



15th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LUPUS ACADEMY
Meeting Book

Annual Meeting (Bratislava and Online)
3–5th September 2026

Welcome

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Welcome to the 15th Annual Meeting of the Lupus Academy.

We are truly delighted to welcome you to Bratislava for three inspiring days of shared learning, new discoveries, and meaningful connection in lupus education. This year's meeting has been thoughtfully designed to deepen your knowledge and offer practical clinical and research insights that support better outcomes for people living with lupus.

At the Lupus Academy, we are committed to providing high-quality education and practical tools that help improve patient care through both live meetings and online resources. This year's programme brings together a vibrant blend of leading-edge scientific presentations, interactive workshops grounded in clinical practice, and valuable opportunities to connect with experts, clinicians, and scientists from around the world. From 3–5th September, you will be able to take part in plenary sessions, workshops, poster discussions, and more. A selection of sessions will also be broadcast live online, and recordings of all presentations will be available following the meeting so you can revisit key moments and make the most of your meeting experience.

Developed with the support of our renowned international steering committee, this year's programme is intended to spark fresh ideas, enrich your daily practice, and renew your commitment to advancing lupus care. Whether you are joining us in person or online, we are grateful to have you with us and very much look forward to sharing the 15th Annual Meeting of the Lupus Academy with you.

The Lupus Academy co-Chairs

Andrea Doria

Lupus Academy co-Chair (2026)

Zahir Amoura

Lupus Academy co-Chair (2026)

The Lupus Academy Steering Committee

Eloisa Bonfá

Ricard Cervera

Maria Dall'Era

Thomas Dörner

Richard Furie

David Isenberg

Sandra Navarra

**Bernardo
Pons-Estel**

Murray Urowitz

Ronald van Vollenhoven

[†]The Lupus Academy is a long-term initiative dedicated to improving patient outcomes in SLE through an interactive educational forum dedicated to sharing best clinical practice through the dissemination and discussion of clinical and basic scientific research about SLE and allied diseases.



To participate in polling questions and to post your questions to the faculty, download the interactive voting app [Join at [slido.com #678487](https://slido.com/join/678487)]

Meeting Learning Objectives

The 15th Annual Meeting of the Lupus Academy programme will focus on current key issues in lupus clinical practice and is designed to facilitate improved understanding of these issues and their management through both presentations and shared clinical insights through case study workshops. At the end of the programme delegates should be able to:

- Debate the timing of biologic intervention, specifically whether early biologic treatment in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) is a clinical necessity or overemphasized in current practice.
- Recognize health inequalities in SLE from a global perspective and address how these impact patient outcomes.
- Implement shared decision-making models to improve the patient-physician collaboration in flare prevention and long-term care.
- Quantify cardiovascular risk in SLE patients and translate data into daily clinical practice to reduce morbidity.
- Identify evidence-based strategies for managing specific lupus manifestations through multidisciplinary perspectives, including:
 - Pediatric/Adolescent Lupus: Managing the transition from pediatric to adult care.
 - Lupus Nephritis: Defining success and utilizing urinary biomarkers.
 - Cutaneous Lupus: Managing skin-specific involvement.
 - Antiphospholipid Syndrome: Navigating diagnostic and treatment challenges.
 - Challenging Lupus: Multidisciplinary perspectives and collaboration.
- Analyse the role of targeted therapies, including biologics, small molecules, and the long-term (5-year) clinical experience of CAR-T cell therapy in SLE.
- Discuss SLE and flare prevention through physician and patient collaborations.
- Discuss the SLE patient pathway, from disease activity to deep remission.
- Identify determinants of disease severity and treatment resistance in SLE.
- Evaluate the application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the diagnosis, monitoring, and management of SLE.
- Discuss Omics data and its role in teaching clinicians about disease mechanisms and molecular signatures in SLE.
- Interpret urinary biomarkers in lupus nephritis.
- Define Immune Reset in the context of SLE and its implications for long-term remission.
- Assess the management of Sjögren's Syndrome, focusing on the diagnostic approaches and the efficacy of targeted therapies such as anti-CD40, JAK inhibitors, and anti-BAFF receptors.

Abstracts of the presentations are published in the official journal of the 15th Annual Meeting:



Continuing Medical Education



The 15th Annual Meeting of the Lupus Academy has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of Siyemi Europe and the Lupus Academy. Siyemi Europe is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

Siyemi Europe designates this live activity for a maximum of 14 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity..

Claiming Your CME Certificate

PLEASE NOTE: You will be able to claim your CME certificate from 9th September 2026.

Go to LupusCME.org to complete the evaluation and claim your CME Certificate of Attendance.

Sign in with your email address (the one you used to register for the meeting), if it is the first time you are entering the site you will be asked to register.

Disclosures

Financial disclosures of the speakers can be found with their biography on the meeting website. Neither the Lupus Academy planning staff, Julian Ball, Nicole Elzebroek, Eugene Pozniak, nor staff at Siyemi Europe, have any relevant financial relationships to disclose.

Commercial Support

This activity is supported by an independent educational grant from GSK.

Contents

Programme	5
Biographies	9
Notes	30

Programme

15TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LUPUS ACADEMY

3–5th September 2026,
Bratislava, Slovakia
Catch-up Content Available Online Until 31st December 2026
<http://www.lupus-academy.org/>

Thursday 3rd September 2026

OPENING SESSION (HYBRID)

CEST (UTC +2 Bratislava) 11:30–13:00 hours

PST (UTC +8 Manila) 17:30–19:00 hours

EDT (UTC -4 New York) 5:30 AM–7:00 AM

Moderators: Andrea Doria (Italy) & Zahir Amoura (France)		
11:30	Opening Remarks	<i>Andrea Doria (Italy)</i>
11:40	Debate	
	Early Biologic Treatment in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus: Necessary or Overemphasized? The matter of the debate Necessary? Overemphasized?	<i>Ricard Cervera (Spain)</i> <i>Mariele Gatto (Italy)</i> <i>Chris Wincup (UK)</i>
12:40	Q&A and Panel Discussion	
13:00	Lunch	

INDUSTRY-SPONSORED SYMPOSIUM* (HYBRID)

CEST (UTC +2 Bratislava) 14:00–15:00 hours

14:00–15:00	Bristol Myers Squibb Don't Miss the Window: Rethinking Disease Control to Treat-to-Target in SLE	<i>Andrea Doria (Italy) & Antonis Fanouriakis (Greece)</i>
15:00–15:30	Break	

KEYNOTES: NEW CHALLENGES IN THE MANAGEMENT OF SLE (HYBRID)

CEST (UTC +2 Bratislava) 15:30–17:30 hours

PST (UTC +8 Manila) 21:30–23:30 hours

EDT (UTC -4 New York) 9:30 AM–11:30 AM

Moderators: Ricard Cervera (Spain) & Sandra Navarra (Philippines)		
15:30	Health Inequalities in SLE: A Global Perspective	<i>Sandra Navarra (Philippines)</i>
15:50	Shared Decision Making in Lupus Care	<i>Johanna Mucke (Germany)</i>
16:10	What Defines Success in Lupus/Lupus Nephritis in 2026?	<i>Richard Furie (USA)</i>
16:30	How to Measure and Manage Cardiovascular Risk in SLE: From Data to Daily Clinical Practice	<i>Lévi-Dan Azoulay (France)</i>
16:50	Q&A and Panel Discussion	
17:30	Poster Tour 1*: Treatment	<i>Zahir Amoura (France) / Maria Dall'Era (USA)</i>
	Fishbowl Case 1*: Agnieszka Cieplucha (Poland)	<i>Sandra Navarra (Philippines)</i>
18:00	Poster Viewing* & Networking Walking Dinner	

*Not part of the accredited CME programme.

