

PROVIDER N. 157

Reumatologia 2026

AI am a Rheumatologist

From AI Theory to Clinical Decisions

June 25–26, 2026 · Bari, Italy

The Nicolaus Hotel

Congress Chair: Prof. Florenzo Iannone · Scientific Secretary: Dr. Vincenzo Venerito

Scientific Rationale

Artificial intelligence is reshaping medicine at a pace that rheumatology cannot afford to ignore. The specialty is characterised by multisystem diseases, heterogeneous phenotypes, and composite outcome measures that have long outgrown the analytical capacity of conventional statistics. Machine learning, large language models, and digital biomarkers now offer tools capable of navigating this complexity — provided they are implemented with rigour and a clear clinical purpose.

The clinical stakes are high across multiple disease areas. In rheumatoid arthritis, machine learning models trained on real-world cohorts are stratifying patients by likelihood of biologic response and predicting radiographic progression, while video-based tools such as motion capturing are objectifying joint assessment in ways that reduce examiner subjectivity and enable remote monitoring. In spondyloarthritis, diagnostic delay still averages seven to ten years, and AI-assisted screening of primary care records and imaging repositories holds genuine promise for earlier referral; telemonitoring platforms integrating patient-reported outcomes and wearable data — as illustrated by Prof. Antoni Chan's experience in axial SpA — are already enabling treat-to-target strategies without frequent in-person visits. In connective tissue diseases, pulmonary fibrosis remains one of the gravest complications, and deep learning applied to high-resolution CT is now achieving radiologist-level performance in detecting and quantifying fibrotic involvement, while multimodal prognostic models integrating imaging, pulmonary function, and remote sensor data are beginning to guide antifibrotic therapy decisions. Across all these contexts, well-designed LLM pipelines can structure and synthesise the scattered clinical narratives — radiology reports, MDT notes, outpatient letters — that currently make longitudinal management unnecessarily fragmented.

Yet a fundamental gap persists between this promise and everyday clinical practice. Most rheumatologists have limited exposure to the methodological foundations that determine whether a model is trustworthy and reproducible. EULAR is revising its Points-to-Consider on AI, editorial standards for LLM-assisted writing are being debated, and regulatory frameworks are still catching up. Rheumatologia was conceived to bridge this gap — offering, in two intensive days, a trajectory from Python and machine learning foundations through to prompt engineering, digital phenotyping, and the ethics of AI in publishing. The faculty unites EULAR leadership, digital rheumatology pioneers, biomedical physicists, and AI developers around a single mission: to equip clinicians with the critical literacy and hands-on skills needed to evaluate, use, and shape AI responsibly in the care of their patients.

Obiettivo Formativo : 29. Innovazione tecnologica: valutazione, miglioramento dei processi di gestione delle tecnologie biomediche, chimiche, fisiche e dei dispositivi medici. Health Technology Assessment

Destinatari iniziativa: n. 50 medici chirurghi specialisti in: Allergologia ed immunologia clinica, Medicina interna, Reumatologia, Malattie dell'apparato respiratorio, Radiodiagnostica

Thursday 25 June 2026

Understanding AI · Talking to AI · Running AI Locally

14:30–15:00 *Welcome Coffee & Registration*

15:00–15:10 **Special Address — The Importance of AI for Doctors**

Prof. Giorgio Parisi, Nobel Laureate

Chair: Vincenzo Venerito

- The Importance of AI for Doctors: A Physicist's Perspective

15:10–15:25 **Opening Lecture**

Prof. Florenzo Iannone

Chair: Vincenzo Venerito

- AI and Telemedicine in Rheumatology: Between Hype and Hope

15:25–15:55 **Keynote Lecture**

Prof. Thomas Hügler

Chair: Vincenzo Venerito, Florenzo Iannone

- The Manifold Aspects of AI in Rheumatology: From ML to Digital Biomarkers and LLMs

15:55–16:15 **Lecture — Why We Need to Update the EULAR Points-to-Consider on AI**

Prof. Latika Gupta

Chair: Vincenzo Venerito, Florenzo Iannone

- What has changed since the 2022 EULAR Points-to-Consider
- New challenges: LLMs, agentic AI, and the pace of change
- Towards an updated governance framework for clinical AI

16:15–16:35 **Talk — AI and Telemonitoring: The UK Experience**

Prof. Antoni Chan

Chair: Dr. Xabier Michelena Vegas

- Real-world AI deployment in AxSpA care
- Continuous remote monitoring and predictive flare models
- Lessons learned from UK implementation

