

9-11 May  
**2024**  
Genoa



# 43<sup>RD</sup>

## EUROPEAN WORKSHOP FOR RHEUMATOLOGY RESEARCH



**Preliminary Programme**  
<https://ewrr2024.com/>





## INTRODUCING EWRR

In 2024, the European Workshop for Rheumatology Research (EWRR) celebrates its 43<sup>rd</sup> edition and will take place for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in Genova, Italy.

The EWRR is considered Europe's premier meeting for basic and translational research in the field of rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases and is particularly aimed at attracting young scientists who are given the opportunity to present their work in an informal and interactive environment.

The EWRR has a long tradition, it was started in 1981 and still is a unique event introducing new targets, biomarkers and pathways that have always been the broad basis for the development of a modern molecular pharmacotherapy of the autoimmune and inflammatory rheumatic diseases.

The programme will contain nine major scientific sessions and two keynote lectures. In addition, State-of-the-art lectures will be given by some of Europe's most renowned researchers inside and outside the rheumatology field. Furthermore, there will be short oral presentations by young researcher of outstanding abstracts and guided poster tours.

Like in the most recent previous editions, EWRR 2024 will start with a Thursday afternoon session, and until the Saturday afternoon closing ceremony, there will be sufficient time for poster visits and discussion creating an informal atmosphere for scientific networking and social interactions.

From some decades EULAR supports the meeting with a number of bursaries and some EULAR Study Group Meetings take place prior to the European Workshop on Rheumatology Research (EWRR), but are not part of the EWRR.

Finally, also Pharma offer an unconditioned support to make possible low Workshop fees for young researches and fellows/students participation.

We are confident and enthusiastic about welcoming you to Genova to celebrate this exclusive scientific event together, and we thank from by now for their contribution all the involved colleagues and supporters.

**Maurizio Cutolo on behalf of the Organizers and all Committees**



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## Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**14:00 - 14:45**      **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

**14:45 - 16:15**      **SESSION 1**  
**UPDATE ON CELL SUBSETS NETWORKING IN ARTHRITIS**

*Chairs: G. Steiner (Vienna, Austria), P. Miossec (Lyon, France)*

14:45 - 15:15      Dynamic spectrum B cell activation and differentiation in the RA synovium: relationship to clinical and treatment response phenotypes

*C. Pitzalis (London, UK)*

15:15 - 15:45      Peripheral B cell maturation: impact of rapid extra follicular development in autoantibody formation and models of germinal center derived autoimmunity, relevance for (targeted) therapies

*M. Rizzi (Vienna, Austria)*

15:45 - 16:15      Oral presentations

16:15 - 16:45      Coffee break

**16:45 - 18:15**      **SESSION 2**  
**GENDER, STRESS AND IMMUNE SYSTEM RESPONSE**

*Chairs: R. H. Straub (Regensburg, Germany), E. Gotelli (Genoa, Italy)*

16:45 - 17:15      Mechanisms underlying stress-associated pathologies: focus on musculoskeletal diseases

*S. O. Reber (Ulm, Germany)*

17:15 - 17:45      Unveiling the microbiota's impact on sex hormones and its significance in rheumatic diseases

*C. Tropini (Vancouver, Canada)*

17:45 - 18:15      Oral presentations

**18:15 - 19:00**      **KEYNOTE LECTURE I**  
**NEW HORIZONS IN AUTOINFLAMMATORY DISEASES**

*Chairs: M. Mosca (Pisa, Italy), A. Ravelli (Genoa, Italy)*

*Speaker: D. Kastner (Bethesda, USA)*



## Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**08:30 - 10:00**

### **SESSION 3**

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS AND EPIGENETIC MODULATION**

*Chairs: C. Ospelt (Zurich, Switzerland), E. Ballestar (Barcelona, Spain)*

08:30 - 09:00

Epigenome as a mediator of environmental and genetic factors on disease risk

*M. Jagodic (Stockholm, Sweden)*

09:00 - 09:30

Does inheritance of environmental induced epigenetic changes influence disease risk?

