GARDEN WEBINARS: A COMPRENSIVE APPROACH FOR BREAKING-UP THE COMMON BARRIERS OF HEMATOLOGICAL RARE DISEASES

HOW TO IMPROVE DIAGNOSIS AND MANAGEMENT OF SICKLE CELL DISEASE WORLDWIDE

FAD SINCRONA ECM

26 June 2026

DATE: June 26, 2026

TRAINING HOURS: 4,5 hours

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 500

ECM ID: 275 - **487856**

CME CREDITS GRANTED: 6

FAD PLATFORM URL: https://infomed-ecm.it/

FAD PLATFORM LOCATION: Via San Gregorio 12 – 20124 Milan, Italy

SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR
Prof. Aurelio Maggio

Steering Committee:
Mariane De Montalembert, Aurelio Maggio ,Paul Telfer

FACULTY:
Raffaella Colombatti – Padova (Italy)
Lucia De Franceschi – Verona (Italy)
Mariane De Montalembert – Paris (France)
Stephan Lobitz – Koblenz (Germany)
Aurelio Maggio – Palermo (Italy)
Caterina Minniti – New York (USA)
David C. Rees – London (UK)
Paul Telfer – London (UK)
Leon Tshilolo – Mbujimayi (Congo)
Donatella Venturelli – Modena (Italy)

TRAINING OBJECTIVE:

3 - Documentazione clinica. Percorsi clinico-assistenziali diagnostici e riabilitativi, profili di assistenza - profili di cura

RAZIONALE

Sickle cell disease (SCD) is one of the most prevalent rare hematological disorders worldwide, affecting millions of individuals across Africa, Europe, the Americas and the Middle East. Although the disease was historically concentrated in specific geographical regions, migration patterns and demographic changes have significantly modified its epidemiology, making SCD an increasingly relevant healthcare challenge in many European countries, including Italy.

Despite major scientific and therapeutic advances, important gaps remain in early diagnosis, appropriate clinical management, laboratory monitoring, and access to innovative treatments. Early identification of patients is essential for preventing severe complications and improving long-term outcomes. In this context, laboratory medicine plays a critical role through neonatal screening programs, advanced diagnostic tools, and molecular characterization of hemoglobin variants.

In parallel, the therapeutic landscape of SCD is rapidly evolving. Disease-modifying strategies, including optimized hydroxyurea use and new targeted pharmacological agents, are increasingly available. In addition, gene therapy and gene-editing technologies are opening new perspectives for potentially curative approaches. These innovations raise important clinical, regulatory, organizational, and economic questions that require continuous education and multidisciplinary discussion.

Healthcare professionals involved in SCD management must therefore be continuously updated on diagnostic advances, laboratory approaches, and emerging therapeutic strategies. Collaboration between clinicians, biologists, and laboratory technicians is essential to ensure appropriate diagnostic pathways, accurate interpretation of laboratory results, and effective patient monitoring.

The GARDEN Network CME Webinar 'How to Improve Diagnosis and Management of Sickle Cell Disease Worldwide' aims to provide an updated multidisciplinary overview of the disease, focusing on global diagnostic challenges, innovative models of comprehensive care, emerging therapeutic strategies, and issues related to treatment accessibility and sustainability.
The event is specifically designed for medical doctors, biologists, and laboratory technicians working in hematology and rare diseases, with the objective of improving diagnostic accuracy, strengthening collaboration between clinical and laboratory professionals, and facilitating the translation of scientific advances into routine clinical practice.

COURSE TARGET AUDIENCE:

Medical Doctor

- Hematology
- Internal Medicine
- Pediatricians

Biologist

- Biologist

Biomedical Laboratory Technician

• Biomedical Laboratory Technician

Nurse

• Nurse

OBJECTIVE:

By the end of the webinar, participants will be able to:

- Identify current global challenges in the diagnosis of sickle cell disease;
- Understand the role of laboratory diagnostics and neonatal screening in SCD;
- Evaluate innovative models of comprehensive care for SCD patients;
- Discuss emerging therapeutic strategies, including gene-based approaches;
- Analyze regulatory, HTA and accessibility challenges related to new treatments.

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

09:00 – 09:15
Welcome & Opening Remarks
Overview of global SCD burden and objectives of the webinar
Chair: A. Maggio

09:15 – 10:00 - FIRST SESSION: Global Barriers to Early Diagnosis of SCD
Chair: Raffaella Colombatti

09:15 – 09:30 Bridging the Access Gap for Comprehensive Sickle Cell Disease Management Across Sub-Saharan Africa: Learnings for Other Global Health Interventions?
L. Tshilolo - Congo

09:30 – 09:45 Neonatal screening for SCD in Italy: Low Cost and Reproducible Program in an Area of Immigration of High Risk Population
D. Venturelli - Italy

09:45 – 10:00 Sickle cell disease in Germany. Results from a national registry: which are the unmet needs?
S. Lobitz - Germany