16:35–17:05 *Coffee Break*

17:05–18:25 **Interactive Course — Prompt Engineering for Clinicians and Researchers**

Prof. Vincenzo Venerito & Dr. Sergio Del Vescovo

- From naive prompting to structured prompting
- Prompt patterns: role, context, constraints, output format
- Clinical use cases: data extraction, table generation, ICD coding, literature screening
- Prompt styles: reasoning chains, summarisation, structured output (JSON/CSV)
- Case-based mini labs with real clinical scenarios

⚡ **Group challenge: Best prompt for extracting structured data from a clinical case — judged on accuracy and creativity**

18:25–19:25 **Hands-On Session — Running Your First Local LLM**

Instructors & Tutors

- Install LM Studio and download a model (Llama, Mistral, Qwen)

- Run your first query locally — zero internet, zero data leakage
- Compare: local vs cloud (speed, quality, privacy tradeoffs)
- Server basics: exposing a local LLM as an API
- When to go local vs when cloud is acceptable

⚡ **Group challenge: First team to get a local LLM running and answering a clinical question correctly**

Workshop tutors (one per group): Dr. Sergio Del Vescovo · Dr. José Miguel Sequí Sabater · Dr. Xabier Michelena Vegas · Dr. Emre Bilgin · Dr. Diego Benavent Nunoz · Prof. Vincenzo Venerito · Pierfrancesco Novielli, PhD · Dr. Marc Blanchard

Friday 26 June 2026

Building with AI · Vibe Coding · Hackathon

09:00–09:30 *Welcome Coffee*

09:30–10:30 **Lecture — Explainable AI & ML: What Clinicians Need to Know**

Prof. Sabina Tangaro & Dr. Pierfrancesco Novielli

- What is a model? How does it learn? — intuitive, no formulas
- Explainability: why it matters in clinical decisions
- When to trust AI, when to doubt it

10:30–11:00 **From Terminal to Claude Code**

Dr. Orazio Angelini

- What is Claude Code? AI coding directly from the terminal
- From IDE to terminal: when and why the shift matters
- Live demo: using Claude Code for clinical and research tasks
- Exercise: complete a clinical coding task using Claude Code

⚡ **Mini challenge: First team to complete a clinical task using Claude Code from the terminal**

Tutors: Dr. Sergio Del Vescovo · Dr. José María Sequí Sabater · Dr. Xabier Michelena Vegas · Dr. Emre Bilgin · Dr. Diego Benavent · Prof. Vincenzo Venerito · Pierfrancesco Novielli, PhD · Dr. Marc Blanchard

11:00–11:15 *Coffee Break*

11:15–12:30 **Hands-On — Agentic Cursor**

Dr. José María Sequí Sabater

- Cursor: an AI-native IDE (fork of VS Code) — introduction to Agent mode
- Vibe coding: describe what you want in natural language → Cursor builds it
- Agentic mode: Cursor handles multi-step tasks autonomously (load → process → extract → present)
- Exercise: "Create a tool that reads discharge letters and extracts diagnoses, medications, and lab values into a table"
- Exercise: "Create a dashboard that visualises disease activity scores over time"
- Free exercise: build your own clinical tool using Cursor Agent

⚡ **Group challenge: Build the most useful clinical tool — judged by fellow participants**

Tutors: Dr. Sergio Del Vescovo · Dr. José Miguel Sequí Sabater · Dr. Xabier Michelena Vegas · Dr. Emre Bilgin · Dr. Diego Benavent Nunoz · Prof. Vincenzo Venerito · Pierfrancesco Novielli, PhD · Dr. Marc Blanchard

12:30–13:00 **Magistral Lecture — LLMs in Rheumatology**

Prof. Vincenzo Venerito

Chair: Florenzo Iannone

- What are LLMs? Live demo with ChatGPT / Claude web interface
- Clinical use cases: discharge letters, differential diagnosis, literature synthesis
- Strengths, hallucinations, and when NOT to trust output
- The privacy problem: cloud LLMs + patient data
- Why running LLMs locally changes everything

13:00–13:30 Lecture — AI in Medical Writing and Publishing: Opportunities, Limits, and Editorial Ethics

Dr. Diego Benavent

Chair: Dr. Emre Bilgin

- AI-assisted writing: what's possible, what's acceptable
- What journal editors expect in 2026
- Disclosure, attribution, and the grey zones

