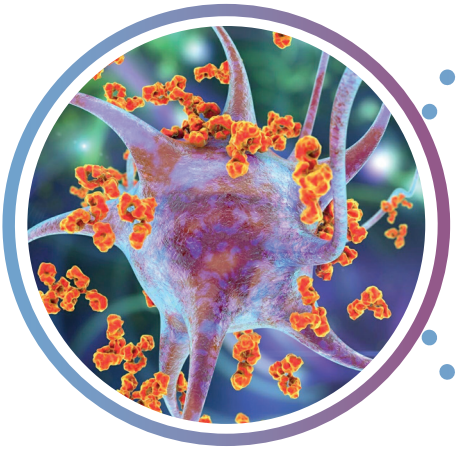


First Conference on Autoimmunity in neuromuscular disorders:

mechanisms, biomarkers and emerging therapies

19TH – 20TH JUNE 2026

STARHOTELS EXCELSIOR

Viale Pietramellara 51

BOLOGNA

PROGRAM

PRESENTATION

Autoimmune mechanisms underlie a wide spectrum of disorders affecting the peripheral nervous system and neuromuscular junction, including inflammatory neuropathies, small fiber neuropathies, paraneoplastic syndromes, and myasthenia gravis. While the diagnostic role of autoantibodies and immunological biomarkers is well recognized, important challenges remain in understanding their pathogenic significance, refining their use in treated patients, and integrating them into therapeutic decision-making.

This scientific program brings together leading experts to provide a comprehensive overview of recent advances in autoimmune neurology. Sessions will address biomarkers and pathogenesis in autoimmune neuropathies, including nodo-paranodopathies, paraneoplastic and therapy-related syndromes, and small fiber neuropathies with pain. The program also explores therapeutic innovations, from conventional immunotherapies to monoclonal antibodies.

By combining translational research with clinical expertise, this meeting aims to advance understanding of autoimmune neuromuscular disorders, refine diagnostic strategies, and explore novel treatment avenues that can improve patient outcomes.

Scientific Secretariat

Prof. Rocco Liguori Dr. Maria Pia Giannoccaro Prof. Vincenzo Donadio

FACULTY

Chiara Briani, *Padova*
Andrea De Maria, *Genova*
Marina De Tommaso, *Bari*
Grazia Devigli, *Milano*
Vincenzo Donadio, *Bologna*
Pietro Emiliano Doneddu, *Milano*
Kathrin Doppler, *Wurzburg*
Antonio Farina, *Lyon*
Anna Fetta, *Bologna*
Matteo Gastaldi, Pavia
Maria Pia Giannoccaro, *Bologna*
Peter Grace, *Houston*
Francesco Habetswallner, *Napoli*
Aiden Haghikia, *Hannover*
Sarah Hoffmann, *Berlin*
Raffaele Iorio, *Roma*
Daniela Latorre, *Milano*
Giuseppe Lauria Pinter, *Milano*
Maria Isabel Leite, *Oxford*
Rocco Liguori, *Bologna*
Lorenzo Maggi, *Milano*
Sara Mariotto, *Verona*
Christian Moritz, *Saint-Etienne*
Eduardo Nobile-Orazio, *Milano*
Maria Nolano, *Napoli*
Rita Rinaldi, *Bologna*
Simon Rinaldi, *Oxford*
Elia Sechi, *Sassari*
Elisa Vegezzi, *Pavia*
Angela Vincent, *Oxford*
Marco Zoccarato, *Padova*

Friday 19TH June 2026

13:00 Arrival and registration
13:30 Conference Opening
Introduction and welcome, *Rocco Liguori*
Greetings by the Authorities
14:00 Keynote Lecture – CAR T cell therapy as an emerging therapy in neuroimmunological diseases, *Aiden Haghikia*

