



10th Rijeka Forum on Neurodegenerative Diseases

September 14-16, 2026

University Campus Rijeka
Faculty of Civil Engineering

ORGANIZERS

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

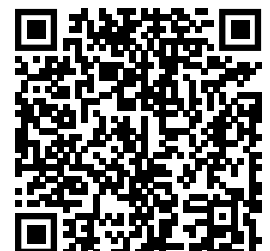
THE CROATIAN NEUROLOGICAL SOCIETY

THE CROATIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION – Branch office Rijeka

ENDORSED BY



Udruga
Parkinson i mi



Dear colleagues and friends,

It is our special honor and sincere pleasure to invite you and your colleagues again on behalf of the Organizing Committee to the 10th Rijeka Forum of Neurodegenerative Diseases organized by the Clinic of Neurology UHC Rijeka, Department of Neurology Medical faculty University of Rijeka, Department of Biomedical Sciences in Rijeka of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts.

Our goal is to present the latest developments and dilemmas in the field of neurodegenerative diseases with a special focus this year on the regulation of gene expression in neurological disease and neuroimmunology” and other news in neurodegenerative diseases, to improve our daily practical and scientific work. We hope you enjoy the news in this important area of neurology and neuroscience.

We sincerely hope that you will join us and recommend this meeting to your colleagues.

Vladimira Vuletić

.....

10th Rijeka Forum on Neurodegenerative Diseases, September 14-16, 2026, Rijeka, Croatia

the topic: „Neurodegenerative diseases: “Mechanical mechanisms, treatments, biomarkers, genetics, viruses, proteinopathies, neuroinflammation, metabolic dysfunction. and neuroimmunology” will be held on:

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

Organizers

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

Scientific Committee

Stipan Jonjić
Vladimira Vuletić
Nenad Bogdanović
John Hardy
Alemka Brnčić Fisher
Zdravka Poljaković

Organizing Committee

Vladimira Vuletić, president
Zoran Tomić
Eliša Papić
Srđan Novak

Free admission for registrations

Information

Željana Mikovčić, Department of Biomedical Sciences in Rijeka

Radmile Matejčić 2, Rijeka

Phone: 051 584 826, e-mail: rimed@hazu.hr

Nicol Sirotić, LLM, Department of Neurology,

Cambierieva 17/8, Rijeka Phone +385 (0)51 658 311 e-mail: neurologija@kbc-rijeka.hr

Vivid original d.o.o., Zagreb

Phone: +385 (0)91 3330 733; e-mail: iva.simunic@vivid-original.com

Save the Date and join us in beautiful Rijeka!

Extraordinary lecturers with lectures on the latest achievements in neuroscience and neurodegenerative diseases!

