



**FIRST CONFERENCE ON AUTOIMMUNITY IN NEUROMUSCULAR DISORDERS:
MECHANISMS, BIOMARKERS, AND EMERGING THERAPIES**

Bologna, 19-20 giugno 2026

DURATA ATTIVITÀ FORMATIVA

12 ore

SEDE

Starhotels Excelsior

Viale Pietramellara 51, 40121, Bologna (BO)

RESPONSABILI SCIENTIFICI:

Dr. Maria Pia Giannoccaro – Associate 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

TIPO DI FORMAZIONE

Residenziale

OBIETTIVO FORMATIVO

18. Contenuti tecnico-professionali (conoscenze e competenze) specifici di ciascuna professione, di ciascuna specializzazione e di ciascuna attività ultraspecialistica, ivi incluse le malattie rare e la medicina di genere.

ACQUISIZIONE DI COMPETENZE TECNICO-PROFESSIONALI

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.

Symposium Eventi srl

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Cap. Soc. €10.000.00 iv

P. Iva - C. F. – Reg. Impr: 04282641200

REA BO – 581998

RAZIONALE SCIENTIFICO:

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.

PROGRAMMA SCIENTIFICO:**VENERDÌ 19 GIUGNO 2026****13:00-13:30** Arrival and registration**13:30-14:00** Conference OpeningIntroduction and welcome – **Rocco Liguori**

Greetings by the Authorities

14:00-14:30 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****14:30-14:50** The central role of B cells in myasthenia gravis: from autoantibody production to therapeutic targeting – **Raffaele Iorio****14:50-15:10** Seronegative myasthenia gravis: diagnostic challenges and emerging markers – **Sarah Hoffmann**

15:10-15:30 NMOSD & Myasthenia Gravis: Shared immunological Features and Clinical Overlaps – **Maria Isabel Leite**

15:30-15:50 Therapeutic frontiers in myasthenia gravis – **Lorenzo Maggi**

15:50-16:00 Discussion

16:00-16:20 Coffee Break

SESSION 2: Bridging the gap: CNS and PNS involvement in autoimmune neuropathies

Chairs: Eduardo Nobile Orazio, Matteo Gastaldi

16:20-16:40 Autoantibodies in sensory neuronopathies – **Christian Moritz**

16:40-17:00 Nodoparaneuropathies: pathogenesis and treatment – **Kathrin Doppler**

17:00-17:20 Antibodies at the interface between CNS and PNS – **Matteo Gastaldi**

17:20-17:30 Discussion

17:30-18:30 Poster session – **Grazia Devigili, Elia Sechi**

18:30 Conclusion of first day

SABATO 20 GIUGNO 2026

9:00-9:30 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

9:30-9:50 Innovative approaches to profiling inflammatory neuropathies – **Simon Rinaldi**

9:50-10:10 The Emerging Role of Autoreactive T Cell Immunity in Guillain-Barré Syndrome – **Daniela Latorre**

10:10-10:30 Insight into pathogenesis of CIDP – **Eduardo Nobile Orazio**

10:30-10:40 Discussion

10:40-11:00 Coffee Break

SESSION 4: Paraneoplastic and paraproteinemic neuropathies

Chairs: Rita Rinaldi, Sara Mariotto

11:00-11:20 Paraneoplastic neuropathies – Marco Zoccarato

11:20-11:40 Paraproteinemic neuropathies – Chiara Briani

11:40-12:00 Pediatric autoimmune neuropathies – Anna Fetta

12:00-12:20 Paraneoplastic neurological syndromes and immune checkpoint inhibitors – Antonio Farina

12:20-12:30 Discussion

12:30 -12:50 Best Poster Award – Grazia Devigili, Elia Sechi

12:50-14:00 Lunch Buffet

SESSION 5: Mechanisms of neuropathic pain

Chairs: Rocco Liguori, Giuseppe Lauria Pinter

14:00-14:20 Peripheral and Central mechanism of Neuropathic Pain – Marina De Tommaso

14:20-14:40 Ion Channel Dysfunction and Neuropathic Pain: Insights from Channelopathies – Grazia Devigili

14:40-15:10 Immune and Inflammatory Mechanisms in Pain – Peter Grace

15:10-15:20 Discussion

SESSION 6: Small fiber neuropathy

Chairs: Maria Nolano, Vincenzo Donadio

15:20-15:40 Etiologies and diagnosis of small fiber neuropathies – Maria Nolano

15:40-16:00 Post-Covid-vaccination small fiber neuropathy – Andrea De Maria

16:00-16:20 Role of antibodies to neuronal antigens in small fiber neuropathy – **Maria Pia Giannoccaro**

16:20-16:30 Discussion

SESSION 7: New and old therapies in neuropathies

Chairs: Luana Benedetti, Chiara Briani

16:30-16:50 Is there a role for immunotherapy in SFN? – **Vincenzo Donadio**

16:50-17:10 Monoclonal antibodies in CIDP – **Luana Benedetti**

17:10-17:30 BTK inhibitors in paraproteinemic neuropathies – **Chiara Briani**

17:30-17:50 The role of IVIG in CIDP and other immune-mediated neuropathies – **Pietro Emiliano Doneddu**

17:50-18:00 Discussion

18:00 Concluding Remarks

DESTINATARI DELLA FORMAZIONE

Il corso è rivolto a professionisti sanitari afferenti a tutte le discipline della professione di MEDICO CHIRURGO.

PROVIDER ECM

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FACULTY

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Luana Benedetti	Medicina e Chirurgia	Neurologia	Direttore S.C. Neurologia Asl 5, La Spezia
Chiara Briani	Medicina e Chirurgia	Neurologia	Professore Associato, Dipartimento di Neuroscienze, Università di Padova

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Andrea Francesco De Maria	Medicina e Chirurgia	Malattie Infettive e Medicina Interna	Direttore S.C. Malattie Infettive, La Spezia/Sarzana Osp. San Bartolomeo, La Spezia
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Anna Fetta	Medicina e Chirurgia	Neuropsichiatria Infantile	Ricercatrice a tempo determinato (RTD-A) in Neurologia Pediatrica, Università di Bologna
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Aiden Haghikia	Medicina e Chirurgia	Neurologia	Director Department Of Neurology With Clinical Neurophysiology, Hannover Medical School
Sarah Hoffmann	Medicina e Chirurgia	Neurologia	Associate Professor / Senior Neurologist, Charité University of Berlin

Raffaele Iorio	Medicina e Chirurgia	Neurologia	Professore Associato in Neurologia, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Roma
Daniela Latorre	Biotechnologie	Immunologia	Group Leader at Institute of experimental Neurology, Division of Neuroscience, IRCCS Ospedale San Raffaele, Milano
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