Friday 4th September 2026

CASE STUDY WORKSHOPS

CEST (UTC +2 Bratislava) 08:30–10:00 hours

Moderator: Murray Urowitz (Canada)		
08:30	Managing Transitions: Pediatric and Adolescent Lupus	Lovro Lamot (Croatia) & Coziana Ciurtin (UK)
Moderator: Richard Furie (USA)		
08:30	Managing Lupus Nephritis	Maria Dall'Era (USA) & Onno Teng (Netherlands)
Moderator: Andrea Doria (Italy)		
08:30	Managing Skin Lupus	Filippa Nyberg (Sweden) & Annegret Kuhn (Germany)
Moderator: Zahir Amoura (France)		
08:30	Managing Antiphospholipid Syndrome	Denis Wahl (France) & Ricard Cervera (Spain)
Moderator: David Isenberg (UK)		
08:30	Challenging Lupus: Multidisciplinary Perspectives	Raquel Faria (Portugal) & Sandra Navarra (Philippines)
10:00	Break	
	Poster Tour 2*: Epidemiology, Pediatric and Lupus Nephritis	Andrea Doria (Italy)
	Fishbowl Case 2*: Joanna Dmowska-Chalaba (Poland)	Ricard Cervera (Spain)

PLENARY I: TARGETED THERAPIES

CEST (UTC +2 Bratislava) 10:30–12:00 hours

Moderators: Murray Urowitz (Canada) & Ricard Cervera (Spain)		
10:30	Biologics: From RCTs to Clinical Practice	Ronald van Vollenhoven (Netherlands)
10:50	Small Molecules: New Players	David Isenberg (UK)
11:20	CAR-T: 5 Years of Clinical Experience	Melanie Hagen (Germany)
11:40	Q&A and Panel Discussion	
12:00	Lunch	

INDUSTRY-SPONSORED SYMPOSIUM* (HYBRID)

CEST (UTC +2 Bratislava) 13:00–14:00 hours

13:00–14:00	AstraZeneca Prioritising Remission and Organ Damage Prevention in SLE: Expert Perspectives from the Clinic	Peter Korsten (Germany) & Mariele Gatto (Italy)
14:00–14:30	Break	
	Poster Tour 3*: Lupus Manifestations and Diagnosis	Maria Dall'Era (USA) / Ronald van Vollenhoven (Netherlands)
	Fishbowl Case 3*: Jeanette Andersen (Denmark)	Richard Furie (USA)

*Not part of the accredited CME programme.

PLENARY II: NEW PERSPECTIVES ON LUPUS MANAGEMENT (HYBRID)

CEST (UTC +2 Bratislava) 14:30–16:00 hours

PST (UTC +8 Manila) 20:30–22:00 hours

EDT (UTC -4 New York) 8:30 AM–10:00 AM

Moderators: Ronald van Vollenhoven (Netherlands) & Andrea Doria (Italy)		
14:30	SLE and Flare Prevention: Physician and Patient Collaborations	<i>Luis Inês (Portugal)</i>
14:50	The Patient Pathway: From Disease Activity to Deep Remission	<i>Luca Iaccarino (Italy)</i>
15:10	Determinants of Disease Severity and Treatment Resistance in SLE	<i>George Bertsias (Greece)</i>
15:30	Artificial Intelligence and SLE	<i>Vincenzo Venerito (Italy)</i>
15:50	Q&A and Panel Discussion	
16:00	Break	

CASE STUDY WORKSHOPS

CEST (UTC +2 Bratislava) 16:30–18:00 hours

Moderator: Murray Urowitz (Canada)		
16:30	Managing Transitions: Pediatric and Adolescent Lupus	<i>Lovro Lamot (Croatia) & Coziana Ciurtin (UK)</i>
Moderator: Richard Furie (USA)		
16:30	Managing Lupus Nephritis	<i>Maria Dall'Era (USA) & Onno Teng (Netherlands)</i>
Moderator: Andrea Doria (Italy)		
16:30	Managing Skin Lupus	<i>Filippa Nyberg (Sweden) & Annegret Kuhn (Germany)</i>
Moderator: Zahir Amoura (France)		
16:30	Managing Antiphospholipid Syndrome	<i>Denis Wahl (France) & Ricard Cervera (Spain)</i>
Moderator: David Isenberg (UK)		
16:30	Challenging Lupus: Multidisciplinary Perspectives	<i>Raquel Faria (Portugal) & Sandra Navarra (Philippines)</i>
18:00	Session Close	

Saturday 5th September 2026

PLENARY III LUPUS PATHOGENESIS (HYBRID)

CEST (UTC +2 Bratislava) 09:00–10:30 hours

PST (UTC +8 Manila) 15:00–16:30 hours

EDT (UTC -4 New York) 3:00 AM – 04:30 AM

Moderators: David Isenberg (UK) & Maria Dall'Era (USA)		
09:00	Signatures in SLE: What Omics is Teaching Us About Disease Mechanisms	<i>Ioannis Parodis (Sweden)</i>
09:20	Urinary Biomarkers in Lupus Nephritis	<i>Andrea Fava (USA)</i>
09:40	Defining Immune Reset in SLE	<i>Thomas Dörner (Germany)</i>
10:00	Q&A and Panel Discussion	
10:30	Break	
	Fishbowl Case 4*: Beatriz Mendes (Portugal)	<i>Maria Dall'Era (USA)</i>

POST MEETING COURSE: SJÖGREN'S (HYBRID)**

(Boxed lunch)

CEST (UTC +2 Bratislava) 11:00–13:00 hours

PST (UTC +8 Manila) 15:00–19:00 hours

EDT (UTC -4 New York) 5:00 AM – 7:00 AM

Moderator: Thomas Dörner (Germany)		
11:00	Clinical Presentations: Diagnostics and Management Approaches	<i>Chiara Baldini (Italy)</i>
11:20	Clinical Trials: Improving Design and Execution	<i>Antónia Szántó (Hungary)</i>
11:50	Targeted Therapies: B-cells, MAbs, anti-CD40 and JaKs	<i>David Isenberg (UK)</i>
12:15	Anti-Baff Receptor Therapy (analumab) in Sjögrens	<i>Thomas Dörner (Germany)</i>
12:40	Q&A and Panel Discussion	
13:00	Meeting Close	

*Not part of the accredited CME programme.

**Included in the registration fee.

Biographies



Zahir Amoura, MD, MSc
Pitié-Salpêtrière Hospital, Paris, France

Zahir Amoura has been a leading figure in the field of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) for over two decades. Since 2003, he has served as Professor of Internal Medicine at the French National Reference Center for SLE at the prestigious Pitié-Salpêtrière Hospital in Paris, where he was also appointed as Head of the Department of Internal Medicine in 2009.

Professor Amoura's distinguished academic journey includes completing his Paris Hospital Medical Internship in 1988 and earning a Master's degree in immunopharmacology in 1989. He was awarded his MD with a silver medal in 1993, followed by his qualifying certification in internal medicine in 1994. In 1995, he joined the Department of Internal Medicine at Pitié-Salpêtrière Hospital as a Senior Lecturer and Senior Practitioner, building the foundation for his current prominent roles.

Professor Amoura's significant contributions to the understanding of SLE are underscored by his extensive research portfolio, comprising over 697 peer-reviewed publications. Notably, 323 of these publications specifically focus on the intricate immunopathological features of lupus.

Financial Disclosures

Consultant/Advisor:

AstraZeneca; GSK; Merck; Roche.

Research Grants:

AstraZeneca; GSK; Roche.

All of the relevant financial relationships listed for this individual have been mitigated.



Lévi-Dan Azoulay, MD, MSc
Pitié-Salpêtrière Hospital, Paris, France

Lévi-Dan Azoulay is a physician trained in Internal Medicine and Clinical Immunology, with a developing interest in cardiovascular imaging and systemic autoimmune diseases.

Dr Azoulay obtained his MD (internal medicine and clinical immunology) from Sorbonne Université and completed a Masters in Data Science at Institut Polytechnique de Paris and a visiting research fellowship at the Mount Sinai BioMedical Engineering and Imaging Institute in New York, USA. He is currently a PhD candidate working on cardiac imaging in systemic lupus erythematosus at Pitié-Salpêtrière Hospital, in collaboration with INSERM and Sorbonne Université.

Dr Azoulay's research interests include cardiac involvement in autoimmune diseases, particularly systemic lupus erythematosus, histiocytosis, and sarcoidosis as well as the application of advanced imaging and data science approaches in clinical research.

In 2026, he will begin a clinical fellowship in the Internal Medicine and Clinical Immunology Department of Professor Zahir Amoura at Pitié-Salpêtrière Hospital

Financial Disclosures

None.



Chiara Baldini, MD, PhD
University of Pisa, Italy

Chiara Baldini is an Associate Professor and Medical Doctor at the Rheumatology Unit of the Department of Clinical and Experimental Medicine at the University of Pisa, Italy.