REGISTRATION FORM



Faculty

1. Professor **Angelo Antonini**, MD, PhD, Neurology Clinic Padua and University of Padua, Padua, Italy
2. Professor **Bettina Balint**, Department of Neurology, University Hospital Zurich, University of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland
3. Professor **Nenad Bogdanovic**, MD, PhD, Professor, Department for Neurobiology, Caring Science and Society, Division of Clinical Geriatrics, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden
4. **David Bonifacic**, MD, PhD, Ass. Professor, Clinical Hospital Center Rijeka, Rijeka, Croatia
5. **Ilija Brizić**, PhD, Professor, Center for Proteomics, University of Rijeka, Faculty of Medicine, Croatia
6. **Natalie Connor-Robson**, PhD, Professor, University of Cardiff, Cardiff, Wales
7. Academician **Vida Demarin**, MD, PhD, Professor of Neurology, International Institute for Brain Health, Zagreb, Croatia
8. Professor **Cristian Falup-Pecurariu**, MD, PhD, Chair Neurology Department at Transylvania University of Braşov, Brasov, Romania
9. Ass. Professor **Tereza Gabelić**, MD, PhD, University Hospital Centre Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia
10. Ass. Professor **Dejan Georgiev**, MD, PhD, Department of Neurology, University Medical Centre Ljubljana, Slovenia,
11. Professor **Celia Oreja-Guevara**, MD, PhD, University Hospital San Carlos and Complutense University of Madrid, Madrid, Spain
12. Professor **Mario Habek**, MD, PhD, University Hospital Centre Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia
13. Sir **John Hardy**, MD, PhD, Professor, Chair of Molecular Biology of Neurological Disease at the UCL Institute of Neurology, London, UK
14. **Amanda Heslegreve**, BSc, PhD, University College London (UCL), UK DRI Biomarker Factory, London, UK
15. Professor **Maja Jagodic**, MD, PhD, Department of Clinical Neuroscience, Karolinska Institutet, Center for Molecular Medicine, Karolinska University Hospital, Stockholm, Sweden
16. Professor, **Jean-Pierre Julien**, Ph.D. Department of Psychiatry and Neuroscience Laval University, CERVO Brain Research Center, Quebec, Canada
17. Assistant Professor **Aleksandra Kacar**, MD, PhD, Neurology Clinic, Clinical Center of Serbia, Belgrade, Serbia
18. Professor **Nataša Klepac**, MD, PhD, University Hospital Centre Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia
19. Ass. Professor **Slavica Kovačić**, MD, PhD, Department of Radiology, UHC Rijeka
20. Assist. Professor **Anja Kovanda**, MD, PhD, Clinical Institute of Genomic Medicine, University Clinical Center Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia
21. Professor **Patrick Küry**, MD, PhD, Medical Faculty, Heinrich-Hein University of Düsseldorf, Düsseldorf, Germany, University of Bern, Bern, Switzerland
22. Professor **Jasna Kriz**, MD, PhD, , Department of Psychiatry and Neurosciences, Faculty of Medicine, Université Laval, Québec, Canada
23. Professor **Antonella Macerollo**, MD PhD FRCP FEBN FEAN, The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust, Institute of Integrative Biology, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, UK

24. Professor **Paolo Manganotti**, MD, PhD, Direttore Clinica Neurologica, Azienda Ospedaliero-Universitaria, Ospedale di Cattinara Trieste, Italy
25. Professor **Nataša Dragašević Mišković**, MD, PhD, Head of the Department for Movement Disorders and Neurodegenerative Diseases, University Clinical Centre of Serbia and School of Medicine, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia
26. Professor **Elena Moro**, MD, PhD, Elected president of European Academy of Neurology, Movement Disorders Unit, Director, Department of Psychiatry, Neurology, Neurological Rehabilitation and Forensic Medicine, Chair Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Grenoble, Grenoble Alpes University, Grenoble, France
27. **Catherine Mummery**, MD, PhD, Clinical lead for the NHNN (National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery) Cognitive Disorders Clinic, UCL Dementia Research Centre, London, UK
28. Professor **Ivana Munitić**, MD, PhD, Faculty of Biotechnology and Drug Development, University of Rijeka, Rijeka, Croatia
29. Professor **Gabriela Novotni**, MD, PhD, University Clinic of Neurology, Medical Faculty, University "Ss Cyril and Methodius", Skopje, Macedonia
30. Professor **Borut Peterlin**, MD, PhD, Clinical Institute of Genomic Medicine, University Clinical Center Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia
31. Professor **Zvezdan Pirtosek**, MD, PhD, University Hospital Centre Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia
32. Professor **Andreas Puschmann**, MD, PhD, president of IAPRD, Skåne University Hospital, Department of Clinical Sciences, University of Lund, Lund, Sweden
33. Professor **Tiago F. Outeiro**, MD, PhD, University Medical Center Göttingen, Department of Experimental Neurodegeneration, Center of Biostructural Imaging of Neurodegeneration, Göttingen, Germany (TFO); Translational and Clinical Research Institute, Faculty of Medical Sciences, Newcastle University, Deutsches Zentrum für Neurodegenerative Erkrankungen, Göttingen, Germany (TFO)
34. Professor **Martin Rakusa**, MD, PhD, Department of Neurology University Medical Centre Maribor, Slovenia
35. Professor **Per M Roos**, MD, PhD, Department of Clinical Neuroscience, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden and Department of Clinical Physiology St.Goran Hospital, Stockholm, Sweden
36. Professor **Michele Tinazzi**, M. MD, PhD, University of Verona, Verona, Italy
37. Professor **Maja Trost**, MD, PhD, University Hospital Centre Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia
38. Ass. Professor **Arianna Sartori**, MD, PhD, Neurology Unit, Department of Medical, Surgical and Health Sciences, University of Trieste, ASUITs, Cattinara Hospital, Trieste, Italy
39. **Monica M Sousa**, PhD, Nerve Regeneration Group at i3S- University of Porto Nerve Regeneration group, University of Porto, Porto, Portugal
40. Assistant Professor **Iva Stanković**, MD, PhD, School of Medicine, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia
41. Professor **Elka Stefanova**, MD, PhD, School of Medicine, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia
42. Professor **Vladana Vukojević**, MD, PhD, Karolinska Institute, Department of Clinical Neuroscience, Center for Molecular Medicine, Stockholm, Sweden
43. Professor **Vladimira Vuletić**, MD, PhD, Clinical Hospital Center Rijeka, Rijeka, Croatia

