Sjögreneurope

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

3rd Sjögren Europe Patients Conference 2026

Transforming the Future of Sjögren's *together*



11-12 December **2026**

Hotel **Roma Centro**

ROME

For more information

www.sepac2026.com



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Rome

11-12 December 2026

INFORMATION AT A GLANCE

Organising by

Sjögren europe

Board

President: **Katy Antonopoulou (Greece)**
Vice President: **Ana Vieira (Portugal)**
General Secretary: **Coralie Peter-Bouillot (France)**
Treasurer: J**oyce Koelewijn-Tukker (The Netherlands)**
Member: **Igor Medojevic (Serbia)**

Destination

Rome, Italy

Dates

Friday, 11 December 2026
Saturday, 12 December 2026

Venue

Centro Roma Hotel
Via dei Gracchi, 324, 00192 Rome Italy

Main Conference Hall

Aracoeli & Campidoglio (-1 Level)

Breakout Hall

Navona A (-1 Level)



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INFORMATION AT A GLANCE

Attendance

The conference will be held exclusively with in-person attendance and its addressed to Sjögren Europe members, patients with similar autoimmune rheumatic diseases, physicians and other healthcare professionals.

Registration

Registration is mandatory for participation. Interested individuals must complete the online registration form available at www.sepac2026.com

Conference Website

www.sepac2026.com

Publicity - Communication – Administration

Alpha Public Relations & Integrated Marketing S.A.
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SEPAC 2026 Project Manager
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WELCOME NOTE

Dear friends, colleagues, and members of the Sjögren community,

Welcome to the **3rd Sjögren Europe Patients Conference in Rome**. This year's theme, "**Transforming the Future of Sjögren Together**" reflects our shared commitment to advancing research, improving care, strengthening advocacy, and ensuring that the patient voice remains at the centre of every discussion.

During 11 and 12 of December, we will explore the latest developments in Sjögren's research, artificial intelligence, precision medicine, clinical trials, systemic involvement, mental health, patient advocacy, and access to treatment.

Through **expert sessions, interactive workshops, and patient stories**, this conference aims to foster collaboration, innovation, and meaningful action for the future of the Sjögren community.

Most importantly, this conference is about coming together – patients, healthcare professionals, researchers, policymakers, and partners – to shape a better future for everyone living with Sjögren's.

Thank you for joining us in Rome.

We wish you an inspiring and successful conference.

With warm regards,
Sjögren Europe Board of Directors



SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

FRIDAY 11 DECEMBER 2026

09:00 - 09:15 *Foyer*	Registrations	
09:15 - 09:25 *Plenary Room*	**Welcome & Opening Remarks**	
09:25 - 10:00	**The Sjögren Revolution: Research Breakthroughs, AI & What Lies Ahead**	**R. Seror**
10:00 - 11:00 *Plenary Room*	**Rethinking Clinical Trials in Sjögren's: What Must Change Now?** *Chair:* **C. Baldini**	
10:00 - 10:15	Patient recruitment challenges & inclusion criteria	**R. Seror**
10:15 - 10:30	Outcome measures that reflect patient reality	**S. Arends**
10:30 - 10:45	The patient perspective	**A. Vieira**
10:45 - 11:00	Open roundtable	TBA
11:00 - 11:30	Coffee Break *Foyer*	
11:30 - 12:30 *Plenary Room*	**Sjögren's Beyond the Glands - Systemic Involvement** *Chair:* **C. Bouillot**	
11:30 - 11:40	Cardiovascular & pulmonary involvement	**A. Alunno**
11:40 - 11:50	Renal & urinary tract	**M. Bandeira**



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FRIDAY 11 DECEMBER 2026 *(cont.)*

11:50 - 12:00	Cutaneous & vascular involvement	**R. Priori**
12:00 - 12:10	Gastrointestinal involvement	**C. Baldini**
12:10 - 12:30	Q&A	

12:35 - 13:30 — Parallel Workshops

Plenary Room

Workshop I: A.I in Sjögren's - From Promise to Practice

Facilitator: **J. Koelewijn-Tukker**

Digital tools & apps overview	**K. Antonopoulou**
A.I assistants for Sjögren's patients - live demo	**K. Antonopoulou**