Since beginning her work in the field in 1999, Dr. Baldini has dedicated her academic career and clinical research to systemic autoimmune diseases, establishing herself as an international expert on Sjögren's disease. Her research spans clinical phenotyping, salivary proteomic biomarkers, and advanced imaging techniques—specifically conventional and ultra-high frequency ultrasonography. She advocates for a holistic, multidisciplinary approach to patient care that bridges the gap between scientific innovation and the daily quality of clinical care.

Dr Baldini is Disease Coordinator for Sjögren's Syndrome, elected to lead research and clinical strategy within the European Reference Network on Rare Connective Tissue and Musculoskeletal Diseases (ERN ReCONNET). She is also a member of the EULAR (European Alliance of Associations for Rheumatology) Sjögren's Disease Task Force and the EULAR Study Group for ultrasonography in Sjögren's.

Dr Baldini also actively participates in major collaborative international research projects, including the HarmonicSS and NECESSITY trials, focused on identifying novel therapeutic targets and patient stratification.

Financial Disclosures

Consultant/Advisor:

Amgen; Argenix; Aurina;
Johnson & Johnson; Novartis;
Vor Bio.

All of the relevant financial relationships listed for this individual have been mitigated.



George Bertsias, MD, PhD
University of Crete, Medical School, Greece

George Bertsias is Professor of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology University of Crete School of Medicine. He graduated from the University of Crete School of Medicine (UoCSM) and following his internship, he pursued graduate studies earning his MSc and PhD in immunology/autoimmunity. He conducted post-doctoral research at the National Human Genome Research Institute, National Institutes of Health (NIH/NHGRI), and subsequently received training in Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology.

Professor Bertsias has a keen scientific interest in systemic autoimmunity, particularly systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE). He is an active member of the European Alliance of Associations for Rheumatology (EULAR) study group on SLE, where he supports the development and update of clinical recommendations for the diagnosis and treatment of patients with SLE. Professor Bertsias has been a faculty member in Rheumatology-Clinical Immunology and a Principal Investigator at the Laboratory of Autoimmunity and Inflammation, UoCSM, since 2014. He has successfully launched a specialized clinic focused on connective tissue diseases and he manages the Cretan Lupus and Preclinical Lupus Registry.

Professor Bertsias' research focuses on the early diagnosis and outcomes of SLE, including the response to novel therapeutic and biological agents. In addition, Professor Bertsias' laboratory explores the role of genetic, epigenetic, and metabolic factors in driving the aberrant activation of immune cells in SLE.

Financial Disclosures

Consultant/Advisor:

AstraZeneca; Novartis.

Research Grants:

AstraZeneca.

Speaker:

Eli Lilly; Otsuka
Pharmaceuticals; Roche; UCB.

All of the relevant financial relationships listed for this individual have been mitigated.

Biographies



Ricard Cervera, MD, PhD
Hospital Clinic Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain

Ricard Cervera is co-Founder and Head of the Department of Autoimmune Diseases at Hospital Clinic Barcelona. He is also leader of the Research Group on Systemic Autoimmune Diseases at the August Pi i Sunyer Biomedical Research Institute (IDIBAPS) and Professor at the University of Barcelona, where he coordinates the Master's Course on Autoimmune Diseases, and serves as Vice Dean of Academic Affairs and International Relations at its Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences. Professor Cervera qualified in medicine in 1983 from University of Barcelona, and received his PhD in 1988 for his thesis on anticardiolipin antibodies. He spent 2 years at the Lupus Research Unit at The Rayne Institute, St Thomas' Hospital, London, UK.

Financial Disclosures

Consultant/Advisor:

AstraZeneca; Bristol Myers Squibb; GSK; Laboratorios Rubió; Roche.

Speaker:

AstraZeneca; GSK; Laboratorios Rubió.

All of the relevant financial relationships listed for this individual have been mitigated.

Professor Cervera is an Associate Editor of the journals *Lupus Science & Medicine* and the *European Journal of Internal Medicine* and is on the Editorial Boards of 20 medical journals. He is a Founding Member of the Board of the European Lupus Society (SLEuro) and past-coordinator of the European Working Party on Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (Euro-Lupus Group) (1991–2008) and of the European Forum on Antiphospholipid Antibodies (2009–2017). He is Chairman of the Medical Advisory Board of the Catalan Association of Lupus Patients and Medical Advisor to Lupus Europe. He chaired the 6th, 8th and 11th International Congresses on Autoimmunity, the 1st, 2nd and 5th Latin-American Congresses on Autoimmunity, the 5th Meeting of the European Forum on Antiphospholipid Antibodies and the 8th European Lupus Congress.

Professor Cervera's research interests include clinical and epidemiological aspects of systemic autoimmune diseases, particularly systemic lupus erythematosus and antiphospholipid syndrome, with special focus on its 'catastrophic' variant. He has presented over 1000 invited lectures and published more than 1000 scientific papers (H-index: 105), including original articles in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, *The Lancet*, *Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases*, *Arthritis & Rheumatism*, *The American Journal of Medicine and Medicine (Baltimore)*. He is also co-Editor of 50 books, including 'The Antiphospholipid Syndrome', 'Vascular Manifestations of Systemic Autoimmune Diseases' and 'Diagnostic Criteria in Autoimmune Diseases'.



Coziana Ciurtin, MD, PhD
University College London, UK

Coziana Ciurtin is Professor of Rheumatology and Honorary Consultant in Adolescent and Adult Rheumatology at University College London (UCL), UK. She leads integrated adolescent and young adult rheumatology services at UCL Hospitals, combining clinical care with clinical trials in adolescent SLE and research focused on improving outcomes across the transition pathway.

Professor Ciurtin's research group investigates how puberty and sex shape susceptibility to female biased autoimmune diseases, including lupus and childhood Sjögren's, and develops multi omic biomarkers to predict long term outcomes such as cardiovascular risk in young people with rheumatic disease. She is Deputy Head of the Department of Ageing, Rheumatology and Regenerative Medicine at UCL, and Director of the Federation of Clinical Immunology Societies (FOCIS) Centre of Excellence (REINVENT), advancing gender inclusive immunology across childhood and adolescence.

Financial Disclosures

Consultant/Advisor:

Argenx.

All of the relevant financial relationships listed for this individual have been mitigated.

Professor Ciurtin also plays a key role in European collaborative research, by coordinating the research of the Paediatric Rheumatology Society (PReS) Lupus Working Party and Childhood Sjögren's Interest Group, and acting as Adult Rheumatology Representative on the European Alliance of Associations for Rheumatology (EULAR) Paediatric Committee, focused on international training and educational projects, multinational studies, harmonised data collection, and outcome focused initiatives aimed at improving care pathways and long term outcomes for young people across Europe.



Maria Dall'Era, MD
University of California, San Francisco, USA

Maria Dall'Era is the Jean S. Engleman Distinguished Professor of Medicine and Chief of the Division of Rheumatology at the University of California, San Francisco. She is the Director of the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) Rheumatology Clinical Research Center and Lupus Center.

Professor Dall'Era serves as the Co-Chair of the Lupus Therapeutics Board of Directors and the Co-Chair of the Lupus Industry Council, both under the Lupus Research Alliance and is a steering committee member of the Lupus Academy and Lupus Forum. She also serves on the Research Committee of the Lupus Accelerating Breakthroughs Consortium. She is the Chair of the Myositis International Health & Research Collaborative Alliance Partnership to Advance Therapeutic Horizons (MIHRA-PATH) Public-Private Partnership Research Council. She is the Principal Investigator (PI) of a Centers for Disease Control-funded population-based longitudinal lupus cohort in the San Francisco Bay Area called the California Lupus Epidemiology Study and the PI on an National Institutes of Health Immune Tolerance Network (NIH/ITN)-sponsored trial of a novel agent for lupus nephritis. She is a member of the core leadership team who developed the American College of Rheumatology (ACR) Guidelines for the Treatment of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) and lupus nephritis.

Professor Dall'Era received her undergraduate degree in immunology from the University of California, Berkeley, and completed her Medical Degree from UCSF, where she later completed her Internship, Residency, and Chief Residency in Internal Medicine. She completed her Fellowship in Rheumatology at UCSF. In 2006, she received the Ephraim Engleman Award for Excellence in Arthritis Research. In 2018, she received the Edmund L. Dubois Memorial Lectureship Award from the ACR. In 2023, she received the Evelyn V. Hess award from the Lupus Foundation of America.

Professor Dall'Era has authored numerous publications and book chapters in the areas of SLE and lupus nephritis. She is a co-author of the Treatment of Lupus Nephritis chapters in Up-To-Date.