SESSION 1: MYASTHENIA GRAVIS: A MODEL OF ANTIBODY MEDIATED NEUROLOGICAL DISORDER

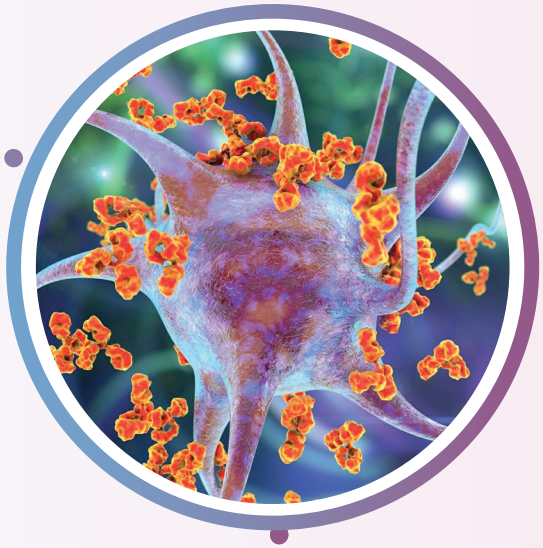
Chairs: Francesco Habetswallner, Elia Sechi

14:30 The central role of B cells in Myasthenia Gravis: from autoantibody production to therapeutic targeting, *Raffaele Iorio*
14:50 Seronegative Myasthenia Gravis: diagnostic challenges and emerging markers, *Sarah Hoffmann*
15:10 NMOSD & Myasthenia Gravis: Shared immunological Features and Clinical Overlaps, *Maria Isabel Leite*
15:30 Therapeutic frontiers in Myasthenia Gravis, *Lorenzo Maggi*
15:50 Discussion
16:00 Coffee Break

SESSION 2: BRIDGING THE GAP: CNS AND PNS INVOLVEMENT IN AUTOIMMUNE NEUROPATHIES

Chairs: Eduardo Nobile Orazio, Matteo Gastaldi

16:20 Autoantibodies in sensory neuronopathies, *Christian Moritz*
16:40 Nodo-paranodopathies: pathogenesis and treatment, *Kathrin Doppler*
17:00 Antibodies at the interface between CNS and PNS, *Matteo Castaldi*
17:20 Discussion
17:30 Poster session, *Grazia Devigili, Elia Sechi*
18:30 Conclusion of first day



Saturday 20th June 2026

9:00 From receptors to revolution: an exciting journey from myasthenia gravis to antibody-mediated autoimmune encephalitis, *Angela Vincent*

SESSION 3: UNRAVELLING AUTOIMMUNE NEUROPATHIES FROM SEROLOGICAL DIAGNOSIS TO BIOMARKERS

Chairs: Pietro Emiliano Doneddu, Maria Pia Giannoccaro

9:30 Innovative approaches to profiling inflammatory neuropathies, *Simon Rinaldi*
9:50 The emerging Role of Autoreactive T Cell immunity in Guillain-Barre' Syndrome, *Daniela Latorre*
10:10 Insight into pathogenesis of CIDP, *Eduardo Nobile-Orazio*
10:30 Discussion

10:40 Coffee Break

SESSION 4: PARANEOPLASTIC AND PARAPROTEINEMIC NEUROPATHIES

Chairs: Rita Rinaldi, Sara Mariotto

11:00 Paraneoplastic neuropathies, *Marco Zoccarato*
11:20 Paraproteinemic neuropathies, *Chiara Briani*
11:40 Pediatric autoimmune neuropathies, *Anna Fetta*
12:00 Paraneoplastic neurological syndromes and immune checkpoint inhibitors, *Antonio Farina*
12:20 Discussion
12:30 Best Poster Award, *Grazia Devigili, Elia Sechi*

12:50 Lunch **Buffet**

SESSION 5: MECHANISMS OF NEUROPATHIC PAIN

Chairs: Rocco Liguori, Giuseppe Lauria Pinter

14:00 Peripheral and Central mechanism of Neuropathic Pain, *Marina De Tommaso*
14:20 Ion Channel Dysfunction and Neuropathic Pain: Insights from Channelopathies, *Grazia Devigili*
14:40 Immune and Inflammatory Mechanisms in Pain, *Peter Grace*
15:10 Discussion