*B. Heijmans (Leiden, The Netherlands)*

09:30 - 10:00

Oral presentations

10:00 - 10:30

Coffee break

**10:30 - 12:00**

### **SESSION 4**

#### **ENDOTHELIAL CELL REACTIVITY AND MACROPHAGE TRANSITION IN INFLAMMATION AND FIBROSIS IN AUTOIMMUNE RHEUMATIC DISEASES**

*Chairs: V. Smith (Ghent, Belgium), S. Soldano (Genoa, Italy)*

10:30 - 11:00

The centrality of capillaries and endothelial cells for the fibrotic process development

*J. Distler (Düsseldorf, Germany)*

11:00 - 11:30

Synovial tissue macrophages, role in joint homeostasis and their transition in rheumatoid arthritis

*S. Alivernini (Rome, Italy)*

11:30 - 12:00

Oral presentations

12:00 - 14:00

Lunch and Poster Session

**14:00 - 15:30**

### **SESSION 5**

#### **SOFT TISSUE REACTIVITY AND BONE SPINE REPAIR TO INJURY**

*Chairs: X. Baraliakos (Herne, Germany), S. Hayer (Vienna, Austria)*

14:00 - 14:30

The regenerative biology of the synovial joint

*C. De Bari (Aberdeen, UK)*





14:30 - 15:00 Crossing the boundaries: IL-23 and its role in linking inflammation of the skin, gut and joints  
*D. Elewaut (Ghent, Belgium)*

15:00 - 15:30 Oral presentations

**15:30 - 17:00**

## **SESSION 6**

### **THE INTERFACE BETWEEN MICROBIOTA AND LOCALLY/SYSTEMIC IMMUNE RESPONSE**

*Chairs: F. Ciccia (Naples, Italy), U. Fearon (Dublin, Ireland)*

15:30 - 16:00 Alteration of gut microbiota and disturbed metabolome might initiate arthritis by triggering mucosal immunity imbalance  
*A. Bozec (Erlangen, Germany)*

16:00 - 16:30 Targeting mucosal immunity imbalance to regulate peripheral inflammation – what about the CNS?  
*M. Zaiss (Erlangen, Germany)*

16:30 - 17:00 Oral presentations

17:00 - 17:30

Coffee break

**17:30 - 18:15**

## **KEYNOTE LECTURE II**

### **LONG COVID: DEFINING THE ROLE OF RHEUMATOLOGY IN RESEARCH AND CARE**

*Chairs: M. Cutolo (Genoa, Italy), A. Sulli (Genoa, Italy)*

*Speaker: L.H. Calabrese (Cleveland, USA)*



**Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**08:30 - 10:00**

**SESSION 7**

**THE TRANSITION FROM AUTOIMMUNE RHEUMATIC DISEASES TO CANCER AND VICE-VERSA**

*Chairs: Z. Szekanecz (Debrecen, Hungary), R. Giacomelli (Rome, Italy)*

08:30 - 09:00

Cancer risk in chronic autoimmune rheumatic diseases  
*J. Askling (Stockholm, Sweden)*

09:00 - 09:30

Host-microbiome interaction in health and disease  
*E. Elinav (Rehovot, Israel)*

09:30 - 10:00

Oral presentations

10:00 - 10:30

Coffee break

**10:30 - 12:00**

**SESSION 8**

**THE MULTIFACETED AUTOINFLAMMATORY MECHANISMS AND RELATED SYNDROMES**

*Chairs: D. Kastner (Bethesda, USA), M. Gattorno (Genoa, Italy)*

10:30 - 11:00

Mechanisms of L-1 $\beta$  secretion from human monocytes - New answers to an old question  
*M. Lamkanfi (Ghent, Belgium)*

11:00 - 11:30

Mechanisms of inflammasomes regulation in autoinflammatory diseases  
*F. Martinon (Lausanne, Switzerland)*

11:30 - 12:00

Oral presentations

12:00 - 14:00

Lunch and Poster Session



**14:00 - 15:30**

**SESSION 9**

**PRECISION MEDICINE AND NOVEL TARGETS FOR INTERVENTION IN RHEUMATIC AND INFLAMMATORY DISEASES**

*Chairs: A. Doria (Padua, Italy), R. Caporali (Milan, Italy)*

14:00 - 14:30

Tissue deconstruction to optimise interventions in inflammatory arthritis?

*I. McInnes (Glasgow, UK)*

14:30 - 15:00

Contextual management of RA

*D. Aletaha (Vienna, Austria)*

15:00 - 15:30

Oral presentations

15:30 - 16:15

Symposium on SLE

**16:15 - 17:00**

**KEYNOTE LECTURE III  
to be defined**

**17:00**

**Closing remarks and awards**

**Main Topics for abstract submissions**

- 1 Update on T and B cell subsets networking in arthritis
- 2 Gender, stress and immune system response
- 3 Environmental factors and epigenetic modulation
- 4 Endothelial cell reactivity and macrophage transition in inflammation and fibrosis in autoimmune rheumatic diseases
- 5 Soft tissue reactivity and bone spine repair to injury
- 6 The interface between microbiota and locally/systemic immune response
- 7 The transition from autoimmune rheumatic diseases to cancer and vice-versa
- 8 The multifaceted autoinflammatory mechanisms and related syndromes
- 9 Precision medicine and novel targets for intervention in rheumatic autoimmune and inflammatory diseases
- 10 Innate Immunity
- 11 Adaptive Immunity
- 12 Connective tissue Diseases



## SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION

### EULAR Bursaries and Prizes

**EULAR supports participation with 50 EULAR travel grants of 500 EUR each for young scientists (under 35 years of age) who have submitted an abstract as first author.** You will be informed if you have been awarded the EULAR bursary together with your abstract acceptance notification letter.