Financial Disclosures

Consultant/Advisor:

AbbVie; AstraZeneca; Biogen; GSK.

Data Monitoring Committee:

Bristol Myers Squibb; Novartis.

All of the relevant financial relationships listed for this individual have been mitigated.



Andrea Doria, MD
University of Padova, Padova, Italy

Andrea Doria is Professor of Rheumatology and Senior Scientist at the University of Padua School of Medicine, Italy. He currently serves as President of the Italian Society of Rheumatology.

Professor Doria previously led the Rheumatology Unit at the University of Padua, which, under his leadership, was designated a European Alliance of Associations for Rheumatology (EULAR) Centre of Excellence in Rheumatology (2022–2027). During his academic career Professor Doria has trained over 70 students in rheumatology and inspired some of them to be dedicated scientists.

In 2016, Professor Doria founded the European Lupus Society (SLEuro) and served as the first President of its Executive Committee; he is currently serving as the Treasurer of the Society. He is a member of the Lupus Academy Steering Committee, a member of the Systemic Lupus Erythematosus International Collaborating Clinics (SLICC) group, and a member of the Outcome Measures in Rheumatology (OMERACT) systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) Working Group. Professor Doria has contributed as an expert in the EULAR Standing Committee for the development of clinical and therapeutic recommendations.

Professor Doria has authored over 600 ISI publications (Scopus H-index 94) on SLE and other connective tissue diseases and participates on the editorial boards of several international rheumatology and immunology journals.

Financial Disclosures

Consultant/Advisor:

Roche; Ventus.

Speaker:

AstraZeneca; Biogen; GSK; Otsuka Pharmaceuticals.

All of the relevant financial relationships listed for this individual have been mitigated.

Biographies



Thomas Dörner, MD

Charité University Hospitals Berlin, Germany

Thomas Dörner is a board-certified Rheumatologist and Professor of Rheumatology and Hemostaseology at Charité University Hospitals, Berlin, Germany, and group leader at the German Research Center of Rheumatology, Berlin (DRFZ). He qualified in medicine in 1990 at Charité University Hospitals, Berlin, and received his board certification in internal medicine in 1995 before undertaking a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Texas, Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, USA, where he researched delineating molecular aspects of B-cell receptor gene usage in autoimmune diseases.

Professor Dörner has received several international and national awards, including the Senior Scholar Award of the American College of Rheumatology, the H. Schultze Award of the German League Against Rheumatism, the Randy Fischer Prize for Excellence in flow cytometry, the Schoen Award of the German Society of Rheumatology and the European Alliance of Associations for Rheumatology (EULAR) Honorary award (2023).

Professor Dörner has served as a member of Editorial Boards of leading journals in rheumatology and immunology, including *Arthritis & Rheumatism*, *Arthritis Research & Therapy*, *Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases*, *Current Reviews in Rheumatology*, *the Brazilian Journal of Rheumatology*, *European Journal of Immunology*, *Lupus Science & Medicine*, and *Rheumatology Reviews*.

Professor Dörner has led various clinical trials on rheumatic diseases, including systemic lupus erythematosus, Sjogren's syndrome, rheumatoid arthritis, and seronegative spondyloarthropathies. His research interests focus on the characterisation of disturbances of humoral autoimmunity and abnormalities of B-cell subsets in the blood versus tissue (lupus, neonatal lupus syndromes, Sjogren's syndrome), exploring innovative therapeutic approaches with particular focus on B-cell directed therapy as well as improving diagnostic tools in autoimmune diseases. In this regard, he has been involved in various proof-of concept trials translating insights into mechanistic insights.

Financial Disclosures

Consultant/Advisor:

AbelZeta; Bristol Myers Squibb; Novartis; Roche/Genentech.

Data Monitoring Committee:

Novartis.

Research Grant:

Bristol Myers Squibb; Roche.

All of the relevant financial relationships listed for this individual have been mitigated.



Raquel Faria, MD, PhD

Santo António University Hospital Center, Porto, and University of Porto, Portugal

Raquel Faria is an Internal Medicine Consultant with special interest in systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), haemophagocytic syndrome (HLH) and autoinflammatory diseases. She graduated in 2004 from the University of Porto, Portugal. She trained in general internal medicine, emergency medicine, neurology and rheumatology. She is currently working in Unidade de Imunologia Clínica, Hospital Santo António, Porto, Portugal.

Dr Faria is co-Coordinator of the SLE cohort, Coordinator of the Relapsing Chondritis cohort, Coordinator of the Adult Autoinflammatory Diseases, and is currently the hospital Coordinator for the Adult HLH Multidisciplinary Team at Unidade de Imunologia Clínica – Unidade Local de Saúde Santo António and is a full member of ERN ReCONNET and ERN RITA.

Financial Disclosures

Consultant/Advisor:

AstraZeneca; GSK.

All of the relevant financial relationships listed for this individual have been mitigated.



Andrea Fava, MD

Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Baltimore, Maryland, USA

Andrea Fava, MD, is an Associate Professor of Medicine in the Division of Rheumatology at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and Director of Lupus Translational Research at the Hopkins Lupus Center. He is a physician-scientist specializing in systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), with a particular focus on lupus nephritis.

Dr. Fava received his medical degree summa cum laude from San Raffaele Medical School in Milan, Italy. He completed his residency in Internal Medicine and fellowship training in Rheumatology at Johns Hopkins, where he was elected to Alpha Omega Alpha and received the Patrick Murphy Award for teaching excellence. His research training includes work at the National Institutes of Health and a visiting fellowship in computational biology at the Broad Institute.

His research centers on developing noninvasive, mechanism-based biomarkers for lupus nephritis. As an investigator in the Accelerating Medicines Partnership, he integrates multi-omic approaches—including single-cell and spatial transcriptomics and urine proteomics—to define intrarenal disease activity and enable “liquid biopsy” strategies. His work has demonstrated key limitations of conventional clinical endpoints and has advanced new frameworks for early response assessment and precision monitoring in lupus nephritis.

Dr. Fava’s research has been published in leading journals, including Science, Nature Immunology, and JCI Insight, and supported by NIH funding. He continues to combine translational research with clinical care, with the goal of improving outcomes for patients with lupus.

Financial Disclosures

Consultant/Advisor:

AbbVie; Annexon Biosciences; Argenx; Artiva Biotherapeutics; AstraZeneca; Autolus Ltd; Bain Capital; Biogen; Bristol Myers Squibb; Genentech, GSK; MPM Capital; Novartis; Quotient Sciences; TG Therapeutics; Zenas Biopharma; UCB.

Research Grant:

Exagen.

All of the relevant financial relationships listed for this individual have been mitigated.



Richard Furie, MD

Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell, New York, USA

Richard Furie, Chief of the Division of Rheumatology at Northwell Health, is a rheumatologist whose activities for the last several decades have focused on patient care, physician education, and clinical research in the area of anti-rheumatic drug development. He directs The Program in Novel Therapeutics, the Health System’s clinical research program in musculoskeletal disease. He also directs the Hospital’s systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) and Autoimmune Disease Treatment Center, which has become internationally recognised for its role in the development of new therapies for SLE.

Regarded as one of the senior rheumatologists in the New York metropolitan area, Professor Furie has served as a volunteer for the Arthritis Foundation, the Lupus Foundation of America, the Lupus Research Alliance, and Lupus Therapeutics. For over twenty years he served on many committees of the American College of Rheumatology and was named a Master of the College in 2018. Although often featured as a speaker at national and international conferences, Professor Furie’s favorite educational venue is at home with his colleagues and trainees.

Financial Disclosures

Consultant/Advisor:

AstraZeneca; GSK; Janssen; Novartis; Roche/Genentech.

Research Grants:

AstraZeneca; GSK; Novartis; Roche/Genentech.

Speaker:

AstraZeneca; GSK; Roche/Genentech.

All of the relevant financial relationships listed for this individual have been mitigated.

Biographies



Mariele Gatto, MD, PhD
University of Turin, Italy

Mariele Gatto is Professor of Rheumatology at the University of Turin, Italy. Her clinical and research work focuses on systemic autoimmune and connective tissue diseases, with particular emphasis on systemic lupus erythematosus and lupus nephritis, as well as idiopathic inflammatory myopathies. Her research bridges patient care and translational immunology, including biomarker and B-cell-related pathways, and she contributes to the evaluation of emerging therapeutic strategies in lupus and related condition.

