

THE CROATIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND ARTS
The Department of Biomedical Sciences in Rijeka
THE CLINICAL HOSPITAL CENTER RIJEKA
UNIVERSITY OF RIJEKA - FACULTY OF MEDICINE
THE CROATIAN NEUROLOGICAL SOCIETY
THE CROATIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION – Branch office Rijeka

**9th RIJEKA FORUM ON
NEURODEGENERATIVE DISEASES**

"Mechanical treatments, viruses, genetics, neuroaging and neuroimmunology"



Endorsed by Associations



Rijeka, September 15-16, 2025
08:30 am



University Campus Rijeka, Faculty of Civil Engineering
Lecture halls G-003 and G-004, Radmile Matejčić 3, Rijeka

Organizers

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Scientific Committee

**Stipan Jonjić, Vladimira Vuletić,
Nenad Bogdanović, John Hardy,
Alen Ružić, Zdravka Poljaković**

Organizing Committee

**Vladimira Vuletić, president
Zoran Tomić, Eliša Papić, Srđan Novak**

Registration: online via [registration form](#)



Free admission for registrations

Information

Željana Mikovčić, Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts
Phone: 051 584 578, e-mail: rimed@hazu.hr

Nicol Sirotić, LLM, Clinical Hospital Center, Department of Neurology
Phone +385 (0)51 658 311 e-mail: neurologija@kbc-rijeka.hr

Congress agency Vivid original d. o. o., Zagreb
Phone: +385 (0)98 508 502; e-mail: info@vivid-original.com

PROGRAM

OPENING

(8:30-9:00)

Introduction

Stipan Jonjić, M.D., PhD, F. C. A, Emeritus Professor, Head of the Department for Biomedical Sciences in Rijeka, Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Rijeka, Croatia

Vladimira Vuletić, M.D., PhD, Professor, Faculty of Medicine, University of Rijeka, Rijeka, Croatia

Welcome address

Zdravka Poljaković, M.D., PhD, Professor, President of the Croatian Neurological Society, Medical Faculty, University of Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia

Alen Ružić, M.D., PhD, Professor, Director, Clinical Hospital Center, Rijeka, Croatia

Goran Hauser, M.D., PhD, Professor, Dean, Faculty of Medicine, University of Rijeka, Rijeka, Croatia

Senka Maćešić, PhD, Professor, Interim Vice-Rector for Science, Art and Digitalization, University of Rijeka, Rijeka, Croatia

1st day – September 15th, 2025

PROGRAM

9:00 – 12:00 h

I. ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE UPDATES

Chairmen: Nenad Bogdanović and Elka Stefanova

John Hardy, M.D., PhD, Professor, Institute of Neurology, University College London, London, UK
We have amyloid therapies: what next?

Claudio Lino Alberto Bassetti, MD, PhD, Professor, Dean, Medical Faculty, University of Bern, Director of Teaching and Research, Insel Gruppe, Neurology Department, Bern, Switzerland
Sleep, cognition and dementia: a bidirectional link

Catherine Mummery, M.D., PhD, Professor, National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, London, UK
Lost in translation: the long road from genetics to practice

Dean Nižetić, M.D., Ph.D., Professor, Blizard Institute, Barts and the London School of Medicine and Dentistry, Queen Mary University of London, London, UK

Mechanistic insights into neuronal ageing in Down syndrome, the most common genetic form of early onset Alzheimer's dementia

Nenad Bogdanović, M.D., PhD, Professor, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden

Facts and challenges of anti-amyloid therapy

Elka Stefanova, M.D., PhD, Professor, School of Medicine, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia

Influence of APOE ε4 on CSF biomarkers in differentiating clinical Alzheimer's disease

Discussion: 12:00 – 12:15

Break for refreshment: 12:15 – 12:30

12:30 – 14:30 h

II. ALPE ADRIA SECTION AND MOVEMENT DISORDERS (1st PART)

Chairmen: Vladimira Vuletić and Per Odin

Kailash Bhatia, M.D., PhD, Professor, Institute of Neurology, University College London, London, UK

Immune mediated hypokinetic disorders- an update

Angelo Antonini, M.D., PhD, Professor, Neurology Clinic Padua and University of Padua, Padua, Italy

Disease modifying strategies

Cristian Falup-Pecurariu, MD, PhD, Professor, Chair Neurology Department at Transylvania University of Braşov, Braşov, Romania

Visual dysfunction in synucleinopathies

Per Odin, MD, PhD, Professor, Head, Division of Neurology Department of Clinical Sciences Lund, Lund University Skane University Hospital, Sweden

Late-stage Parkinsonism: characteristics and the role of specialized care and palliative care

Discussion: 14:30 – 14:45

Lunch break and Flash presentation of young researchers: 14:45– 15:45

15:45 – 17:45 h

III. MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS AND NEUROIMMUNOLOGY

Chairmen: Mario Habek and David Bonifačić

Mario Habek, M.D., PhD, Professor, University Hospital Centre Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia
Autonomic dysfunction in multiple sclerosis

Uroš Rot, M.D., PhD, Professor, University Medical Centre Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia
Intrathecal immunoglobulin synthesis in multiple sclerosis: why to talk about it in 2025?

