



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

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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

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Scientific Committee

Stipan Jonjić

Vladimira Vuletić

Nenad Bogdanović

John Hardy

Alemka Brnčić Fisher

Zdravka Poljaković

Organizing Committee

Vladimira Vuletić, president

Zoran Tomić

Eliša Papić

Srdan Novak

Free admission for registrations

Information

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Radmile Matejčić 2, Rijeka

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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. Ass. Professor **Ivan Adamec**, MD, Department of Neurology, University Hospital Center Zagreb, Referral Center for Autonomic Nervous System Disorders, Zagreb, Croatia
2. Professor **Angelo Antonini**, MD, PhD, Neurology Clinic Padua and University of Padua, Padua, Italy
3. Professor **Kailash Bhatia**, MD, PhD, Institute of Neurology and University College London, London, UK
4. Professor **Bettina Balint**, MD, Department of Neurology, University Hospital Zurich, University of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland
5. Professor **Nenad Bogdanovic**, MD, PhD, Department for Neurobiology, Caring Science and Society, Division of Clinical Geriatrics, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden
6. **David Bonifacic**, MD, PhD, Ass. Professor, Clinical Hospital Center Rijeka, Rijeka, Croatia
7. **Ilija Brizić**, PhD, Professor, Center for Proteomics, University of Rijeka, Faculty of Medicine, Croatia
8. **Natalie Connor-Robson**, PhD, Professor, University of Cardiff, Cardiff, Wales
9. Academician **Vida Demarin**, MD, PhD, Professor of Neurology, International Institute for Brain Health, Zagreb, Croatia
10. Professor **Cristian Falup-Pecurariu**, MD, PhD, Chair Neurology Department at Transylvania University of Braşov, Braşov, Romania
11. Ass. Professor **Tereza Gabelić**, MD, PhD, University Hospital Centre Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia
12. Ass. Professor **Dejan Georgiev**, MD, PhD, Department of Neurology, University Medical Centre Ljubljana, Slovenia,
13. Professor **Celia Oreja-Guevara**, MD, PhD, University Hospital San Carlos and Complutense University of Madrid, Madrid, Spain
14. Professor **Mario Habek**, MD, PhD, University Hospital Centre Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia
15. Sir **John Hardy**, MD, PhD, Professor, Chair of Molecular Biology of Neurological Disease at the UCL Institute of Neurology, London, UK
16. **Oliver Harschnitz**, MD, PhD, Centre for Neurogenomics, Milano, Italy
17. **Amanda Heslegreve**, BSc, PhD, University College London (UCL), UK DRI Biomarker Factory, London, UK
18. Professor **Maja Jagodic**, MD, PhD, Department of Clinical Neuroscience, Karolinska Institutet, Center for Molecular Medicine, Karolinska University Hospital, Stockholm, Sweden
19. Professor **Jean-Pierre Julien**, PhD, Department of Psychiatry and Neuroscience Laval University, CERVO Brain Research Center, Quebec, Canada
20. Assistant Professor **Aleksandra Kacar**, MD, PhD, Neurology Clinic, Clinical Center of Serbia, Belgrade, Serbia
21. Professor **Nataša Klepac**, MD, PhD, University Hospital Centre Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia
22. Professor **Norbert Kovacs**, MD, PhD, Department of Neurology, University of Pecs, Pecs, Hungary
23. Ass. Professor **Slavica Kovačić**, MD, PhD, Department of Radiology, UHC Rijeka, Croatia

24. Assist. Professor **Anja Kovanda**, MD, PhD, Clinical Institute of Genomic Medicine, University Clinical Center Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia
25. Professor **Patrick Küry**, MD, PhD, Medical Faculty, Heinrich-Hein University of Düsseldorf, Düsseldorf, Germany, University of Bern, Bern, Switzerland
26. Professor **Jasna Kriz**, MD, PhD, Department of Psychiatry and Neurosciences, Faculty of Medicine, Université Laval, Québec, Canada
27. Professor **Antonella Macerollo**, MD PhD FRCP FEBN FEAN, The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust, Institute of Integrative Biology, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, UK
28. Professor **Paolo Manganotti**, MD, PhD, Direttore Clinica Neurologica, Azienda Ospedaliero-Universitaria, Ospedale di Cattinara Trieste, Italy
29. 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
30. 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
31. Professor **Catherine Mummery**, MBBS, PhD, FRCP, Professor of Neurology, Head of Clinical Trials, Dementia Research Centre, University College London, Director of UK Dementia Trials Network (UKDTN)
32. Professor **Ivana Munitić**, MD, PhD, Faculty of Biotechnology and Drug Development, University of Rijeka, Rijeka, Croatia
33. Professor **Gabriela Novotni**, MD, PhD, University Clinic of Neurology, Medical Faculty, University "Ss Cyril and Methodius", Skopje, Macedonia
34. Professor **Borut Peterlin**, MD, PhD, Clinical Institute of Genomic Medicine, University Clinical Center Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia
35. Professor **Zvezdan Pirtosek**, MD, PhD, University Hospital Centre Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia
36. Professor **Andreas Puschmann**, MD, PhD, president of IAPRD, Skåne University Hospital, Department of Clinical Sciences, University of Lund, Lund, Sweden
37. 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)
38. Professor **Martin Rakusa**, MD, PhD, Department of Neurology University Medical Centre Maribor, Slovenia
39. Professor **Per M Roos**, MD, PhD, Department of Clinical Neuroscience, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden and Department of Clinical Physiology St. Goran Hospital, Stockholm, Sweden
40. Professor **Michele Tinazzi**, MD, PhD, University of Verona, Verona, Italy
41. Professor **Maja Trost**, MD, PhD, University Hospital Centre Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia

42. Ass. Professor **Arianna Sartori**, MD, PhD, Neurology Unit, Department of Medical, Surgical and Health Sciences, University of Trieste, ASUTs, Cattinara Hospital, Trieste, Italy
43. Professor **Magdalena Krbot Skorić**, MD, Department of Neurology, University Hospital Center Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia
44. **Monica M Sousa**, PhD, Nerve Regeneration Group at i3S - University of Porto Nerve Regeneration group, University of Porto, Porto, Portugal
45. **Mašan Sredanović**, MD, Department of Neurology, University Hospital Center Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia
46. Assistant Professor **Iva Stanković**, MD, PhD, School of Medicine, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia
47. Professor **Elka Stefanova**, MD, PhD, School of Medicine, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia
48. **Katarina Tešija**, MD, Department of Neurology, Referral Center for Autonomic Nervous System Disorders, University Hospital Center Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia
49. Professor **Vladana Vukojević**, MD, PhD, Karolinska Institute, Department of Clinical Neuroscience, Center for Molecular Medicine, Stockholm, Sweden
50. 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, MBBS, PhD, FRCP, Professor of Neurology, Head of Clinical Trials, Dementia Research Centre, University College London, Director of UK Dementia Trials Network (UKDTN)

Fluid Biomarkers for neurodegenerative diseases - challenges and opportunities

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

Aging 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**

12:00-15:00 **II. Translation in neurodegenerative disease and MOVEMENT DISORDERS**

Chairmen: Vladimira Vuletić and Cristian Falup-Pecurariu

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

The title of the lecture is Clinical phenotyping of 2 new genes for Parkinson's disease

Kailash Bhatia, MD, PhD, Professor, Institute of Neurology and University College London, London, UK

Neuroimmunology and neurodegeneration in movement disorders

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

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, Brasov, 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

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

15:15-16:15 **Lunch and Flash presentation of young researchers**

16:15-19:25

III. MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS AND NEUROIMMUNOLOGY

Chairmen: Mario Habek and David Bonifačić

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, ASUTs, 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

Women issues in Multiple sclerosis

Celia Oreja-Guevara, MD, PhD, Professor, University Hospital San Carlos and Complutense University of Madrid, Madrid, Spain

Crosstalk between the autonomic and immune systems in multiple sclerosis

Ivan Adamec, MD, Ass. Professor, University Hospital Centre Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia

Autonomic reserve in multiple sclerosis

Katarina Tešija, MD, University Hospital Centre Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia

Sudomotor dysfunction in multiple sclerosis

Mašan Sredanović, MD, University Hospital Centre Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia

Real-world data in MS: bridging clinical trials and practice

Magdalena Krbot Skorić, MD, Professor, University Hospital Centre Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia

19:25-19:40

Discussion

Program / 2nd day – September 15, 2026

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

Modelling the complex genetics of Alzheimer's disease to investigate endocytic dysfunction in microglia

Natalie Connor-Robson, PhD, Professor, University of Cardiff, Cardiff, Wales

Dissecting how inborn errors of immunity lead to neuropathology

Oliver Harschnitz, MD, PhD, Centre for Neurogenomics, Milano, Italy

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Ilija Brizić, PhD, Professor, Center for Proteomics, University of Rijeka, Faculty of Medicine, Croatia

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

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

12:30-14:50 **V. ALPE ADRIA SECTION AND MOVEMENT DISORDERS (1th PART) TREATMENTS**

Chairmen: Maja Trošt and Nataša Dragašević Mišković

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

Nataša 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

Why aren't our patients with Parkinson's disease as satisfied as their doctors are? Psychological factors limiting the effectiveness of device-based treatments

Norbert Kovacs, MD, PhD, Professor, Department of Neurology, University of Pecs, Pecs, Hungary

14:50-15:05 **Discussion**

15:05-15:50 **Lunch break and Flesh presentation of young researchers**

15:50-18:50 **VI. NEURODEGENERATIVE DISORDERS TRANSLATION AND BIOMARKERS UPDATES I part**

Chairmen: Patrick Küry and Zvezdan Pirtosek

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

18:50-19:05 **Discussion**

Program / 3rd day – September 16, 2026

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

Chairmen: Gabriela Novotni and Paolo Manganotti

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)

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: Anja Kovanda and Dejan Georgiev

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 approach

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

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

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

TBA **YOUNG RESEARCHER FORUM**

TBA **Lectures**

TBA **POSTER SECTION**

TBA **VII. CLOSING REMARKS**

Chairman: Vladimira Vuletić



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TECHNICAL ORGANIZER

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