Professor Gatto is an active contributor to the global rheumatology community, having authored well over 100 peer-reviewed scientific papers and frequently presenting her research at major international conferences.

Professor Gatto is a member of the SLEuro Executive Committee (2025–2026 and 2027–2028).

Financial Disclosures

Consultant/Advisor:

Roche/Genentech.

Speaker:

AstraZeneca; GSK; Johnson & Johnson.

All of the relevant financial relationships listed for this individual have been mitigated.



Melanie Hagen, MD, PhD
University Hospital Erlangen, Germany

Melanie Hagen is a board-certified specialist in Internal Medicine and Rheumatology at the Department of Medicine 3, University Hospital Erlangen, Germany, under the direction of Professor Georg Schett.

After following extensive clinical training since 2018, she has been serving as a Senior Physician and Head of the Clinical Trial Unit since 2024 and clinical lead on chimeric antigen receptor (CAR)-programmes. Her clinical research focuses on novel B cell-targeting therapies, including CAR-T cells and T-cell engagers, in autoimmune diseases.

Financial Disclosures

Conference Travel Support:

Abbvie; Century Therapeutics.

Speaker:

Bristol Myers Squibb; Elli Lilly; Johnson & Johnson.

All of the relevant financial relationships listed for this individual have been mitigated.



Luca Iaccarino, MD, PhD
University of Padova, Padova, Italy

Luca Iaccarino is an Associate Professor of Rheumatology at the University of Padova, Italy. He also serves as the Director of the University Master's program in Connective Tissue Diseases, Vasculitis, and Autoinflammatory Diseases (CoVA).

Professor Iaccarino qualified in medicine in 1999 from the University of Padova, where he also completed his specialist training in Rheumatology in 2004 and received his PhD in 2008. Since 2010, he has practiced at the Azienda Ospedaliera/University of Padova, a prominent tertiary referral center specializing in systemic rheumatic diseases.

He has held significant leadership roles within the European Reference Network (ERN) ReCONNET, serving as the Disease Coordinator for IgG4-related disease (2017–2022) and for Undifferentiated Connective Tissue Disease (2022–2025) and member of the Strategic Scientific Board since April 2025. He has been an active member of the Italian Society of Rheumatology (SIR) since 2004.

Professor Iaccarino's research interests focus on the clinical management of connective tissue diseases, particularly systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), idiopathic inflammatory myositis, and the management of pregnancy in patients with systemic rheumatic diseases. He is also deeply involved in clinical research, serving as a Principal or Sub-Investigator in over 25 sponsored clinical trials for SLE, Sjögren's disease, and inflammatory myopathies.

He has authored over 180 scientific publications (H-index: 52), including clinical studies on disease manifestations, prognostic factors, and therapeutic interventions, as well as immunochemical studies on autoantibodies. Additionally, he has contributed to over 200 proceedings for national and international conferences and is a frequent speaker and moderator at global medical congresses.

Financial Disclosures

Consultant/Advisor:

AstraZeneca, Otsuka Pharmaceuticals; Pfizer; Roche.

Speaker:

AstraZeneca; GSK; Otsuka Pharmaceuticals.

All of the relevant financial relationships listed for this individual have been mitigated.



Luís Inês, MD, PhD
University of Coimbra, Portugal

Luís Inês serves as Professor of Rheumatology at the School of Health Sciences of the University of Beira Interior and the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Coimbra, in Portugal. He also leads the HUC Lupus Clinic at the Rheumatology Department of the Coimbra University Hospital (HUC) - ULS Coimbra, where he provides care to over 500 patients.

Professor Inês's distinguished academic and research journey includes leading national and international multicentre clinical research projects. He is the Principal Investigator of the CHUC Lupus Cohort, a long-term prospective cohort study of outcomes and disease measures in SLE. Professor Inês also leads the research group developing the SLE Disease Activity Score (SLE-DAS), an instrument with improved measurement properties as compared to SLEDAI and BILAG.

Professor Inês's significant contributions to the global lupus community are underscored by his leadership roles in prominent international organizations. He is an expert collaborating with the European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR) committees for SLE recommendations, and the Outcome Measures in Rheumatoid Arthritis Clinical Trials (OMERACT) SLE Working Group. He is President of the SLEuro - European Lupus Society and chaired the 2026 European Lupus Meeting in Lisbon, Portugal.

Financial Disclosures

Consultant/Advisor:

Biogen; Otsuka Pharmaceuticals.

Research Grants:

AstraZeneca.

Speaker:

AstraZeneca; GSK; Viatris.

All of the relevant financial relationships listed for this individual have been mitigated.

Biographies



David Isenberg, MD
University College London, UK

Financial Disclosures

Consultant/Advisor:

Amgen; AstraZeneca; Autolus;
Idorsia Pharmaceuticals;
Merck Serono; UCB.

*All of the relevant financial
relationships listed for this
individual have been mitigated.*

David Isenberg is Emeritus Professor of Rheumatology at University College London (UCL). He graduated from St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London in 1973, and trained in general medicine, rheumatology, neurology, psychiatry and gastroenterology, becoming a Research Fellow at UCL/The Middlesex Hospital in 1979. He was awarded his MD in 1984, based on his studies of myositis. During a year of research at Tufts University, Boston, he became interested in autoantibody structure/function and origin. He was appointed Consultant Rheumatologist in 1984, Professor in 1991 and became the Arthritis Research Campaign (ARC/Versus Arthritis) Diamond Jubilee Chair of Rheumatology at UCL in 1996. He has fellowships of both the Royal College of Physicians and the Academy of Medical Sciences.

Professor Isenberg is on the Editorial Boards of five journals, including *The Journal of Rheumatology*. He is past-Chair of the British Isles Lupus Assessment Group, current Chair of the Lupus UK's Research Committee and past-Chair of the Systemic Lupus International Collaborating Clinics group (1998–2003). During the past 20 years, Professor Isenberg has undertaken many roles at the Versus Arthritis charity and was on the Executive Board from 2013 to 2021.

Professor Isenberg is past-President of the British Society for Rheumatology (2004–2006), chaired the Society's Biologics Register Committee for 5 years (2006–2011) and is a co-Founder of The Lupus Academy. Professor Isenberg was the 2010 recipient of the Evelyn V. Hess Prize from the Lupus Foundation of America for his contribution to lupus research and treatment. He has authored over 600 original articles, 300 reviews/chapters and 20 books, many on topics related to lupus.

Professor Isenberg's principal clinical interests are the development of disease activity and damage assessment tools in patients with lupus. His specialist interest is in the autoantibodies associated with systemic lupus erythematosus, Sjogren's syndrome, myositis and antiphospholipid antibody syndrome. In 2016 he became a Master of the American College of Rheumatology and in 2017 received the Rheumeritus award from the Portuguese Society for Rheumatology. His alter ego writes and plays for Lupus Dave and The Davettes, probably rheumatology's top rock group.



Annegret Kuhn, MD, MBA, CHCIO

University of Münster and University of Passau, Germany, and Amsterdam UMC, The Netherlands

Annegret Kuhn is Professor of Dermatology and Venereology (adj.) at the University of Münster and affiliated with the University of Passau, Germany. She also serves as Visiting Professor in the Department of Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology at Amsterdam UMC, the Netherlands.

As a board-certified dermatologist and venereologist, Professor Kuhn combines academic medicine, translational research, and healthcare leadership. She serves as CEO and Medical Director and is internationally recognized as an author, keynote speaker, and entrepreneur in healthcare and life sciences.

Professor Kuhn completed her specialist training in Dermatology and Venereology at the Heinrich-Heine-University Düsseldorf, where she also earned her Doctorate in Medicine and qualification as University Lecturer. From 2005 to 2009, she was awarded a prestigious Heisenberg Fellowship by the German Research Foundation (DFG), conducting research at leading scientific institutions including the Max Planck Institute for Molecular Biomedicine in Münster and the German Cancer Research Center in Heidelberg.

Her clinical and scientific work focuses on translational immunology, particularly the pathogenesis, diagnosis, and treatment of cutaneous lupus erythematosus. In addition, Professor Kuhn has extensive expertise across the full spectrum of dermatology and venereology, with many years of experience in the academic care of patients with cutaneous autoimmune diseases.

Professor Kuhn has played a leading role in shaping international standards for cutaneous lupus erythematosus. She initiated and chaired the European Society of Cutaneous Lupus Erythematosus (EUSCLE) from 2004 to 2017 and continues to contribute to national and international guideline committees developing innovative diagnostic and therapeutic strategies. She is an active member of numerous German and international medical societies and serves as reviewer for several leading clinical and scientific journals.