Program / 1st day – September 14, 2026

08:30-09:00 **OPENING**

Introduction

Stipan Jonjić, MD, 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, MD, PhD, Professor, Faculty of Medicine, University of Rijeka, Rijeka, Croatia

Welcome address

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

Alemka Fisher Brnčić, MD, PhD, Professor, Director, Clinical Hospital Center, Rijeka, Croatia

Josip Španjol, MD, PhD, Associate Professor, Dean, Faculty of Medicine, University of Rijeka, Rijeka, Croatia

Goran Hauser, PhD, Professor, Rector, University of Rijeka, Rijeka, Croatia

09:00-11:30 **I. ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE UPDATES**

Chairmen: Nenad Bogdanović and Elka Stefanova

Alzheimer's disease-next steps

John Hardy, MD, PhD, Professor, Institute of Neurology, University College London, London, UK

Building and sustaining a national dementia trial network: The UK Experience

Catherine Mummery, MD, PhD, Professor, National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, London, UK

Fluid Biomarkers for neurodegenerative diseases - challenges and opportunities

Amanda Heslegrove, BSc, PhD, University College London (UCL), UK DRI Biomarker Factory, London, UK

Ageing and Dementia: How Tau and TDP-43 Pathology Translate into Clinical Phenotypes

Nenad Bogdanovic MD, PhD, Professor, Department for Neurobiology, Caring Science and Society, Division of Clinical Geriatrics, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden

C9orf72-Associated Neurodegeneration: From Genetic Mutation to Clinical Disease

Elka Stefanova, MD, PhD, Professor, School of Medicine, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia

11:30-11:45 **Discussion**

11:45-12:00 **Break for refreshment**

12:00-14:00 **II. Translation in neurodegenerative disease and MOVEMENT DISORDERS**

Chairmen: Vladimira Vuletić and Tiago Outeiro

Impact of genetics in neuromodulation therapy in Parkinson's diseases

Elena Moro, MD, PhD, Professor, Elected president of European Academy of Neurology, Movement Disorders Unit, Director, Department of Psychiatry, Neurology, Neurological Rehabilitation and Forensic Medicine, Chair Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Grenoble, Grenoble Alpes University, Grenoble, France

Neuroimmunology and neurodegeneration in movement disorders

Bettina Balint, MD, PhD, University Hospital Zurich, University of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland

Recent advances in the basic science of movement disorders

Tiago F. Outeiro, MD, PhD, Professor, University Medical Center Göttingen, Department of Experimental Neurodegeneration, Center of Biostructural Imaging of Neurodegeneration, Göttingen, Germany (TFO); Translational and Clinical Research Institute, Faculty of Medical Sciences, Newcastle University, Deutsches Zentrum für Neurodegenerative Erkrankungen, Göttingen, Germany (TFO)