Prizes for the best posters will be recognized during the final ceremony.

### Abstract Submission

Abstracts can only be submitted through the Workshop website and not later than January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

Abstracts received by e-mail or via fax will not be considered. Should you have any problems in submitting an abstract online please email the Organizing Secretariat AIM Italy ([ewrr2024@daimgroup.eu](mailto:ewrr2024@daimgroup.eu)).

### Abstract Notification

Once the abstract is submitted a confirmation email should be sent to the e-mail address the registered author entered in the section "Personal details".

Notification of acceptance of the abstracts will be sent by e-mail within February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

The registered author will receive all correspondence concerning the abstract and is responsible for informing co-authors of the status of the abstract.

The presenting author of the accepted abstract must be registered to attend the Workshop.

**Workshop Website for abstract submission:**

**<https://ewrr2024.com/>**



## Information for Presenters

### Oral Presentations

Participants presenting oral sessions are requested to bring their presentation on a jump drive or laptop and arrive at the slide center room at least one hour before the session is to begin.

### Posters Tours

All posters will be presented and discussed with the chair and participants during the Poster Tours.

All posters must have maximum dimensions of 70cm x 100cm vertical orientation. Please note that poster boards will be set up in a dedicated area of the workshop venue and must remain up throughout the workshop, so that participants will be able to view them at their convenience.

### List of chairs and oral and poster presenters

The list of the session chairs and of the selected oral presentations together with the Poster Tours selections will be reported in the next editions of the Programme.

### CME Credits

An application will be submitted to the EACCME® for CME accreditation of this event.

### CME Provider



AIM Education - Provider n. 93  
Via G. Ripamonti, 129 - 20141 Milan, Italy  
Tel. +39 02 56601.1 - [cme@aimgroup.eu](mailto:cme@aimgroup.eu)  
[www.aimeducation.it](http://www.aimeducation.it)



## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Congress Venue

Porto Antico di Genova  
Centro Congressi  
Calata Molo Vecchio 15  
16128 Genoa, Italy  
Please consult the venue website:  
<https://portoantico.it/en/>



### How to reach the Congress Venue

#### From Airport



*Taxi:* about 15 minutes ride.

*Bus:* 30 minutes with shuttle bus Volabus (euro 6,00) - stop Piazza De Ferrari.

*Subway:* De Ferrari Stop/ S. Giorgio or 15 minute walk, direction Porto Antico.

#### From Train Station Genoa



*Walk:* 15 minute walk direction Porto Antico

*Bus:* 10 minutes, line 1 or 9, from Marittima Principe F.S. to Piazza Caricamento Terminal

*Subway:* 5 minutes direction Brignole, San Giorgio Stop.

#### From Highway



Exit from Genoa Ovest and take speed city motorway direction; after 3 km exit at Genoa Porto Antico; at the end of the road continue 50 m. and turn right at 2<sup>nd</sup> intersection to access Porto Antico.

### Congress Center Parking



Affordable parking is available in the Porto Antico Area and adjacent to the Conference center: (50 meters walking distance).

Genoa guarantees full sustainable mobility! In fact, one of the challenges launched includes taking into account the environmental impact of tourism-related transportation.

In addition, Treecycle electric bike services, and MiMoto and Zig Zag electric scooters, are always available!





## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Visa Information

Italy is one of the countries of the so called Schengen Area. Participants are requested to familiarize themselves with their own applicable visa requirements well in advance of the Workshop. Present worldwide security regulations result in generally in more stringent visa requirements and associated visa processing time. All important information and application for visa forms can be found on the dedicated webpage of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where a guided procedure will help you decide if you need to apply for a visa based on your nationality, country of residence, reasons for your visit and length of stay. If you need a visa for Italy, you will be provided with all the information and forms needed to submit your application.

EWRR 2024 organizers will not intervene with Embassies or Consulates on behalf of any participant and her/his possible accompanying persons.

