



National and Kapodistrian University of Athens
School of Medicine

3rd Autoimmune Diseases

National Conference

Clinical unmet needs in Systemic Autoimmune Diseases
guide Clinical, Translational and Basic Research

22

24

October

2026

Athens

Greece

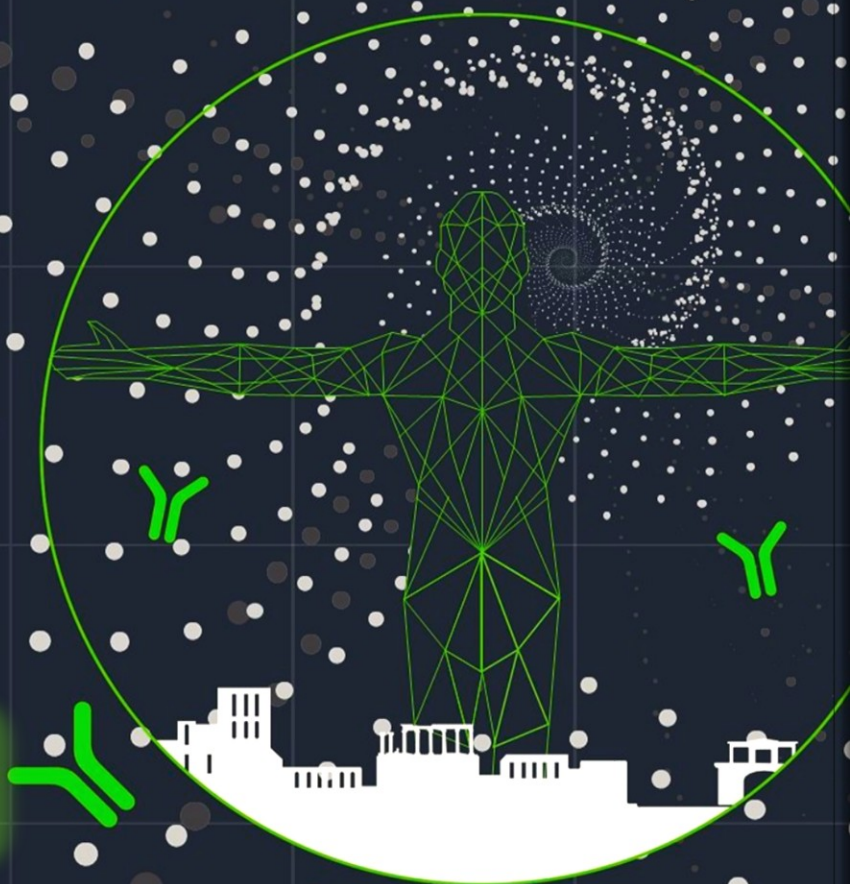
Final Program

Professional Congress Organizer



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Invitation

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to the **3rd Meeting on Systemic Autoimmune Diseases and Inflammation: Unmet Clinical Needs Guide Clinical-Translational and Basic Research set to take place in October 22 and 24, 2026**, in the Golden Age Hotel, conveniently located in downtown Athens.

This 3-day meeting aims to address recent advances in clinical, translational, and basic research in autoimmunity and inflammation and, therefore is a venue where both rheumatologists and other clinical scientists can meet and interact with basic scientists. Our meeting will be a forum for the exchange of ideas and insights. Furthermore, the floor will also be given to young fellows who are going to present and discuss their latest unpublished or published contributions in premium journals of internal medicine/rheumatology/immunology.

The meeting will also provide the opportunity to young PhD candidates to engage with senior investigators, from Greece and abroad, during our "Work in Progress" session. Least, but not last, students of the Medical School at both pre-graduate and Master level can also participate, benefitting from a unique opportunity to get exposed to state-of-the-art research performed in different laboratories in Greece and abroad. We hope you will enjoy the scientific program.

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The Chairpersons

Athanasios G. Tzioufas MD, PhD and Evangelos Andreakos PhD

Thursday, 22 October 2026

14.30 – 16.30 Case Reports (10min)

Chairs: **A. Tzioufas - A. Goules**

A patient with erythema annulare centrifugum

G. Iliopoulos

Thymic lesion in a patient with Sjogren Disease

G. Iliopoulos

Systemic Sclerosis: when the disease keeps progressing

D. Mandilara

When you think you've solved the problem

Th. Andrianopoulos

Persistent SLE-ITP with Presumed Active Nephritis

Ch. Spanopoulou

Retinal vasculitis in SLE

A. Chatzistamati

Fever, Eosinophilia and Splenomegaly: Unravelling a Diagnostic Puzzle

P. Pala

A 47 year old woman with intraabdominal aneurysms

K. Panagiotopoulos

44 year old female with fever of unknown origin and lymphadenopathy

M. Nitsa

Fever, Pleuritic chest pain, facial erythema and Raynaud's phenomenon in a 44 year-old woman

T. Petropoulos

A 55 year old male with small joint arthralgia, urticaria and proteinuria with low complement levels and elevated creatinine

F. Sideridou

16.30 – 17.45 Seronegative Arthritis

Chairs: **G. Katsifis - S. Sougioultzis**

Pathogenetic mechanisms of seronegative arthritis

G. Katsifis

Clinical evaluation and recommendations

G. Fragoulis

Treatment of patients with seronegative arthritis

Ch. Papagoras

17.45 – 18.00 Coffee break

18.00 – 18.30 Rheuma-Hematology

Chairs: **S. Sougioultzis - S. Gazi**

The clinical significance of monoclonal gammopathy

E. Terpos

18.30 – 19.00 Satellite BMS

Chairs: **A. Tzioufas**

Systemic Autoimmunity and the JAK-STAT signaling pathway

L. Chatzis

19.00 – 20.00 Introduction | Opening Lecture

Chairs: **A. Tzioufas - S. Sougioultzis**

Advances in pathophysiology and emerging therapeutic trends in interstitial lung disease associated with connective tissue diseases