Breakout Room

Workshop II: Living Better - Self-Management & Daily Care

Facilitator: **A. Vieira**

Self-management strategies & daily routines	**M. Carvalho**
Occupational therapy tools	**R. Prieto - Moreno**
Sleeping disturbances	**U. Faraguna**

13:35 - 13:45 — Workshops Wrap-Up

Plenary Room

13:45 - 14:45	Lunch & Networking *Hotel's Restaurant*



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FRIDAY 11 DECEMBER 2026 *(cont.)*

14:45 - 15:30	**Precision Medicine, Biomarkers & A.I**	
Plenary Room	*Chair:* **TBA**	
14:45 - 14:52	Biomarkers and disease subtyping in 2026	**E. Pontarini**
14:52 - 14:59	Deep learning, organoids and CAR-T cells: where are we now?	**G. Nocturne**
14:59 - 15:06	Mitochondrial dysfunction and fatigue: what's the connection?	**S. Colafrancesco**
15:06 - 15:13	What A.I in diagnosis means for patients	**V. Venerito**
15:13 - 15:30	Q&A	

15:30 - 16:00	**Understanding HTA & Access**	
Plenary Room	*Chair:* **TBA**	
	What is HTA and why it determines patient access	**I. Gutierrez**
	Building the Sjögren patient evidence dossier (exercise)	**I. Gutierrez**

16:00	End of conference day one



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SATURDAY 12 DECEMBER 2026

09:00 - 09:30	**Juvenile Sjögren's Disease: Recognising, Diagnosing and Supporting Young Patients**	
Plenary Room	*Chair:* **A. Vieira**	
09:00 - 09:10	Expert presentation on Juvenile Sjögren's Disease	**E. Marrani**
09:10 - 09:15	Parent voice	TBA
09:15 - 09:20	Launch: Sjögren Europe Juvenile Sjögren's Disease brochure	**A. Vieira**
09:20 - 09:30	Q&A	

09:30 - 10:30	**The Hidden Burden: Fatigue, Brain Fog, Neuropathy & Sexual Health**	
Plenary Room	*Chair:* **J. Koelewijn-Tukker**	
09:30 - 09:40	What patients still experience despite treatment	**S. Tonolo**
09:40 - 09:50	Sexual Health in Sjögren's	**M. Bandeira**
09:50 - 10:00	Neuro-ocular connection: Sjögren's effects beyond dryness	**G. Gabbriellini**
10:00 - 10:10	PNS	**R. Priori**
10:10 - 10:20	CNS	**L. Quartuccio**
10:20 - 10:30	Q&A	

10:30 - 11:00	Coffee Break *Foyer*



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SATURDAY 12 DECEMBER 2026 *(cont.)*

11:00 - 12:15	**Parallel Workshops**	
Plenary Room	**Workshop III: Living Better - Self-Management & Daily Care (Rev.)**	
	Facilitator: **A. Vieira**	
	Self-management strategies & daily routines	**M. Carvalho**
	Occupational therapy tools	**R. Prieto - Moreno**
	Sleeping disturbances	**U. Faraguna**
Breakout Room	**Workshop IV: Communication and Social Media**	
	Facilitator: **TBA**	
	Social Media	**V. Bouillot**
	Communication	TBD
12:20 - 12:30	**Workshops Wrap-Up**	
Plenary Room		
12:30 - 13:15	**Improving the Clinical Visit Experience**	
Plenary Room	*(More information will be announced soon)*	
13:15 - 14:00	Lunch & Networking *Hotel's Restaurant*	



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SATURDAY 12 DECEMBER 2026 *(cont.)*

14:00 - 14:45	**Living with Sjögren's: Real Stories, Real Solutions**	
Plenary Room	*Chair:* **I. Medojevic**	
14:00 - 14:10	Patient story	**N. Pantellide**
14:10 - 14:20	Patient story	**D. Collins**
14:20 - 14:30	Patient story	**M. Castleton**
14:30 - 14:45	Open Q&A	

14:45 - 15:30	**From Awareness to Action: Making Sjögren's Visible in European Health Policy**	
Plenary Room	*Chair:* **C. Bouillot**	
14:45 - 14:55	Patient experience & advocacy update	**K. Antonopoulou**
14:55 - 15:05	Clinical perspective on policy gaps	**M. Mosca**
15:05 - 15:15	How can PO advocate at national level?	**I. Gutierrez**
15:15 - 15:25	Industry perspective	TBA
15:25 - 15:30	Q&A	