Arianna Sartori, M.D., PhD, Ass. Professor, Neurology Unit, Department of Medical, Surgical and Health Sciences, University of Trieste, ASUITs, Cattinara Hospital, Trieste, Italy
Progressive multiple sclerosis: therapeutic perspectives with a focus on symptomatic treatments

David Bonifačić, M.D., PhD, Ass. Professor, Clinical Hospital Center Rijeka, Rijeka, Croatia
Remyelination therapies and neuroprotection: where do we stand?

Discussion: 17:45 – 18:00

2nd day – September 16th, 2025

09:00 – 11:15 h

IV. ALPE ADRIA SECTION AND MOVEMENT DISORDERS (2nd PART) TREATMENTS

Chairmen: Maja Trošt and Cristian Falup-Pecurariu

Maja Trošt, M.D., PhD, Professor, University Medical Centre Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia
Early experience with subcutaneous levodopa treatment in advanced Parkinson's disease

Iva Stanković, M.D., PhD, Assistant Professor, School of Medicine, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia
Differential diagnosis of multiple system atrophy: video atlas on mimicking conditions

Dejan Georgiev, M.D., PhD, Professor, University Medical Centre Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia
Immunomodulatory effects of deep brain stimulation

Vladimira Vuletić, M.D., PhD, Professor, Clinical Hospital Center Rijeka and Faculty of Medicine, University of Rijeka, Rijeka, Croatia
Technological advances in invasive treatment of Parkinson's disease

Nataša Dragašević Mišković, MD, PhD, Professor, Head of the Department for Movement Disorders and Neurodegenerative Diseases, University Clinical Centre of Serbia and School of Medicine, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia

Inherited ataxias: an update?

Paolo Manganotti, M.D., PhD, Professor, Cattinara University Hospital ASUGI and University of Trieste, Trieste, Italy

Not invasive brain stimulation of Parkinson's disease with the Transcranial Pulse stimulation on motor and cognitive symptoms

Discussion: 11:15 – 11:30

Break for refreshment: 11:30 – 11:45

11:45 – 14:45 h

V. NEURODEGENERATIVE DISORDERS UPDATES – part I

Chairmen: Patrick Küry and Zvezdan Pirtošek

Vida Demarin, M.D., PhD, F. C. A, Secretary of the Department of Medical Sciences of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, President of International Institute for Brain Health, Zagreb, Croatia

The role of art in neurodegenerative diseases

Amos D. Korczyn, M.D., PhD, Professor Emeritus, CONy President, Tel Aviv University Tel Aviv, Israel

Apraxia

Anja Kovanda, PhD, Ass.Professor, University Medical Center Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Borut Peterlin, M.D., PhD, Professor, University Medical Center Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia

From genetic diagnostics to mechanisms of neurodegenerative disorders?

Vladana Vukojević, MD, PhD, Professor, Karolinska Institute, Department of Clinical Neuroscience, Center for Molecular Medicine, Stockholm, Sweden

Time-Resolved Methods with Single-Molecule Sensitivity: From Fundamental Insights to Early Disease Diagnostics

Jasna Križ, MD, PhD, Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Neurosciences, Faculty of Medicine, University of Laval, Québec, Canada

The regulation of innate immune gene expression in neurodegenerative disorders

Patrick Küry, M.D., PhD, Professor, Medical Faculty, Heinrich-Hein University of Düsseldorf, Düsseldorf, Germany, Bern University Hospital and University, Bern, Switzerland

Of glial cells and endogenous retroviruses in MS related de- and regeneration

Zvezdan Pirtošek, M.D., PhD, Professor, University Medical Center Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Neuroaging Unmasked: why time is the brain's greatest enemy?

Ivana Munitić, M.D., PhD, Professor, Faculty of Biotechnology and Drug Development, University of Rijeka, Rijeka, Croatia

Context-specific roles of OPTN variants in ALS, FTD and Glaucoma: insights from experimental models and computational analyses

Discussion: 14:45 – 15:00

Lunch and flesh presentation of posters of young researchers: 15.00-15.45

15:45 – 17:15 h

VI. NEURODEGENERATIVE DISORDERS UPDATES- part II

Chairmen: Gabriela Novotni and Vladimira Vuletić

Gabriela Novotni, M.D., PhD, Professor, University Clinic of Neurology, Medical Faculty, University "Ss Cyril and Methodius", Skopje, North Macedonia

How old is your brain? On brain ageing and dementia prevention through the exposome lens

Nataša Klepac, M.D., PhD, Professor, University Hospital Centre Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia

Impact of cognitive reserve on dementia progression

Jan Kobal, MD, PhD, Professor, University of Ljubljana, Medical faculty of Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Ksenija Cankar, MD, PhD, University of Ljubljana, Medical faculty of Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Živa Melik, MD, PhD, University of Ljubljana, Medical faculty of Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Autonomic nervous system in Huntington disease, what are promises for the future?

17:15 h

VII. CLOSING REMARKS

Chairman: Vladimira Vuletić