O. Distler

Friday, 23 October 2026

09.30 – 10.15 Antiphospholipid Syndrome

Chairs: **L. Chatzis, S Liossis**

Current pathogenetic considerations and treatment of catastrophic antiphospholipid syndrome
R. Cervera

10.15 – 11.00 ANCA-associated Vasculitides

Chairs: **C. Salvarani**

Comorbidities in ANCA-associated vasculitides
D. Vassilopoulos

11.00 – 11.30 Coffee Break

11.30 – 12.15 Keynote Lecture

Chairs: **A. Tzioufas – A. Goules**

Recent advances in pathogenesis of rheumatoid arthritis
C. Pitzalis

12.15 – 13.15 Myositis / Scleroderma

Chairs: **C. Mavragani – A. Georgountzos**

Recent advances in pathogenesis and treatment of inflammatory muscular diseases
C. Mavragani

Recent advances in pathogenesis and treatment of systemic sclerosis
S. Panopoulos

13.15 – 14.15 Light Lunch Break

14.15 – 14.45 Keynote Lecture

Chairs: **G. Dimopoulos – A. Goules**

Advances in the pathogenetic mechanisms of EGPA and current therapeutic considerations
B. Terrier

14.45 – 15.15 Satellite Lecture – Amgen

Chairs: **A. Tzioufas**

IgG4-RD: Current Challenges in Diagnosis and Therapeutic Management
A. Goules

15.15 – 16.45 **Operating Mechanisms in Chronic Inflammatory Diseases**

Chairs: **E. Andreakos**

Molecular signatures of monocytes in health and disease

I. Mitroulis

New pathogenetic aspects in thromboinflammation

K. Kambas

The role of IL-1 β in giant cell arteritis

S. Croci

16.45 - 17.00 Coffee Break

17.00 - 18.00 **Rheumatoid Arthritis**

Chairs: **A. Drosos**

Comorbidities in rheumatoid arthritis

G. Kitas

Seronegative vs Seropositive Rheumatoid arthritis; Phenotypic and endotypic differences & similarities

P. Voulgari

18.00 - 18.30 **Sjögren's Syndrome**

Chairs: **A. Goules**

Sjögren's disease and lymphoma

A. Goules

Current therapeutic approaches

L. Chatzis

18.30 – 19.00 **Satellite Lecture – Thea**

Chairs: **A. Tzioufas**

Dry Eye Disease in Autoimmune Disorders: A New Approach in Ocular Immunomodulation

K. Boboridis

19.00 - 19.45 **Keynote Lecture: Current and Future Therapeutic Aspects**

Chairs: **A. Goules - O. Distler**

Current therapeutic strategies and future perspectives in large vessel vasculitides

C. Salvarani

19.45 - 20.15 **Systemic Lupus Erythematosus**

Chairs: **R. Cervera**

Therapeutic interventions in systemic lupus erythematosus

N. Liossis

20.15 – 20.45 **Imaging**

Chairs: **A. Chatziioannou**

PET-CT in vascular inflammation

C. Anagnostopoulos

Saturday, 24 October 2026

09.30 – 10.30 Disease chronicity and tissue damage

Chairs: **A. Goules - L. Chatzis**

Immunopathology in Sjögren's disease: emerging concepts
S. Verstappen

Tissue damage in obesity and Metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease
A. Chatzigeorgiou

10.30 – 10.45 Coffee Break

10.45 – 13.00 Immunity to infections

Chairs: **E. Andreakos - G. Chamilos**

Immunity to fungal pathogens (TBC)
G. Chamilos

New advances in type III interferons
V. Andreakos

Residual chronic inflammation in Systemic Autoimmune Diseases: The example of temporal arteritis
A. Tzioufas

13.00 – 14.00 Light Lunch Break

14.00 – 16.00 Work in progress (12min talks)

Phenotypic and functional analysis of neutrophils in chronic respiratory disease
A. Deligianni

From Glandular Disease to Lymphoma: Peripheral Immune Profiling in Sjögren's Disease
D. Palamidis

Post-lymphoma diagnosis course of patients with SjD reveals a long-standing interplay between malignancy and systemic autoimmunity affecting morbidity and mortality
P. Palla

Prognostic artificial intelligence models for histopathologic risk stratification of lymphoma and systemic complications in Sjögren Disease
K. Panagiotopoulos

The clinical, functional and imaging landscape of lung involvement in Sjogren's disease
P. Panagopoulos

The role of Type III IFNs on B cells in flu infection
A. Piperakis

Persistence of Neutrophil Extracellular Traps, Senescent Cells and Exhausted T Cells in sequential temporal artery biopsies of giant cell arteritis patients treated with Tocilizumab
Ch. Spyropoulos

Epitranscriptomic regulation of profibrotic gene expression in systemic sclerosis
N. Vlachogiannis

16.00 – 16.30 Lecture

Chairs: **A. Tzioufas - A. Goules**

Clinical and Molecular Aspects of Type I Interferon Pathway in SLE
G. Bertsias

16.30 – 17.30 Closing