Professor Kuhn is the author of more than 150 original and review articles published in leading international peer-reviewed journals.

Financial Disclosures

Consultant/Advisor:

Bristol Myers Squibb; Merck Serono.

All of the relevant financial relationships listed for this individual have been mitigated.

Biographies



Financial Disclosures

Consultant/Advisor:

Sobi.

Speaker:

AstraZeneca; Sobi.

All of the relevant financial relationships listed for this individual have been mitigated.

Lovro Lamot, MD, PhD

University Hospital Centre Zagreb and University of Zagreb School of Medicine, Zagreb, Croatia

Lovro Lamot is a paediatric nephrologist and rheumatologist at the Department of Paediatrics, University Hospital Centre Zagreb, and Assistant Professor at the University of Zagreb School of Medicine, Croatia. He trained in paediatrics, paediatric rheumatology and paediatric nephrology in Zagreb, and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in paediatric rheumatology at the University of British Columbia and BC Children's Hospital in Vancouver, Canada.

His clinical and academic work is centred on immune-mediated inflammatory diseases and kidney diseases in children and young people. He is involved in clinical and translational research, including clinical trials, and has contributed to numerous peer-reviewed publications, book chapters and conference abstracts. He has also given invited lectures at national and international meetings.

Dr Lamot is active in several professional societies and networks, including PReS, ESPN and IPNA, and has contributed to working groups, educational initiatives, congress scientific committees and meeting organisation. He also serves as an editor, peer reviewer, lecturer and mentor.

He particularly enjoys working with students, residents and doctoral candidates, and sees teaching as one of the most meaningful parts of academic medicine. A central theme of his work is to bridge the gaps between paediatric rheumatology and nephrology, paediatrics and adult medicine, and basic and clinical science, with the aim of turning shared knowledge into better care for children and young people.



Financial Disclosures

Consultant/Advisor:

AbbVie; AstraZeneca; Celltrion; GSK; Janssen; Miltenyi; UCB; Viatis.

Speaker:

AbbVie; AstraZeneca; Celgene; GSK; Janssen; Johnson & Johnson; Eli Lilly; Novartis; UCB.

All of the relevant financial relationships listed for this individual have been mitigated.

Johanna Mucke, MD

Rheumazentrum Ruhrgebiet, Herne, Germany

Johanna Mucke is a distinguished rheumatologist based in Germany, currently serving as a consultant at the Rheumazentrum Ruhrgebiet. She earned her medical degree from Heidelberg University and completed her rheumatology training at Heinrich-Heine University Düsseldorf, where she was actively involved in both clinical practice and research from an early stage.

Dr. Mucke has contributed to the field of rheumatology through her research on systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), particularly focusing on treat-to-target strategies and health-related quality of life. She coordinated and developed the first German guidelines for the management of SLE and has co-authored numerous publications, including studies on treat-to-target and patient perspectives in SLE treatment and the future directions of rheumatology.



Sandra Navarra, MD
University of Santo Tomas, Manila, Philippines

Sandra Navarra is Professor of Rheumatology at University of Santo Tomas Manila, Philippines. She is a member of the Lupus Academy Steering Committee, and a founding and executive board member of both the Asia Pacific Lupus Collaboration (APLC) and the Asian Lupus Nephritis Network (ALNN). Professor Navarra is Director of the Lupus Inspired Advocacy (LUISA) Project for lupus education and research, and the People Empowerment for Arthritis and Lupus (PEARL) movement for lay education and medical assistance programmes, both administered by Rheumatology Educational Trust Foundation Inc. (RETFI) in the Philippines. She has served as Secretary General of Asia Pacific League of Associations for Rheumatology (APLAR) and is a former President of Philippine Rheumatology Association (PRA). She was co-convenor and is current eminent member of the APLAR Special Interest Group (SIG) on systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE).

Professor Navarra has published widely in the field of lupus and other rheumatic diseases and is the recipient of several university, national and regional awards for her contributions to education and research, including the Philippine College of Physicians (PCP) Most Distinguished Physician award and the APLAR Master award. She has organised several national and regional educational meetings including Asian Lupus Summit, Lupus Academy (Philippine) Roadshows, Lupus for the Internist symposia, Lupus webinar series and APLAR pre-congress workshops in Lupus.

Financial Disclosures

Consultant/Advisor:

AstraZeneca; Viatrix.

Speaker:

AstraZeneca; Otsuka Pharmaceuticals; Viatrix.

All of the relevant financial relationships listed for this individual have been mitigated.



Filippa Nyberg, MD, PhD
Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden

Filippa Nyberg is an Associate Professor of Dermatology and Venereology at Karolinska Institutet and a former Senior Consultant at Karolinska University Hospital. Bridging dermatology and rheumatology, her research and clinical focus centers on Cutaneous Lupus Erythematosus (CLE), patient safety, and gender-based healthcare disparities. She has supervised three PhD theses and advocated strongly for patients with complex connective tissue diseases.

A prominent leader in her field, Professor Nyberg has served on the International Conference on CLE Steering Committee since 2004, chaired the Swedish Society of Dermatology and Venereology (2010–2012), and contributed to global CLE classification and treatment guidelines. As a principal investigator, she has led numerous clinical trials for psoriasis, atopic dermatitis, and CLE—including the landmark Phase 2 LILAC trial for litifilimab published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

Professor Nyberg also possesses extensive executive leadership experience, having served as Chief Medical Officer at both Uppsala and Karolinska University Hospitals, CEO of the Swedish Society of Medicine, and chair of Sweden's national dermatology healthcare boards until 2025. Currently, she chairs the board for the Uppsala Monitoring Centre (a WHO collaborating centre) and serves as a Scientific Advisor to the Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare.

Financial Disclosures

Consultant/Advisor:

AstraZeneca; Biogen; Bristol Myers Squibb.

Speaker:

AbbVie.

All of the relevant financial relationships listed for this individual have been mitigated.

Biographies



Ioannis Parodis, MD, PhD

Karolinska University Hospital and Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden

Ioannis Parodis is a Senior Consultant Rheumatologist at Karolinska University Hospital and Associate Professor at Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden, with an additional affiliation to Örebro University. He leads a clinical and translational research team in lupus and autoimmunity at the Center for Molecular Medicine, Karolinska Institutet.

Professor Parodis serves as the principal investigator for several prospective studies, most notably the ReBioLup study, which investigates the role of repeat kidney biopsies in lupus nephritis. His clinical and research interests center on systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), lupus nephritis, B-cell biology, biomarkers, and the development of precision medicine.

As an active contributor to the international medical community, he has helped shape the EULAR recommendations for the management of both SLE and lupus nephritis. Since 2025, he has served as the President-Elect of the European Lupus Society (SLEuro).

Financial Disclosures

Consultant/Advisor:

Amgen; Argenx; AstraZeneca; Aurinia; Biogen; Bristol Myers Squibb; Eli Lilly; Gilead; GSK; Johnson & Johnson; Novartis; Otsuka Pharmaceuticals; Roche; UCB; Viatris.

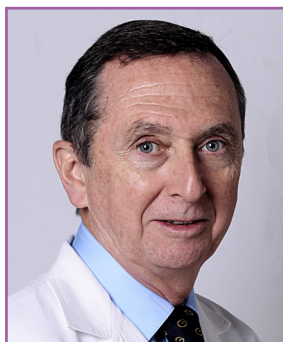
Research Grants:

AstraZeneca; Aurinia; Biogen; Bristol Myers Squibb; Eli Lilly; Gilead; GSK; Otsuka Pharmaceuticals; Roche; Viatris.

Speaker:

Amgen; Argenx; AstraZeneca; Aurinia; Biogen; Bristol Myers Squibb; Eli Lilly; Gilead; GSK; Johnson & Johnson; Novartis; Otsuka Pharmaceuticals; Roche; UCB; Viatris.

All of the relevant financial relationships listed for this individual have been mitigated.



Bernardo Pons-Estel, MD

Regional Center for Autoimmune and Rheumatic Diseases and the Cardiovascular Institute of Rosario, Argentina

Bernardo Pons-Estel is Head of the Regional Center for Autoimmune and Rheumatic Diseases (CREAR) and the Cardiovascular Institute of Rosario, Argentina. He received his medical degree from the National University of Rosario. Later he received a Rheumatology Scholarship and went to complete a fellowship at the Division of Rheumatology at the Bellevue Hospital, New York University Medical Center (NYUMC). He completed his training in rheumatology at the University of Missouri, Columbia, and as Assistant Research Professor at the Department of Medicine, Irvington House Institute, NYUMC.