15:30 - 16:00	**Workshop - sponsored by AMGEN**	
Plenary Room	*(More information will be announced soon)*	
16:00 - 16:15	**Conference Wrap-Up & Next Steps**	
16:15	End of conference	



SPEAKERS - MODERATORS

Alunno, Alessia
MD, PhD, Rheumatologist, Internal Medicine and Nephrology Division of the University of L'Aquila, Italy

Antonopoulou, Katy
President of Sjögren Europe, President of the Hellenic League Against Rheumatism, EULAR PARE Committee Member, Greece

Arends, Suzanne
PhD, Associate Professor and Clinical Epidemiologist, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, University Medical Center Groningen (UMCG), Netherlands

Baldini, Chiara
MD, PhD, Professor of Rheumatology, University of Pisa, Italy

Bandeira, Matilde
MD Rheumatologist, ULS Viseu Dão-Lafões, Portugal

Bouillot, Coralie
General Secretary of Sjögren Europe and ERN ReCONNET ePAG Representative, France

Bouillot, Victoire
Communications Specialist, France

Carvalho, Mariana
MSc Physiotherapist, Clinical Researcher, Portugal and EULAR Young PARE Working Group Member

Castleton, Mallin
Official Representative of The Swedish Rheumatism Association, Sweden

Colafrancesco, Serena
MD, PhD Researcher at Humanitas University and Attending Physician, Unit of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Humanitas Research Hospital, Italy

Collins, Deirdre
Official Representative of Sjögren's Ireland, Ireland

Faraguna, Ugo
MD, PhD Associate Professor of Physiology, University of Pisa, Italy

Gabbriellini, Giovanna
Ophthalmology Unit, Azienda Ospedaliero-Universitaria Pisana (AOUP), Pisa, Italy

Gutiérrez - Ibarluzea, Iñaki
PhD, Director of Health Research, Innovation and Evaluation, Ministry of Health of the Basque Government, Spain

Koelewijn-Tukker, Joyce
Treasurer of Sjögren Europe and Office Manager of the Dutch Sjögren's Patient Association (NVSP), Netherlands

Marrani, Edoardo
MD, Consultant in Pediatric Rheumatology, Meyer Children's Hospital IRCCS, Florence, Italy

Medojevic, Igor
Board Member of Sjögren Europe and President of the Rheumatic Assosiation Montenegro, Serbia

Mosca, Marta
MD, PhD, Professor of Rheumatology, University of Pisa; Head of the Rheumatology Unit, Pisa University Hospital (AOUP); and Coordinator of ERN ReCONNET, Italy



SPEAKERS - MODERATORS

Nocturne, Gaëtane
MD, PhD, Professor of Rheumatology, Université Paris-Saclay, and Immuno-Rheumatologist, Bicêtre Hospital (AP-HP), France

Pantelide, Nicoletta
Official Representative of Cyprus League Against Rheumatism, Cyprus

Pontarini, Elena
PhD, Lecturer in Immunology, Centre for Experimental Medicine and Rheumatology, William Harvey Research Institute, Queen Mary University of London, UK

Prieto - Moreno, Rafael
PhD, Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Almería, Spain, and EULAR HPR Committee Member

Priori, Roberta
MD, PhD, Senior Rheumatologist, Rheumatology Unit, Policlinico Umberto I Hospital, and Adjunct Professor, UniCamillus International University of Health and Medical Sciences, Rome, Italy

Quartuccio, Luca
MD, PhD, Associate Professor of Rheumatology and Head of the Rheumatology Division, University of Udine, Italy

Seror, Raphaèle
MD, PhD Professor of Rheumatology, Université Paris-Saclay, and Immuno-Rheumatologist, Bicêtre Hospital (AP-HP), France

Tonolo, Silvia
President, National Association for Rheumatic Patients (ANMAR), Italy

Venerito, Vincenzo
MD, MSc, Assistant Professor of Rheumatology, University of Bari "Aldo Moro", Italy

Vieira, Ana
Vice President of Sjögren Europe, EULAR Patient Research Partner, and ERN ReCONNET ePAG Representative, Portugal

SPECIAL THANKS

A special thanks to our SEPAC 2026 sponsors
for their unwaivering support of Sjögren's patients