From Scar to Repair - Defining the Roadmap for Mammalian Spinal Cord Regeneration using Spiny Mice

Monica M Sousa, PhD, i3S- University of Porto, Porto, Portugal

Changing the Course of Parkinson's Disease: Emerging Disease-Modifying Strategies

Angelo Antonini, MD, PhD, Professor, Neurology Clinic Padua and University of Padua, Padua, Italy

Cardiovascular autonomic dysfunction in Parkinson's diseases

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

Update on Parkinson's genetics

Andreas Puschmann, MD, PhD, Professor, president of IAPRD, Skåne University Hospital, Department of Clinical Sciences, University of Lund, Lund, Sweden

14:00-14:15 **Discussion**

14:15-15:15 **Lunch break and Flesh presentation of young researchers**

15:15-17:30

III. MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS AND NEUROIMMUNOLOGY

Chairmen: Mario Habek and David Bonifačić

Autonomic dysfunction in MS

Mario Habek, MD, PhD, Professor, University Hospital Centre Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia

Epigenome as a mediator of risk factors in Multiple Sclerosis

Maja Jagodić, MD, PhD, Department of Clinical Neuroscience, Karolinska Institutet, Center for Molecular Medicine, Karolinska University Hospital, Stockholm, Sweden

Spasticity management in multiple sclerosis: old concepts, new perspectives

Arianna Sartori, MD, PhD, Ass. Professor, Neurology Unit, Department of Medical, Surgical and Health Sciences, University of Trieste, ASUITs, Cattinara Hospital, Trieste, Italy

Neurodegeneration in Multiple Sclerosis: Towards Novel Therapeutic Approaches

Professor Patrick Küry, MD, PhD, Medical Faculty, Heinrich-Hein University of Düsseldorf, Düsseldorf, Germany, University of Bern, Bern, Switzerland

Multiple Sclerosis Beyond Relapses: The Neurodegenerative Continuum

David Bonifačić, MD, PhD, Ass. Professor, Clinical Hospital Center Rijeka, Rijeka, Croatia

Multiple sclerosis and ageing

Ass. Professor Tereza Gabelić, MD, PhD, University Hospital Centre Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia

17:30-17:45

Discussion

Program / 2nd day – September 15, 2026

09:00-12:00 **IV Viruses and neurodegenerative disease**

12:00-12:15 **Discussion**

12:15-12:30 **Break for refreshment**

12:30-14:30 **V. ALPE ADRIA SECTION AND MOVEMENT DISORDERS (1th PART)
TREATMENTS**

Chairmen: Maja Trošt and Cristian Falup-Pecurariu

Infusion therapies in PD

Maja Trošt, MD, PhD, Professor, University Medical Centre Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia

MRgFUS in Movement Disorders

Antonella Macerollo, MD, PhD, Professor FRCP FEBN FEAN, The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust, Institute of Integrative Biology, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, UK

Functional movement disorders: new approaches

Michele Tinazzi, MD, PhD, Professor, University of Verona, Verona, Italy

Autonomic dysfunction in degenerative ataxia

Iva Stanković, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor, School of Medicine, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia

The importance of eye movements in the diagnosis of hereditary degenerative diseases

Natasa Dragašević Mišković, MD, PhD, Professor, School of Medicine, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia

A role of genetics in DBS and dystonia

Vladimira Vuletić, MD, PhD, Professor, Clinical Hospital Center Rijeka and Faculty of Medicine, University of Rijeka, Rijeka, Croatia

