

HIGHLIGHTS IN RHEUMATOLOGY 2026
EMERGING PATHWAYS AND PRECISION MEDICINE IN AUTOIMMUNE DISEASES
PRESIDENT OF THE CONGRESS
PROF. FRANCESCO CICCIA
Congress Center Grand Hotel Santa Lucia
Naples, 24-25 September 2026

Evento ECM ID: **490950**

PROVIDER: **Associazione Sinapsy soluzioni e servizi integrati ID 3017**

SEGRETERIA ORGANIZZATIVA: **Meeting & Creative S.r.l.**

OBIETTIVO FORMATIVO: **3**

CREDITI ASSEGNATI: **9**

ORE FORMATIVE: **9**

DESTINATARI DELL'INIZIATIVA

PROFESSIONE: **Medico chirurgo**

DISCIPLINE: **ALLERGOLOGIA ED IMMUNOLOGIA CLINICA; MEDICINA FISICA E RIABILITAZIONE; MEDICINA INTERNA; REUMATOLOGIA;**

Scientific Rationale

Rheumatology stands at the crossroads of immunology, molecular medicine, and data science. In recent years, remarkable advances have reshaped our understanding of how immune dysregulation drives systemic inflammation and tissue remodeling, paving the way for new therapeutic strategies across autoimmune and autoinflammatory diseases. Yet, despite these discoveries, substantial heterogeneity in disease expression and treatment response continues to challenge clinical management. Highlights in Rheumatology 2026 will explore how innovation at the interface between biology and clinical care can transform patient outcomes. The meeting will gather international experts to discuss the most recent advances in immune pathways, mucosal–joint and neuro–immune communication, and cellular and molecular targets that redefine our view of chronic inflammation. This year's edition introduces an expanded focus on artificial intelligence and multi-omics integration, enabling a transition from population-based to individualized medicine. Through the use of digital tools, predictive analytics, and patient-specific modeling, precision rheumatology is becoming a reality, with implications for early diagnosis, monitoring, and treatment optimization. Particular attention will also be devoted to emerging therapeutic frontiers, from metabolic and stromal immunity to innovative biologics, small molecules, and potential cell-based or tolerogenic approaches. Parallel to mechanistic insights, the congress will emphasize the clinical dimension — re-evaluating disease phenotypes, long-term outcomes, fatigue, and the patient experience — to ensure that scientific progress translates into tangible benefit. Ultimately, Highlights in Rheumatology 2026 aims to provide a comprehensive and forward-looking perspective on the evolving landscape of systemic inflammatory diseases, showcasing how next-generation science, technology, and clinical reasoning can converge to achieve precision, personalization, and prevention in rheumatology.

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM • DAY 1
Thursday, September 24

1:30 - 2:00	Registration and Welcome Remarks	Francesco Ciccia
Session 1: From Pathways to Patients: Translational Immunology in Rheumatic Diseases		Chair: Giuliana Guggino
2:00 - 2:30	Innate–adaptive interfaces: decoding inflammation across rheumatic diseases	Andreas Ramming
2:30 - 3:00	Mucosal immunity and the gut–brain–joint axis in rheumatic diseases	Mario Zaiss
3:00 - 3:45	Questions and discussion (Regarding the subject included in the session)	
3:45 - 4:00	Coffee break	
Session 2: Artificial Intelligence and Precision Medicine in Rheumatology		Chair: Enrico Tirri
4:00 - 4:30	AI-assisted diagnosis and outcome prediction	Giulio Forte
4:30 - 5:00	Integrating multi-omics and machine learning in addressing sex-bias in AxSpA	Matteo Vecellio
5:00 - 5:45	Questions and discussion (Regarding the subject included in the session)	
5:45 - 6:15	<i>Keynote Lecture</i> Targeting inflammation with precision: a clinical perspective	Presenter: Francesco Ciccia Speaker: Roberto Caporali
6:15	<i>Closing first day CME</i>	
6:15 - 6:35	<i>The lecture has not been included in the educational program CME</i> Beyond Disease Control: Expanding the Clinical Efficacy of guselkumab	Presenter: Francesco Ciccia Speaker: Domenico Birra

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM • DAY 2
Friday, September 25

