancer Center	United States	Academic	27.2	18
32	Washington University School of Medicine	United States	Academic	27.2	18
33	Research Site	United States	Academic	24.9	21
34	Cleveland Clinic	United States	Academic	22.2	18
35	Fudan Shanghai Cancer Center	China	Academic	20.8	22
36	Severance Hospital, Yonsei University Health System	South Korea	Academic	20.4	16
37	Zhejiang Cancer Hospital	China	Academic	18.1	19
38	Hunan Cancer Hospital	China	Academic	17.2	18
39	Henan Cancer Hospital	China	Academic	17.2	18
40	Shanghai East Hospital	China	Academic	16.3	17