14:30-14:45 **Discussion**

14:45-15:30 **Lunch break and Flash presentation of young researchers**

15.30-18:30 **VI. NEURODEGENERATIVE DISORDERS TRANSLATION AND BIOMARKERS UPDATES I part**

Chairmen: Patrick Küry and Zvezdan Pirtošek

Harnessing Neuroplasticity for Maintaining Brain Health

Vida Demarin, MD, 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

Role of neurofilament NF-L depletion in TDP-43-mediated pathogenesis

Jean-Pierre Julien, Ph.D. Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Neuroscience Laval University, CERVO Brain Research Center, Quebec, Canada

The regulation of innate immune gene expression in neurodegenerative disorders

Jasna Kriz, MD, PhD, Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Neurosciences, Faculty of Medicine, Université Laval, Québec, Canada

On the role of metal ions in neurodegenerative diseases

Per M Roos, MD, PhD, Professor, Department of Clinical Neuroscience, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden and Department of Clinical Physiology St.Goran Hospital, Stockholm, Sweden

Seeing the Future? Biomarkers, Neurodegeneration and the Ethics of Knowing

Zvezdan Pirtosek, MD, PhD, Professor, University Hospital Centre Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Clinical Neuroscience, Center for Molecular Medicine, Stockholm, Sweden

Vladana Vukojević, MD, PhD, Professor, Karolinska Institute, Department of Amyloid allostasis in Alzheimer's disease: Time-resolved detection of intermediate amyloid species for early blood-based risk stratification

18:30-18:45 **Discussion**

Program / 3rd day – September 16, 2026

09:00-12:00 VII. NEURODEGENERATIVE DISORDERS UPDATES II part

Chairmen: Maja Trošt and Cristian Falup-Pecurariu

Alzheimer's Disease Reframed - A Conditional, Spider Web Architecture of Vulnerability

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

Neurogenetics in 2030

Borut Peterlin, MD, PhD, Professor, University Medical Center Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Epilepsy and EEG abnormalities in neurodegenerative dementias: toward a system epilepsy framework

Paolo Manganotti, MD, PhD, Professor, Cattinara University Hospital ASUGI and University of Trieste, Trieste, Italy

TMS and cognitive evoked potential in ALS

Aleksandra Kacar, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor, Neurology Clinic, Clinical Center of Serbia, Belgrade, Serbia

Decoding OPTN Dysfunction in Neurodegenerative Diseases

Ivana Munitić, MD, PhD, Professor, Faculty of Biotechnology and Drug research, University of Rijeka, Croatia

Missing heritability in neurogenetics

Anja Kovanda, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor, Clinical Institute of Genomic Medicine, University Clinical Center Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia

12:00-12:15 Discussion

12:15-12:30 Break for refreshment

12:30-14:30 VIII. NEURODEGENERATIVE DISORDERS UPDATES III part

Chairmen: Slavica Kovačić and Vladimira Vuletić

New Guidelines and Multimodal Biomarkers

Slavica Kovačić, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Radiology, UHC Rijeka

Contemporary Neuroradiological Approaches in Neurodegenerative Diseases:

Pain in patients with Alzheimer disease

Martin Rakusa, MD, PhD, Professor, Department of Neurology University Medical Centre Maribor, Slovenia

What are the most important determinants of a successful deep brain stimulation for movement disorders?

Dejan Georgiev, MD, PhD, Professor, University Medical Centre Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Missing heritability in neurogenetics

Anja Kovanda, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor, Clinical Institute of Genomic Medicine, University Clinical Center Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Cognitive and behavioral trajectories in dementia: importance of personalized approaches

Nataša Klepac, MD, PhD, Professor, University Hospital Centre Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia

14:30-14:45

Discussion

14:45-15:30

Lunch and Flash presentation of posters of young researchers

TBA

YOUNG RESEARCHER FORUM

TBA

Lectures

TBA

POSTER SECTION

TBA

VII. CLOSING REMARKS

Chairman: Vladimira Vuletić



Vivid Original

TECHNICAL ORGANIZER

Vivid Original d.o.o.

Maksimirska cesta 112a/3, HR-1000 Zagreb

+385 (0)91 3330 733

iva.simunic@vivid-original.com

vivid-original.com