10:00 - 11:00 – SECOND SESSION: Innovative Models of Comprehensive Care
Chair: Lucia De Franceschi

10:00 – 10:15 Comprehensive care management in pediatrics age of SCD
R. Colombatti - Italy

10:15 – 10:30 Transition from pediatric to adult care
C. Minniti - USA

10:30 – 10:45 Comprehensive approach for SCD care centers
J. Telfer - UK

10:45 – 11:00 After two decades of hydroxyurea: leukemic risk in sickle cell disease assessed by integrated marrow morphology, cytogenetics and genomics
A. Maggio - Italy

11:00 – 11:15 Break

11:15 - 12:15 – THIRD SESSION: New Therapeutic Strategies: From Disease-Modifying Agents to Curative Approaches
Chair: Aurelio Maggio

11:15 – 11:35 Current and innovative treatments approach management of SCD in France
M. De Montalembert - France

11:35 – 11:55 Sickle Cell Disease management in UK: impact of Gene Editing treatment
D. Rees - UK

11:55 – 12:15 New insights on the hematopoiesis disorders in SCD
L. De Franceschi - Italy

12:15 - 13:15 – FOURTH SESSION: Accessibility, HTA and Sustainability of SCD Treatments
Chairs: M. De Montalembert and P. Telfer

Speakers, Representatives of Regulatory Agencies, Representatives of low-resource countries, Representatives of the Project Italy-Tunisia ETIC, Patient Association Representative, Nurse Specialist, Psychologist
Discussion on actionable recommendations for 2027

13:15 – 13:30 Closing Remarks & Action Points
Summary of key messages
Proposal for GARDEN SCD Position Paper
Future collaborative initiatives

COGNOME	NOME	laurea	specializzazione	ENTE DI APPARTENENZA	DESCRIZIONE ATTIVITA' PROFESSIONALE/FORMATIVA
Maggio	Aurelio	Medicina e Chirurgia	Ematologia	Fondazione Franco e Piera Cutino (Palermo)	Presidente Fondazione Cutino e Medico Ematologo (Villa Sofia-Cervello Palermo)
De Montalembert	Mariane	Medicina e Chirurgia	Pediatria	Paris Descartes University, Paris, France, Pediatrics Department and Sickle Cell Clinic, Hospital Necker, AP-HP, Paris (FR) Service de Pédiatrie générale et maladies infectieuses Hôpital Necker-Enfants malades, Paris (FR)	Professor specialized in pediatrics, statistics (option clinical research), red cell diseases, especially hemoglobinopathies, in children, and transfusion
Telfer	Paul	BM, BCh (Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery) Oxford University Medical School, Oxford, Regno Unito	Ematologia clinica	Queen Mary University of London – Blizard Institute	Professor and clinical lead for haemoglobinopathy services at Bart's Health NHS Trust and for the Haemoglobinopathy Co-ordinating Centres for East London and Essex (Sickle) and East London, Essex, South East London and South East England (Thalassaemia)
Colombatti	Raffaella	Medicina e Chirurgia	Pediatria	Azienda Ospedale-Università di Padova (IT)	Prof.ssa Associata di Pediatria, Università degli Studi di Padova; attività assistenziale presso UOC Oncoematologia Pediatrica, Azienda Ospedale-Università di Padova; Direttore funzionale del Centro di Riferimento della Regione Veneto per la Diagnosi, la cura e il trattamento della Malattia Drepanocitica in Età Pediatrica

Tshilolo	Leon	laurea in Medicina e la specializzazione in Pediatria	Pediatria	Université Officielle de Mbujimayi	Professore di Pediatria ed Ematologia
Venturelli	Donatella	Medicina e Chirurgia	Medicina e Chirurgia	Università degli Studi di Modena e Reggio Emilia	Dirigente medico I livello con incarico professionale semplice *"Sorveglianza e profilassi della Malattia Emolitica Neonatale e della diagnosi perinatale delle emoglobinopatie congenite"*
Lobitz	Stephan	Medicina e Chirurgia	Ematologia pediatrica	Gemeinschaftsklinikum Mittelrhein gGmbH (Koblenz, DE)	Head of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology at Hospital Mittelrhein gGmbH (Sickle Cell Disease, Haemoglobinopathies)
De Franceschi	Lucia	Medicina e Chirurgia	Medicina Interna	Università degli Studi di Verona (Verona, IT)	Professor of internal medicine at DIMI, University of Verona, Verona, Italy.
Minniti	Caterina	Medicina e Chirurgia	Ematologia pediatrica	Albert Einstein College of Medicine, NY (USA)	Professor Emeritus of Medicine and Pediatrics at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York
Rees	David Charles	Medicina e Chirurgia	Ematologia pediatrica	King's College London, UK	Paediatric haematologist at King's College London and King's College Hospital (sickle cell disease, thalassaemia, porphyria)