### ATTENTION

- VISA application may even require 120 days! Check it NOW!
- VISA application fee is from Euro 16,00 to Euro 116,00 per person to be paid at application, in local currency, to the Consulate or Embassy directly
- Presentation of the documentation requested does NOT ensure issuance of the VISA
- Do NOT start VISA process before being accepted to the event Invitation Letter  
If you are requested to show an Invitation Letter for Visa or Business purposes, you are demanded to:
- REGISTER TO THE CONFERENCE
- DOWNLOAD & PRINT ONLINE YOUR INVITATION

### Special Needs

If you are requested to provide Visa forms, ID card of the Host, Visura Acts, etc. or for any support from the Organization of the Event, please contact us via email at [Visa@daimgroup.eu](mailto:Visa@daimgroup.eu).

### Useful links:

[www.schengenvisainfo.com/italy-visa](http://www.schengenvisainfo.com/italy-visa)  
[www.vfsglobal.com/en/individuals/index.html](http://www.vfsglobal.com/en/individuals/index.html)  
[www.italyvac.cn](http://www.italyvac.cn)



## GENERAL INFORMATION

### IMPORTANT DATES

Abstract Submission Deadline	January 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2024
Abstract Notification	February 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2024
Early Registration Deadline	February 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2024
Regular Registration Deadline	April 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2024

#### Organizing Secretariat



AIM Italy - Milan Office  
Via G. Ripamonti, 129  
20141 Milan, Italy  
Ph. +39 02 566011  
[ewrr2024@aimgroup.eu](mailto:ewrr2024@aimgroup.eu)

#### Secretariat and Registration Desk

The on-site registration desks will be open during the following days:

**Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 | 10.30 - 19:30**

**Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024 | 08:00 - 19:00**

**Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024 | 08:00 - 19:00**

*Timings are preliminary and subject to changes.*

#### Admission to the Scientific Sessions

Participants are kindly requested to wear their badge during all congress activities. The badge will admit to the scientific sessions, coffee breaks and lunches. Lost badges will only be replaced against the payment of a handling fee and upon proof of original registration. Please note that children are not allowed in the Workshop area.

#### Language

The official language is English. No simultaneous translation will be provided.

#### Certificate of Attendance

Participants will be able to download and print the Certificate of Attendance upon completion of the online evaluation form they will receive by email at the end of the Workshop.



## REGISTRATION

### Registration Fees

(All registration fees are 22% VAT included)

	within February 16 <sup>th</sup> 2024	within April 15 <sup>th</sup> 2024
<b>Package 1</b> - Single Occupancy, 3 nights - May 9 <sup>th</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> and 11 <sup>th</sup>	€ 770,00	€ 870,00
<b>Package 2</b> - Double Occupancy, 3 nights - May 9 <sup>th</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> and 11 <sup>th</sup>	€ 590,00	€ 690,00
<b>Package 3</b> - Registration only	€ 350,00	€ 450,00
<b>Farewell Dinner</b> - May 11 <sup>th</sup>	€ 45,00	€ 55,00

### The registration fee includes:

- › Admission to the scientific sessions
- › Coffee breaks and lunches, according to the programme
- › Hotel accommodation for the 3 nights (May 9<sup>th</sup>, May 10<sup>th</sup>, May 11<sup>th</sup>) \* \*\*
- › Transfer from hotel to congress venue \*\*
- › Workshop materials
- › Welcome reception on May 9<sup>th</sup> \*\*
- › Certificate of attendance

\* There will be more than one hotel available for the Workshop. It will be assigned to every Participant when the starting date is approaching.

\*\* Included only for Package 1 and 2

### Payment

#### Credit Card

All major credit cards are accepted (VISA, Mastercard/Eurocard, American Express).

#### Bank Transfer

Beneficiary: AIM ITALY

Bank: Intesa San Paolo, Agenzia n. 6

Viale Coni Zugna 62, 20144 Milano

IBAN: IT57D0306909457100000005623

BIC: BCITITMM

The payment transfer form should clearly state the name(s) of the delegate(s) and of the event "EWRR 2024".

Registration will be considered confirmed when the payment is received



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## REGISTRATION

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### **Name Changes**

After April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 sponsors who wish to make name changes will be charged of an handling fee of € 50,00 (VAT 22% included) per name change. A new registration form for each replacement participant will be required before the name change can be processed. Individuals may make name changes only in exceptional cases.

### **Cancellation Policy**

Notification of cancellation must be sent in writing to  
AIM GROUP INTERNATIONAL ([ewrr2024@aimgroup.eu](mailto:ewrr2024@aimgroup.eu)).

Cancellations will be accepted until April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 with a refund of all prepaid fees expect for a 30% administration charge. No refunds will be made for cancellations received after this date.

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## SPONSOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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The updated list of supporters and sponsors will be presented in the final edition of the programme and on the website of the Workshop.



