

**International conference
AUTOIMMUNE DISEASES: MAIN PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS**

Rīga Stradiņš University, 16 Dzirciema Street, Riga, Latvia
Hippocrates Lecture Theatre, Block A

9 – 10 November 2023

AGENDA

Thursday, 9 November	
8.30 – 9.30	Registration
9.30 – 9.40	OPENING Modra Murovska , Assoc. Professor, Project Coordinator, RSU, Latvia Agrita Kiopa , Vice-Rector for Science, RSU, Latvia
Session I - <u>Understanding Autoimmunity</u>	
Chairs: Modra Murovska and Marion Schneider	
9.40 – 10.10	Yehuda Shoenfeld , Professor, Sheba Medical Center, Israel Why Autoimmunity? Hyper-Stimulation of the Immune System CPI and Breast Silicone Implants Are Proofs of Concept
10.10 – 10.25	Zaiga Nora-Krūkle , Leading Researcher, Institute of Microbiology and Virology, RSU, Latvia Gut Microbiome Analysis and Effect on Cytokine Levels in Individuals with Fibromyalgia
10.25 – 10.40	Christian Scheiber , PhD student, Ulm University, Germany Autoantibodies Directed Against Plasma Cytokines Mirror Autoimmune Characteristics in Patients with Inflammatory Diseases
10.40 – 11.10	Miri Blank , Professor, Sheba Medical Center, Israel Phosphorylcholine (PC) – Mode of Activity and Therapy Development for Autoimmune Diseases
11.10 – 11.30	Coffee Break
Session II - <u>Viruses and Autoimmunity</u>	
Chairs: Simona Doniņa and Bhupesh Prusty	
11.30 – 12.00	Bhupesh Prusty , Senior Researcher, University of Würzburg, Germany Understanding the Infectious Origin of Autoimmunity from the Sars-Cov-2 Pandemic
12.00 – 12.15	Claudio Trapella , Professor, University of Ferrara, Italy Novel Compounds to Control Human Herpesvirus 6 Infection
12.15 – 12.30	Silvia Beltrami , PhD student, University of Ferrara, Italy Neurodegenerative Role of West Nile Virus Non-Structural Protein 1: Effect on TLR3 and Amyloid Beta Expression

12.30 – 12.45	Irina Holodņuka , Leading Researcher, Institute of Microbiology and Virology, RSU, Latvia The Highest EBV DNA Copy Numbers Are Detected in Untreated Patients with the High-Risk Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia
12.45 – 13.00	Ingrīda Čēma , Professor, Department of Maxillo-Facial Surgery and Oral Medicine, RSU, Latvia Possible Role of EBV in the Pathogenesis of Oral Lichen Planus
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch Break
Session III - <u>Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome</u>	
Chairs: Roberta Rizzo and Zaiga Nora-Krūkle	
14.00 – 14.30	Pawel Zalewski , Professor, Bydgoszcz Nicolaus Copernicus University, Warsaw Medical University, Poland The Role of the Gut Microbiome in the Pathogenesis of Autoimmune Disorders and Non-Pharmacological Interventions for Its Modification. An Example Chronic Fatigue Syndrome
14.30 – 14.45	Modra Murovska , Lead Researcher, Institute of Microbiology and Virology, Rīga Stradiņš University, Latvia Selection of Biomarkers in ME/CFS for Patient Stratification and Treatment Surveillance/Optimisation
14.45 – 15.00	Diāna Arāja , Researcher, Institute of Microbiology and Virology, Rīga Stradiņš University, Latvia Complementary Disease Management Approaches in Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Patients
15.00 – 15.15	Santa Rasa-Dzelzkalēja , Leading Researcher, Institute of Microbiology and Virology, Rīga Stradiņš University, Latvia Kynurenine and Human Herpesvirus-6B in Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome
15.15 – 15.35	Coffee Break
Session IV- <u>Inflammation and Autoimmunity</u>	
Chairs: Claudio Trapella and Santa Rasa-Dzelzkalēja	
15.35 – 15.50	Sofija Semenistaja , PhD student, Joint Laboratory of Electron Microscopy, RSU, Latvia Mitochondrial Myopathy as a Mimic of Inflammatory Myopathy
15.50 – 16.05	Mihails Tarasovs , PhD student, Department of Internal Medicine, RSU, Latvia Low-Grade Inflammation Contribution to Neuropsychiatric State in Osteoarthritis Patients
Poster session I (P1–P5)	
16.05 – 16.35	P1 Sofija Semenistaja , PhD student, Joint Laboratory of Electron Microscopy, RSU, Latvia HHV-7 Protein Expression in the Synovial Tissue of Osteoarthritis Patients and Its Possible Contribution to the Degree of Inflammation P2 Nityanand Jain , Medical student, Assistant Lecturer, RSU, Latvia Vascular Presence of HHV-6 in Substantia NIGRA Pars Compacta of Chronic Alcohol Users and Controls: A Histopathological Evaluation P3 Achim Oberfell , MD, CSL Vifor, Switzerland Infections During the AVACOPAN Early Access Program (EAP) for Anca-Associated Vasculitis (AAV)