Chair: Francesco Ciccia

Session 3: Emerging Therapeutic Frontiers

8:30 - 9:00

CAR-T therapy in Rheumatic diseases

**Maria Antonietta
D'Agostino**

9:00 - 9:30

Beyond cytokines: metabolism, mitochondria, and exhaustion

Daniele Mauro

9:30 - 10:00

**Questions and discussion
(Regarding the subject included in the session)**

Session 4: Targeted Approaches in Complex Immune-Mediated Diseases

**Chair: Maria Grazia
Ferrucci**

10:00 - 10:30

Targeted therapy in EGPA

Alvise Berti

10:30 - 11:00

Targeted therapy in GCA

Sara Monti

11:00 - 11:30

**Questions and discussion
(Regarding the subject included in the session)**

11:30 - 11:45

Coffee Break

Session 5: Rethinking Disease Phenotypes and Clinical Trajectories

**Chair: Carlo Francesco
Selmi**

11:45 - 12:15

Unraveling complexity: D2T SLE

Iannis Parodis

12:15 - 12:45

**Patient-reported outcomes and pain phenotyping in SjD: capturing the
invisible burden**

Saviana Gandolfo

12:45 - 1:15

**Questions and discussion
(Regarding the subject included in the session)**

1:15 - 1:45

**Concluding Lecture
Autoimmunity in transition: from organs to systems**

**Presenter: Francesco
Ciccia
Speaker: Adam Croft**

1:45 - 2:00

CME Evaluation test and closing remarks

Francesco Ciccia

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BERTI ALVISE	MEDICO CHIRURGO	ALLERGOLOGIA ED IMMUNOLOGIA CLINICA	UNITRENTO CISMed	PROFESSORE ASSOCIATO IN REUMATOLOGIA
CAPORALI ROBERTO FELICE	MEDICO CHIRURGO	MEDICINA INTERNA, REUMATOLOGIA	UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO – ASST GAETANO PINI-CTO, MILANO	PROFESSORE ORDINARIO DI REUMATOLOGIA, DIRETTORE U.O. REUMATOLOGIA CLINICA
CICCIA FRANCESCO	MEDICO CHIRURGO	MEDICINA INTERNA	UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DELLA CAMPANIA “LUIGI VANVITELLI”	PROFESSORE ORDINARIO DI REUMATOLOGIA
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GUGGINO GIULIANA	MEDICO CHIRURGO	PATOLOGIA CLINICA CON INDIRIZZO IMMUNOEMATOLOGICO	UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI PALERMO	PROFESSORE ORDINARIO DI REUMATOLOGIA
MAURO DANIELE	MEDICO CHIRURGO	REUMATOLOGIA	UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DELLA CAMPANIA L. VANVITELLI, NAPOLI	RICERCATORE MED/16
MONTI SARA	MEDICO CHIRURGO	REUMATOLOGIA	ISTITUTO AUXOLOGICO SAN LUCA MILANO UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO	RESPONSABILE UO IMMUNOLOGIA, ALLERGOLOGIA E REUMATOLOGIA - RICERCATORE (RTT) IN REUMATOLOGIA
PARODIS IOANNIS	MD, PHD		KI - KAROLINSKA UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL STOCKHOLM	ASSOCIATE PROFESSORE SENIOR CONSULTANT RHEUMATOLOGIST
RAMMING ANDREAS	MD, PHD, MSD	INTERNAL MEDICINE AND RHEUMATOLOGY	UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL ERLANGEN, FRIEDRICH-ALEXANDER-UNIVERSITY (FAU) ERLANGEN-NÜRNBERG	PROFESSOR FOR IMMUNOLOGY OF ORGAN DAMAGE, SENIOR ATTENDING PHYSICIAN (INTERNAL

				MEDICINE/RHEUMATOLOGY/IMMUNOLOGY) HEAD OF RHEUMATOLOGY OUTPATIENT CLINIC
SELMI CARLO FRANCESCO	MEDICO CHIRURGO	MALATTIE DEL FEGATO E DEL RICAMBIO	HUMANITAS UNIVERSITY, ROZZANO MILANO	PROFESSORE ORDINARIO DI MEDICINA INTERNA DIRETTORE SCUOLA DI SPECIALIZZAZIONE IN ALLERGOLOGIA E IMMUNOLOGIA CLINICA
TIRRI ENRICO	MEDICO CHIRURGO	REUMATOLOGIA	OSPEDALE DEL MARE NAPOLI UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DELLA CAMPANIA “LUIGI VANVITELLI” NAPOLI	DIRETTORE UOSD REUMATOLOGIA DOCENTE DI REUMATOLOGIA
VECELLIO MATTEO LUCA	BIOTECNOLOG O	DOTTORATO DI RICERCA IN MEDICINA TRASLAZIONALE E MOLECOLARE	FONDAZIONE ITALIANA RICERCA IN REUMATOLOGIA (FIRA) MILANO	POFESSORE ASSOCIATO IN GENETICA MEDICA, COORDINATORE SCIENTIFICO DEL CENTRO RICERCHE
ZAISS MARIO	MD, PhD		FRIEDRICH-ALEXANDER-UNIVERSITY ERLANGEN-NÜRNBERG (FAU), UNIVERSITÄTSKLINIKUM ERLANGEN	PROFESSOR FOR IMMUNE TOLERANCE AND AUTOIMMUNITY

Il provider dichiara ai sensi dell’art. 76 del DPR n.445/2000:

di aver fornito all’interessato l’informativa sul trattamento dei dati personali (art. 13 del Regolamento europeo 2016/679; artt. 68, 70, 76, 96 Accordo Stato-Regioni 2017 “La formazione continua nel settore salute”- Rep. Atti 14/CSR del 2.2.2017 - Par. 4.6, lett. j) Manuale Nazionale di Accreditamento per l’Erogazione di Eventi ECM);

di aver informato l’interessato che il programma dell’evento ECM, di cui le suddette informazioni contribuiscono a formarne il contenuto minimo, verrà inserito nel catalogo degli eventi E.C.M. tenuto dall’ente accreditante;