SESSION 6: SMALL FIBER NEUROPATHY

Chairs: Maria Nolano, Vincenzo Donadio

15:20 Etiologies and diagnosis of small fiber neuropathies, *Maria Nolano*
15:40 Post-Covid-vaccination small fiber neuropathy, *Andrea De Maria*
16:00 Role of antibodies to neuronal antigens in small fiber neuropathy, *Maria Pia Giannoccaro*
16:20 Discussion

SESSION 7: NEW AND OLD THERAPIES IN NEUROPATHIES

Chairs: Elisa Vegezzi, Chiara Briani

16:30 Is there a role for immunotherapy in SFN? *Vincenzo Donadio*
16:50 Monoclonal antibodies in CIDP, *Elisa Vegezzi*
17:10 BTK inhibitors in paraproteinemic neuropathies, *Chiara Briani*
17:30 The role of IVIG in CIDP and other immune-mediated neuropathies, *Pietro Emiliano Doneddu*
17:50 Discussion
18:00 **Concluding Remarks**

GENERAL INFO

CONFERENCE VENUE

STARHOTELS Excelsior
Viale Pietramellara 51, 40121, Bologna

HOW TO REACH THE CONFERENCE VENUE

The Hotel is situated in front of Bologna Train Station – Entrance P.zza Medaglie d'Oro

By car: from the Highway A1/A13 take the Tangenziale bypass towards Ancona and take exit n. 7 for the Train Station Bologna Centrale.

From the Highway A14 take the Tangenziale bypass in direction North/Milano and take exit n. 7 for the Train Station Bologna Centrale.

Hotel Parking: Garage Excelsior, V.le Pietramellara 45

SCIENTIFIC SECRETARIAT

Dr. Maria Pia Giannoccaro
Assistant Professor (Senior), Department of Biomedical and Neuromotor Sciences, University of Bologna

Prof. Vincenzo Donadio
Medical Director in Neurology, IRCCS Institute of Neurological Sciences, Bologna

Prof. Rocco Liguori
Full Professor of Neurology, Department of Biomedical and Neuromotor Sciences, University of Bologna

ORGANIZING SECRETARIAT AND CME PROVIDER

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Tel. +39 051 6448110
cell. 338 7479543
www.symposiumeventi.com

CME PROVIDER

Symposium Eventi srl – N. 8348
ID CME: 8348
Event n. 482342
Credits awarded: 12

The Conference is accredited at the Ministry of Health in RESIDENTIAL mode for all disciplines of Physician

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of this conference, participants will be able to:

- describe the immunopathogenic mechanisms underlying autoimmune disorders of the peripheral nervous system, including autoimmune neuropathies and myasthenia gravis
- recognize the clinical spectrum of autoimmune PNS disorders
- identify key diagnostic clues and bio markers
- discuss emerging therapies and ongoing research with particular attention to targeted and precision-based treatments.

VERIFICATION METHOD

It should be noted that, for the purposes of acquiring training CME credits, 90 % actual attendance of the duration of the whole Conference and at least 75% of correct answers to the learning assessment tests are required.

SUBSCRIPTION FEE

The subscription to the Conference is free.

To register click here

MAXIMUM AVAILABLE PLACES: 100

English is the official language of the course. Simultaneous translation is not provided.

POSTER SESSION

The program includes a Poster Session. The Scientific Secretariat will select the three best submissions. The authors of these three works will receive an award, and the author of the best submission will receive a cash prize of €500 net (RA/VAT excluded). The abstract form, containing all the necessary information, can be requested from the Organizing Secretariat by sending an email to segreteria@symposium-eventi.it after completing the registration for the Conference. All abstracts must be submitted by **May 15, 2026**, and must be presented at the Conference in poster form.

CME CERTIFICATE

After verification, the CME Certificate will be sent to the e-mail address indicated on the Registration Form.

CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION

At the end of the works, the Organizing Secretariat will send the Certificate of Participation by email to all participants.