

PIANOFORTE travel grant ECR activity report

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Oral presentation at the PMBT workshop 2026

Thanks to the Pianoforte Travel Grant, I was able to attend the 4th International Particle Minibeam Radiotherapy (PMBT) Workshop 2026 in Pisa, Italy. The PMBT workshop aims to facilitating debates, knowledge sharing and provides a platform for focusing and accelerating the spatially fractionated radiotherapy field towards clinical transition.

At the workshop, I presented the study entitled „Minibeam and FLASH radiotherapy: comparison, combination, synergy“ in Session V: Minibeam and FLASH radiotherapy. This presentation highlighted the use of homogenous PTV dose for minibeam studies to enable dose-response comparisons both within minibeam studies and across studies of minibeam and FLASH. Thus, the presentation worked as an example for use of the Pianoforte-supported PRESTO project. Furthermore, limitations of the study assay sparked a debate on how to interpret heterogenous tissue responses, and how to compare tissue responses overall, a debate that continued in the following general discussion.

Apart from the debates sparked by my own data, I learned a lot about the complexities in the physics behind producing a minibeam with adequate peak and valley doses, and participated in discussions on how modelling work could drive biological experiments and vice versa. The workshop held space for a lot of networking, and I learned a lot by listening to others experience.

Overall, I am grateful for the Pianoforte Travel grant to attend PMBT 2026, as the enriching experience gave both insightful feedback to my future work in minibeam, as well as establishing meaningful professional connections that will surely be useful in my future work in spatially fractionated radiobiology.