Professor Pons-Estel is the main coordinator for the Latin American Group for the Study of Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (GLADEL), and is co-leader of the Latin American Group for the Study of Rheumatic Diseases in Indigenous People (GLADERPO). He was speaker at more than 300 national and international conferences, and he has more than 180 publications in international indexed journals.

Professor Pons-Estel is the Chair of the Lupus Study Group of Pan American League of Associations of Rheumatology (PANLAR) and member of the Steering Committees of the Lupus Academy, Systemic Lupus International Collaborating Clinics (SLICC), and Definition Of Remission In SLE (DORIS) group.

Professor Pons-Estel was distinguished with the Pan American Spirit award; Master of PANLAR, Master of the American College of Rheumatology, Master of the Argentine Society of Rheumatology, and more recently as Gold Medal Anibal Ruiz Moreno from PANLAR.

Financial Disclosures

Research Grants:

GSK; Janssen.



Antónia Szántó, MD, PhD

University of Debrecen, Faculty of Medicine, Division of Clinical Immunology, Hungary

Antónia Szántó is an Associate Professor of Medicine at the Clinical Immunology Division within the Department of Internal Medicine at the University of Debrecen. She is a recognised specialist in Internal Medicine, Clinical Immunology, and Rheumatology.

Her primary research and clinical expertise center on autoimmune diseases, with a dedicated focus on Sjögren's disease and its associated disorders, systemic vasculitides, IgG4-related disease and reproductive immunology. She actively participates in multicenter international clinical trials, serving as Principal Investigator in key studies evaluating novel targeted therapies for Sjögren's disease.

She received her Medical Degree from the University of Debrecen in 2001. Following her graduation, she joined the University Clinic of Debrecen, where she completed her residency and subsequent fellowships, including scholarships at Tor Vergata University, Rome. Additionally, she holds a Diploma in Healthcare Management (2009).

Doctor Szántó earned her PhD in 2008 with a doctoral thesis focused on Sjögren's syndrome and received her habilitation (med. habil.) degree in 2017. She is a frequent presenter at national and international medical congresses and has authored numerous scientific publications and Hungarian textbook chapters.

Financial Disclosures

Consultant/Advisor:

Amgen; Bristol Myers Squibb; Janssen; Novartis.

Speaker:

Berlin-Chemie/Menarini; CSL Behring.

All of the relevant financial relationships listed for this individual have been mitigated.

Biographies



Onno Teng, MD, PhD

Leiden University Medical Center, The Netherlands

Financial Disclosures

Consultant/Advisor: :

AstraZeneca; Alexion; CSL
Vifor; GSK; Novartis; Otsuka
Pharmaceuticals; Sobi.

Research Grants:

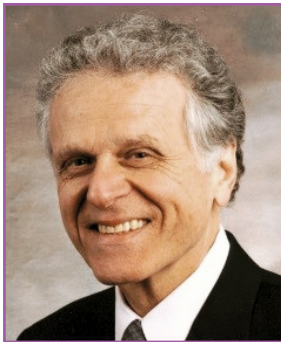
CSL Vifor; GSK; Novartis.

*All of the relevant financial
relationships listed for this
individual have been mitigated.*

Professor Onno Teng is a Nephrology clinician-scientist at the department of Internal Medicine of the Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC) where he leads the national and european recognised centre of expertise for lupus, Vasculitis and Complement-mediated systemic diseases (LuVaCs). He is Professor of Nephrology in renal autoimmune diseases at the University of Leiden and Chair of the national foundation of Autoimmune Research & Collaboration Hubs (ARCH).

Professor Teng has founded a clinical research programme for the development of novel treatment strategies in patients with renal autoimmune diseases including lupus nephritis and ANCA-associated vasculitis. He also conducts a translational research programme focused on neutrophil extracellular traps, B cell and plasma cell immunology collectively aimed at innovative immune monitoring of novel treatment strategies for LuVaCs patients.

Professor Teng is actively involved as clinical teacher for Nephrology, Immunology and Basic Physiology & Anatomy in the curriculum of Medicine at Leiden University. He supervises medical students for their scientific as well as clinical internships and clinical bedside teaching of the LUMC Internal Medicine Residents.



Professor Murray Urowitz, MD
University of Toronto, Canada

Murray Urowitz is a Professor Emeritus with the Temerty Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto. He was the Director of the Centre for Prognosis Studies in the Rheumatic Diseases Toronto Western Hospital from 1995 to 2022 and Director of the Toronto Lupus Program from 1970 to 2022.

Professor Urowitz established the University of Toronto Lupus Clinic and Lupus Databank Research Program in 1970. This extensive longitudinal database is one of the largest such databanks in the world with over 2150 patients and has allowed for numerous findings which have changed the way lupus is diagnosed and managed. He was Senior Scientist with the Krembil Research Institute and Schroeder Arthritis Institute.

Professor Urowitz was a founding member of the Ontario Lupus Association (now Lupus Ontario) and was president of the Lupus Council of the American Rheumatology Association. He was also a founding member of the Systemic Lupus International Collaborating Clinics (SLICC) group and Director of the SLICC Registry for Atherosclerosis. In 1995 he received the Distinguished Rheumatologist Award of the Canadian Rheumatology Association and in 2009 he received the Evelyn V. HESS Award for outstanding contributions to lupus research, awarded by the Lupus Foundation of America. He also received the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Medal for longstanding contributions to lupus research work in the field of rheumatology in 2015, and was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award for commitment to the field of lupus by Lupus Ontario in March 2016. In 2017 he was awarded the Distinguished Clinical Investigator Award for exceptional contributions to the field of rheumatology by the American College of Rheumatology. In May of 2019 he received the University of Toronto Dean's Alumni Lifetime Achievement Award for Global Impact and in 2020 he received a Masters Award for achievements in rheumatology from the Canadian Rheumatology Association. In 2023 he was awarded the University Health Network Global Impact Award.

Professor Urowitz has published over 469 peer-reviewed papers and 46 book chapters and has supervised the training of over 130 fellows in rheumatology especially in systemic lupus erythematosus.

Professor Urowitz's research has been by supported grants from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, National Institutes of Health, the Arthritis Society of Canada, Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada, Lupus Ontario, Lupus Canada and investigator-initiated study pharmaceutical support, and donations from the Lou and Marissa Rocca and Mark and Diana Bozzo Families.

Financial Disclosures

Consultant/Advisor:

AstraZeneca; GSK; Merck.

Speaker:

AstraZeneca.

All of the relevant financial relationships listed for this individual have been mitigated.

Biographies



Ronald van Vollenhoven, MD, PhD

Amsterdam University Medical Center, and Amsterdam Rheumatology and Immunology Center, The Netherlands

Ronald van Vollenhoven is a rheumatologist at the Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Amsterdam UMC and Director of the Amsterdam Rheumatology Center in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

Professor van Vollenhoven received his MD and PhD degrees from the University of Leiden in The Netherlands. After graduating in 1984 he pursued immunology research at Cornell Medical College in New York, followed by specialty training at the State University of New York at Stony Brook and at Stanford University, leading to American Board of Internal Medicine certification in Internal Medicine and Rheumatology. From 1993 to 1998 he held a faculty appointment as Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Division of Immunology and Rheumatology at Stanford University, and from 1995 he was the Medical Services Chief and Fellowship Director in that division. From 1998 until 2015 Professor van Vollenhoven worked in Stockholm, Sweden as Professor and Chief of the Unit for Clinical Therapy Research, Inflammatory Diseases (ClinTRID) at the Karolinska Institute and Senior Physician and Chief of the Clinical Trials Unit in the Department of Rheumatology at the Karolinska University Hospital.

In January 2016 Ronald van Vollenhoven was appointed as Professor of Rheumatology at the University of Amsterdam and the VU University, and Chair of the Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology of Amsterdam UMC. He is also the Director of the Amsterdam Rheumatology Center in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. In September 2024 he stepped down as Department Chair but continued his role in the Department as clinician-educator and research leader.