13:30–14:30 Lunch

14:30–16:45 Clinical Data Extraction from Synthetic EHR

Step 5: Use agentic AI — put it all together

The Task

- Each team receives a set of synthetic EHR documents: discharge letters, outpatient clinic notes, lab reports, imaging reports
- Goal: extract structured data — diagnoses, medications, lab values, disease activity scores, treatment changes
- Tools: local LLMs (LM Studio), cloud LLMs, Google Colab, Cursor — use whatever you've learned

Timeline

- 14:30–14:45 Briefing — the dataset, the task, the scoring criteria
- 14:45–16:00 Teams work — each with a dedicated tutor
- 16:00–16:15 Coffee Break
- 16:15–16:35 Presentations — each team shows their approach and results (5 min per team)
- 16:35–16:45 Jury evaluation and winner announcement

Scoring Criteria

- Completeness — how much structured data was correctly extracted
- Accuracy — correct diagnoses, medications, values
- Creativity — innovative use of the tools learned
- Reproducibility—could another team follow your approach?

Tutors: Dr. Sergio Del Vescovo · Dr. José Miguel Sequí Sabater · Dr. Xabier Michelena Vegas · Dr. Emre Bilgin · Dr. Diego Benavent Nunoz · Prof. Vincenzo Venerito Venerito · Pierfrancesco Novielli, PhD · Dr Marc Blanchard

16:45–17:00 Closing Remarks & Certificate Distribution

Prof. Florenzo Iannone & Prof. Vincenzo Venerito

FACULTY

Cognome/Nome	Laurea	Specializzazione	Attuale Posizione
Iannone Florenzo	Medicina e Chirurgia	Reumatologia	Prof. Ordinario Reumatologia Università di Bari
Tangaro Sabina	Fisica	Fisica	Professore associato di Fisica Applicata presso l'Università degli Studi di Bari Aldo Moro
Blanchard Marc	Medicina e Chirurgia	Reumatologia	Ph.D. candidate at Lausanne University Hospital (CHUV), specializing in digital health solutions for chronic rheumatic conditions
Novielli Pierfrancesco	Bioinformatica	Bioinformatica	Ricercatore, Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare (INFN) Bari
Benavent Nunez Diego	Medicina e Chirurgia	Reumatologia	Medical Doctor at Hospital Universitario La Paz Madrid
Emre Bilgin	Medicina e Chirurgia	Reumatologia	Rheumatologist, Hacettepe University (Turchia)
Sequi Sabater José Miguel	Medicina e Chirurgia	Reumatologia	Ricercatore presso FUNDACION PARA LA INVESTIGACION HOSPITAL UNIVERSITARIO LA FE
Del Vescovo Sergio	Medicina e Chirurgia	Reumatologia	Dirigente medico I livello presso Ospedale San Carlo Potenza
Gupta Latika	Medicina e Chirurgia	Reumatologia	Consultant Rheumatologist; EULAR Executive Committee Member. Università di Birmingham
Antoni Chan	Medicina e Chirurgia	Reumatologia	Consultant Rheumatologist, Royal

			Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust (UK)
Xabier Michelena Vegas	Medicina e Chirurgia	Reumatologia	Consultant Rheumatologist, Hospital Universitario Vall d'Hebron, Barcelona
Hugle Thomas	Medicina e Chirurgia	Reumatologia	Professor of Rheumatology, University of Lausanne; Consultant Rheumatologist, CHUV (Switzerland)
Venerito Vincenzo	Medicina e Chirurgia	Reumatologia	Dirigente Medico, U.O.C. Reumatologia, Policlinico di Bari
Angelini Orazio	Fisica	Fisica	Amazon Research, King's College London
Parisi Giorgio	Fisica	Fisica	Prof. Ordinario I Dipartimento di Fisica dell'Università degli studi di Roma "Tor Vergata".

La sottoscritta Susanna Priore, nata a Lecce il 13/03/1965 C.F. PRRSNN65C53E506S ed ivi residente in via Potenza 19, in qualità di Legale Rappresentante di FORMEDICA S.R.L. (Provider Ministeriale n. 157) dichiara sotto la propria responsabilità che i curricula dei Relatori/Moderatori relativi all'evento: **Reumatologia 2026 AI am a Rheumatologist From AI Theory to Clinical Decisions June 25–26, 2026 · Bari** avendo un peso superiore ai 4 MB non possono essere inseriti nel campo apposito, pertanto sono disponibili presso gli archivi della nostra sede legale.