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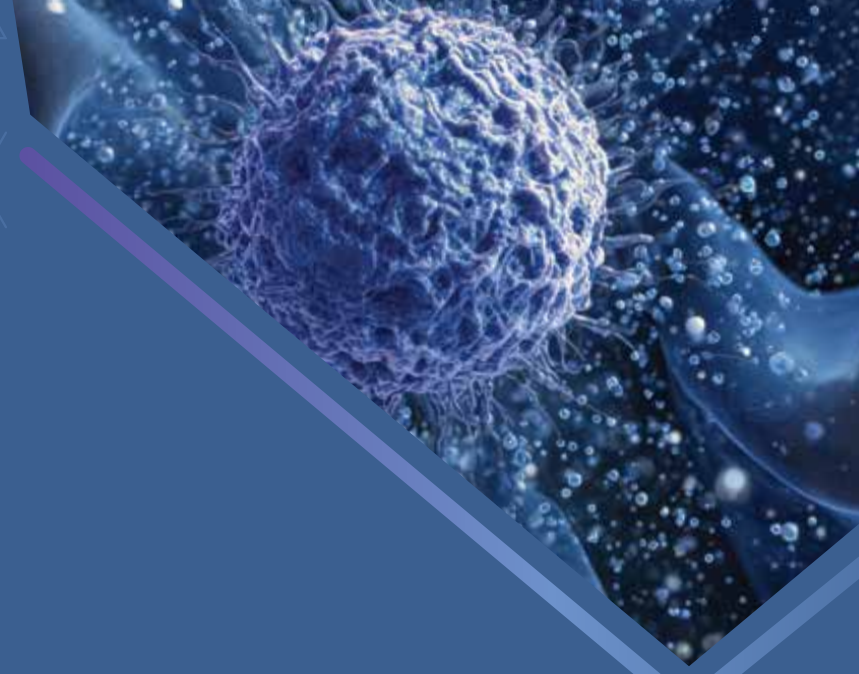


AMGEN

Making a Difference in Rare Disease

ADVANCING CARE FOR THE COMMUNITY

Rare diseases affect more than 400 million people worldwide, including 36 million in the EU, yet only 5% have an approved treatment. At Amgen, we're harnessing biology and technology to drive progress where it's needed most. Because behind every number is a person. Learn more at www.Amgen.eu.



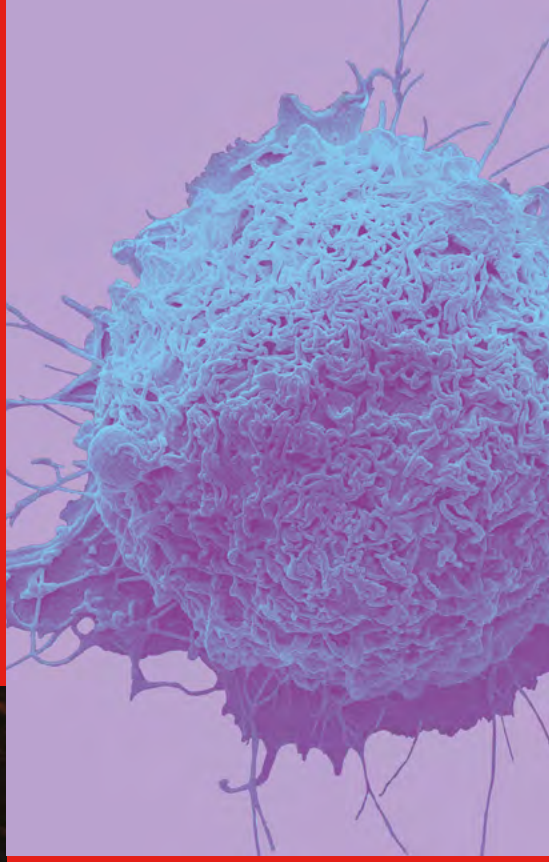
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Learn more about
latest updates in
Sjögren Disease (SjD).

COME MEET THE TEAM AT THE VOR BIOPHARMA TABLE!

VOR-MED-00041 SEPTEMBER 2026.

We believe health is everything





We're working at the intersection of science and technology to build a world where complex diseases are prevented, treated and cured. Where treatments are smarter and less invasive. And solutions are personal.

Learn more at **https://innovativemedicine.jnj.com/emea/**.

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CP-601661 | September 2026
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