Professor van Vollenhoven's research interests focus on the development and systematic evaluation of biological and immunomodulatory treatments for the rheumatic diseases. With his co-workers, he established the Stockholm registry for biological therapies (the STURE database) which supported research projects relating to clinical efficacy, pharmacology, outcomes and pharmacoeconomics. He has been Principal Investigator in many clinical trials of novel therapies in rheumatic diseases and has contributed to several important investigator-initiated trials including the SWEFOT, ADMIRE, DOSERA and NORD-STAR trials. He has published over 500 original papers (H-index: 110), book chapters and reviews, and is associate-editor of Dubois' Lupus Erythematosus (Elsevier, 2014), editor of the textbook Clinical Therapy Research in the Inflammatory Diseases (World Scientific Press, 2015), author of the monograph Biological Therapy of Rheumatoid Arthritis (Springer, 2015) and co-author, with Professor Laurent Arnaud, of the Handbook of Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (Springer, 2017). He is an honorary member of the European Alliance of Associations for Rheumatology (EULAR) and of several rheumatological societies, and in 2019 he was awarded the Dutch Rheumatology Society's highest award, the Jan van Breemen medal.

Professor van Vollenhoven is Editor-in-Chief of the on-line journal *Lupus Science & Medicine*. He is also a past-Chair of the EULAR Research Committee, past-chair of the Swedish Rheumatology Society Professors' Council, and (co-)initiator of the CERERRA registries collaboration, the NORD-STAR collaboration for Nordic trials in the rheumatic diseases, and the Treat-to-Target-in-SLE and DORIS initiatives. Professor van Vollenhoven is married and has two grown-up children. Outside his professional life he is an avid classical pianist.

Financial Disclosures

Consultant/Advisor:

AbbVie; AstraZeneca; Biogen; Bristol Myers Squibb; Cabaletta Bio; Galapagos; GSK; Janssen; Kyowa Kirin; Pfizer; RemeGen; Sanofi; UCB; Vor Bio.

Research Grants:

Alfasigma; AstraZeneca; Bristol Myers Squibb; Cabaletta; Galapagos; MSD; Novartis; Pfizer; RemeGen; Roche; Sanofi; UCB.

Speaker:

AbbVie; AstraZeneca; Biogen; Bristol Myers Squibb; Cabaletta Bio; Galapagos; GSK; Janssen; Kyowa Kirin; Pfizer; RemeGen; Sanofi; UCB; Vor Bio.

All of the relevant financial relationships listed for this individual have been mitigated.



Vincenzo Venerito, MD, PhD
University of Bari “Aldo Moro”, Italy

Vincenzo Venerito is an Assistant Professor of Rheumatology at the University of Bari “Aldo Moro” in Italy, where he combines clinical practice with cutting-edge research in artificial intelligence (AI) and data science. He has pioneered the application of large language models in rheumatology, publishing influential work on AI-driven diagnostics and treatment prediction.

With expertise spanning machine learning, natural language processing, radiomics, and advanced biostatistics, Assistant Professor has authored over 128 peer-reviewed manuscripts with an H-index of 24. His research has secured competitive grants totaling >€200,000 and earned multiple international awards.

As a clinician-scientist running a psoriatic arthritis clinic, he maintains active clinical duties while leading international collaborative research through the COVID-19 Vaccination in Autoimmune Diseases (COVAD) consortium and other global networks. He serves on the European Alliance of Associations for Rheumatology (EULAR) Quality of Care Committee (2025-2031) and two EULAR task forces on vaccination in autoimmune diseases and artificial intelligence/big data, while chairing the Young Group for research and Assessment of Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis (GRAPPA) Education Subcommittee.

Financial Disclosures

Speaker:

AbbVie.

All of the relevant financial relationships listed for this individual have been mitigated.



Denis Wahl, MD, PhD
University of Lorraine, Nancy, France

Denis Wahl is Professor of Vascular Medicine at the University of Lorraine and has worked in antiphospholipid syndrome (APS) research for more than 30 years. His work has been supported by funding from Nancy University, Nancy University Hospital, the Programme Hospitalier de Recherche Clinique of the French Ministry of Health, Fondation de France, and INSERM. He completed pioneering work in 2004 by helping to establish the Antiphospholipid Antibodies Investigator Network in France for the TACT-TACIT and subsequent studies.

Professor Wahl has been instrumental in shaping global APS guidelines. He participated in the 2004 Sydney workshop that established the international consensus statement updating the classification criteria for definite APS (published in 2006), and later served on the American College of Rheumatology / European Alliance of Associations for Rheumatology (ACR/EULAR) APS criteria task force, with criteria published in 2023. He was a member of the National Advisory Committee of the International aPL Symposium in Tours in 2000 and has served on the International Advisory Committee of the International aPL congresses since 2013.

Professor Wahl is an active participant in the APS ACTION international clinical research working group and has longstanding experience in the study of antiphospholipid antibodies, with several projects ongoing at his centre. Deeply involved in regional leadership, he has taken part in most European Forum meetings and served as the General Coordinator of the European Forum on antiphospholipid antibodies from 2017 to 2026.

At Nancy University Hospital, Professor Wahl has held multiple leadership positions. He has served as the Director of the Division of Vascular Medicine since 2005, and Director of the Competence Centre for Rare Vascular Diseases since 2008. He previously directed the Competence Centre for Rare Systemic and Autoimmune Diseases (2008–2023) before becoming the 2023 Coordinator of the Nancy branch of the French Reference Center for Rare Systemic and Autoinflammatory Diseases, with a special focus on APS.

His principal research interest focuses on antiphospholipid antibodies and antiphospholipid syndrome. He has served as a Principal Investigator across several prominent teams, including as a Founding Member of the INSERM Unit “New Antithrombotic Approaches” (2002–2009), the INSERM Unit “Cardiovascular Risk Factors and Hypercoagulability” (2009–2012), and the INSERM Unit 1116 “Acute and Chronic Cardiac and Vascular Dysfunction” (2013–present).

Financial Disclosures

None.

Biographies



Chris Wincup, MBBS, MRCP, PhD

King's College Hospital / King's College London

Chris Wincup is a Consultant Rheumatologist based at King's College Hospital and Adjunct Senior Lecturer at King's College London. He has extensive experience in the management of patients with Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) with a background in both clinical and translational research, in addition to significant clinical trial experience.

Dr Wincup is an author of EULAR 2023 Guidelines for the management of Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE). He has previously been awarded the University College London Deans' Research Award, Arthritis UK Outstanding Fellow Prize and Royal Society of Medicine Kovacs' Traveling Fellowship award (supporting a placement at the Lupus Unit, Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago). He is a member of the British Isles Lupus Assessment Group (BILAG) and is the Chief Investigator of the PERSONAL-SLE study, which seeks to identify biomarkers for to predict outcomes lupus.

Dr Wincup's main research interests include cell-based therapies, immunometabolism and precision medicine in SLE.

Financial Disclosures

Consultant/Advisor:

AbbVie; Biogen; Gilead;
Novartis; Roche; UCB; Viartis.

Research Grants:

AstraZeneca.

Speaker:

AstraZeneca; Bristol Myers
Squibb; CSL Vifor; Johnson
& Johnson; Kyverna; Otsuka
Pharmaceuticals; Roche; UCB.

*All of the relevant financial
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About the Lupus Academy

Mission

The Lupus Academy is a not-for-profit, long-term initiative committed to improving patient outcomes in SLE and allied diseases. By providing a highly interactive educational forum, the Lupus Academy is dedicated to sharing best clinical practice through the dissemination and discussion of cutting edge scientific and clinical research.

Meeting Organisation

The 15th Annual Meeting of the Lupus Academy has been developed under the control of the meeting Chairs: Professors Andrea Doria (Italy) and Zahir Amoura (France), on behalf of the Steering Committee of the Lupus Academy, and with the support of the planning staff at Lupus Academy. It has been developed in Joint Providership with Siyemi Europe, an ACCME-accredited provider for CME compliance and certification. No other individuals or organisations have had any influence over the content of this meeting.

Other Educational Activities

The Lupus Academy runs an Annual Meeting and several enduring education initiatives. It also has an extensive library of presentations that is available to registered members, currently free of charge. The Lupus Academy also provides a series of eLearning activities (lupuscme.org) to support its educational goals. From 2019 Lupus Academy has been proud to be the provider of the eLearning course on SLE for the European Alliance of Associations for Rheumatology (EULAR). More information about all Lupus Academy educational activities can be found at lupus-academy.org.

Further Information

The Lupus Academy is a not-for-profit educational foundation with its office in the Netherlands, RSIN 851342097.

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