	<p>P4 Anastasija Balašova, Research assistant, Latvian Institute of Organic Synthesis, Latvia Development of Benzoxaphosphepine 2-Oxides as Carbonic Anhydrase Inhibitors</p> <p>P5 Tatjana Borisova, Dr. chem., Latvia Films of Hen`s Stomachs in Folk Medicine</p>
16.35 – 16.45	Information, organizational issues

Friday, 10 November	
Session V - <u>COVID-19 Autoimmune Aspects</u>	
Chairs: Pawel Zalewski and Ingrīda Čēma	
9.30 – 10.00	Marion Schneider , Professor, Ulm University, Germany Functional Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms (Snps) Linked to Autoimmune Manifestations in Long COVID
10.00 – 10.15	Sabrina Rizzo , PhD student, University of Ferrara, Italy Gestational Covid-19: Maternal and Fetal Morphological Alterations Caused by Sars-Cov-2 Infection
10.15 – 10.30	Ieva Vanaga , MD, Department of Infectology, RSU, Latvia Association of Liver-Related Autoantibodies with Possible Post-COVID Condition
10.30 – 10.45	Hele Everaus , Professor Emeritus, Consultant doctor, Tartu University, Tartu University Hospital, Estonia New Onset of Autoimmune Diseases Following Covid-19 Diagnosis and Vaccination
10.45 – 11.00	Vadims Bartkevičs , Head of the Laboratory of Chemistry, Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health and Environment “BIOR”, Latvia Determination of Population Health Status Biomarkers in Wastewater Samples
11.00 – 11.30	Coffee Break
Session VI - <u>Challenges and Solutions</u>	
Chairs: Valērija Groma and Irina Holodņuka	
11.30 – 12.00	Boris Gilburd , Senior Researcher, Sheba Medical Center, Israel Infra-Red Spectroscopy in Diagnosis of Autoimmune Diseases
12.00 – 12.15	Edgars Vasīļevskis , Researcher, Institute of Anatomy and Anthropology, RSU Latvia Integrative Medicine Approach in the Treatment of Autoimmune Diseases
12.15 – 12.30	Yuri Ostrinski , Autoimmunity Projects Manager, Sheba Medical Center, Israel Personalized Physical Activity as a Therapeutic Strategy for Autoimmune Diseases
12.30 – 12.45	Irene Soffritti , PhD student, University of Ferrara, Italy Circulating Mirnas Expression in Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/ Chronic Fatigue Syndrome
12.45 – 13.00	Maria D'Accolti , PostDoc, University of Ferrara, Italy Coinfection of Dermal Fibroblasts by Human Cytomegalovirus and Human Herpesvirus 6 Can Boost the Expression of Fibrosis-Associated Micrnas
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch Break

Session VII - <u>Challenges and Solutions II</u>	
Chairs: Hele Everaus and Uldis Berķis	
14.00 – 14.15	Simona Doniņa , Lead Researcher, Institute of Microbiology and Virology, RSU, Latvia Immune-Related Adverse Events During the Treatment with Anti Pd-1 Antibodies in Melanoma Patients: Literature Review and Two Year Experience at REUH
14.15 – 14.30	Justine Kaupe , Lecturer, Department of Pharmacology, RSU, Latvia Suboptimal Selenium Serum Concentrations in Latvian Patients with Autoimmune Gastritis and Autoimmune Thyroid Disorders
14.30 – 14.45	Inga Mauliņa , PhD student, Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, RSU, Latvia Resistance of Enterococcus Isolates in Hospitalised Patients from Two Multidisciplinary Hospitals: From Science to Practice
Poster session II (P1–P5) 14.45 – 15.00	
15.00 – 15.20	Coffee Break
Session VIII - <u>WIDESPREAD project's achievements</u>	
Chairs: Angelika Krūmiņa and Yuri Ostrinski	
15.20 – 15.35	Raivis Žalubovskis , Head of the Applied Chemistry Group, Latvian Institute of Organic Synthesis, Latvia Strategies for Advanced Development of Antibacterials – Springboard Project's Achievements
15.35 – 15.50	Modra Murovska , Assoc. Professor, Project Coordinator, Institute of Microbiology and Virology, RSU, Latvia Implementation of Vira Project “Reducing Networking Gaps Between Rīga Stradiņš University (RSU) and Internationally-Leading Counterparts in Viral Infection-Induced Autoimmunity Research”
15.50 – 16.05	Uldis Berķis , Head of RIS3 Unit, Ministry of Education and Science, Latvia Autoimmunity Research in European Agendas
16.05 – 16.30	Discussion, Conclusion, Final Remarks Aivars Lejnieks , Professor, Department of Internal Diseases, RSU; Head of VirA Advisory Board Modra Murovska , Assoc. Professor, Project Coordinator, VirA project, Institute of Microbiology and Virology, RSU, Latvia Uldis Berķis , Head of RIS3 Unit, Ministry of Education and Science, VirA Advisory Board Member Andris Skride , Assoc. Professor, Department of Internal Diseases, RSU, VirA Advisory Board Member All VirA Partners and WP Leaders