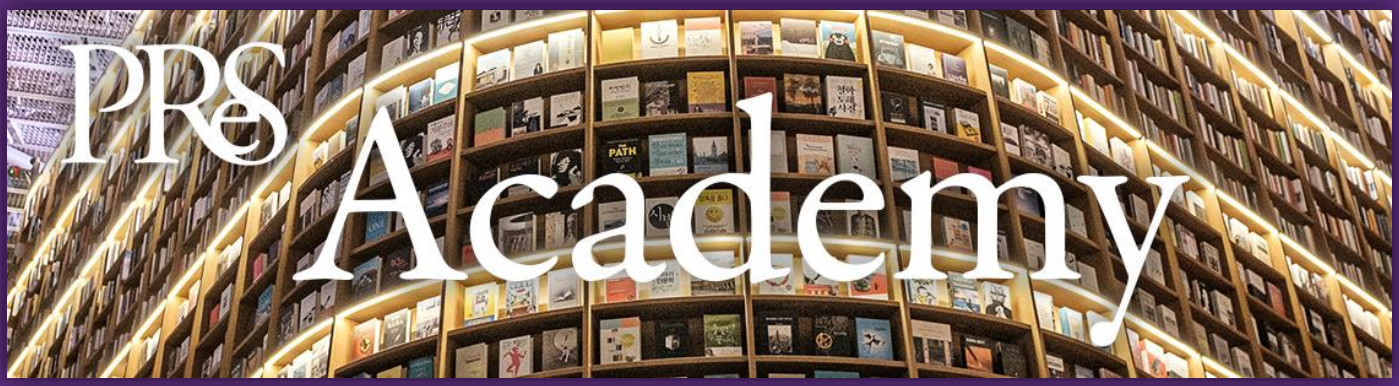
PAEDIATRIC RHEUMATOLOGY EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION

1st PReS Academy course on autoinflammatory diseases

April 9-10, 2026

Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital, Rome

Auditorium Valerio Nobili



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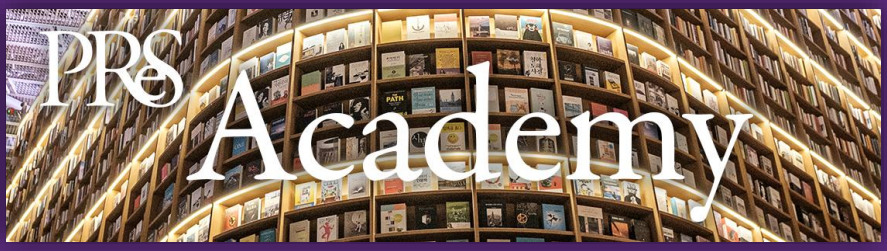

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Scientific Rationale

Autoinflammatory diseases comprise a heterogeneous group of rare and complex disorders characterized by primary dysregulation of the innate immune system, leading to recurrent or persistent inflammation .Over the past two decades, major advances in molecular genetics, immunology, and translational research have profoundly reshaped the understanding of the pathophysiological mechanisms underlying these conditions, resulting in a refined disease classification and the emergence of targeted therapeutic strategies.

The identification of genetic variants affecting key components of innate immune signaling pathways—particularly those involved in inflammasome activation and cytokine regulation, such as interleukin-1 (IL-1), IL-6, and tumor necrosis factor-α (TNF-α)—has highlighted the biological continuum between monogenic autoinflammatory syndromes, polygenic disorders, and more common systemic inflammatory diseases. This evolving landscape requires advanced expertise to interpret clinical phenotypes in conjunction with genetic, laboratory, and imaging data, and to integrate these findings into precision-based clinical decision-making.

Despite increasing awareness, the early recognition and accurate diagnosis of autoinflammatory diseases remain challenging due to their clinical heterogeneity, overlap with autoimmune, infectious, and malignant conditions, and limited exposure to these entities in standard medical training. Delayed diagnosis may lead to significant morbidity, including chronic organ damage, AA amyloidosis, and substantial impairment of quality of life. Advanced education is therefore essential to improve diagnostic accuracy, optimize disease monitoring, and implement timely, effective therapeutic interventions.

Therapeutic management has been revolutionized by the introduction of biologic agents and targeted therapies that specifically modulate dysregulated inflammatory pathways. However, treatment selection, long-term safety assessment, and management of partial or refractory responses demand a deep understanding of disease mechanisms, clinical trial evidence, and real-world data.

In this context, an advanced course on autoinflammatory diseases aims to provide participants with an in-depth and up-to-date overview of disease pathogenesis, advanced diagnostic approaches—including genetic testing and precision medicine tools—and current and emerging therapeutic strategies. The course emphasizes a multidisciplinary and translational approach, fostering critical thinking and enabling healthcare professionals to effectively translate scientific advances into improved patient care.

Scientific Lead of the Course
Antonella Insalaco

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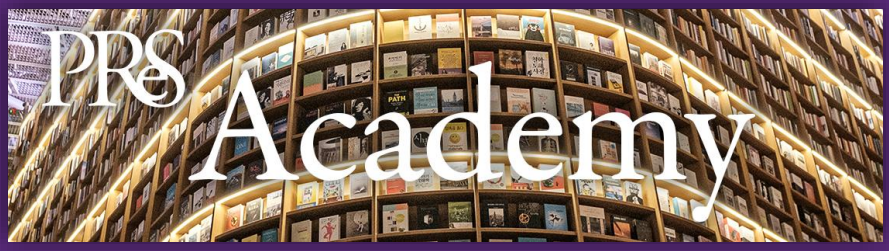

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Thursday, April 9

12:00-13:00 Registration and Lunch

13:00-13:20 Course opening - WP leads
Seza Ozen

Moderators: Seza Ozen and Antonella Insalaco

13:20-13:45 AID pathophysiology: innate and adaptive immunity
Alberto Tommasini

13:45-14:10 Classification of Autoinflammatory diseases
Marco Gattorno

14:10-14:35 Update on familial Mediterranean fever
Seza Ozen

14:35-15:00 Update on MVK, TRAPS, CAPS
Erkan Demirkaya

15:00-15:25 Type I Interferonopathies: molecular mechanism, symptoms, diagnosis and treatment
Alexandre Belot

15:25-15:50 Coffee break

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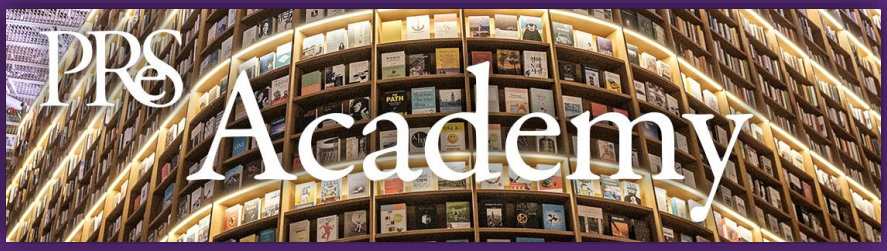

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Moderators: Catharina Schuetz and Marco Gattorno

16:00-16:25 WIN: genetics in autoinflammatory diseases
Juan Arostegui

16:25-16:50 Behcet
Ahmet Gul

16:50-17:15 Monogenic vasculitis
Nuray Aktay Ayaz

17:15-17:40 Autoinflammation in polygenic vasculitis
Isabelle Kone Paut

17:40-17:50 Update on DADA2 foundation
Chip Chambers

17:50-18:10 Clinical cases on AID (interactive session with presentation of clinical cases by young investigators from EMERGE and discussion with the Faculty)
EMERGE

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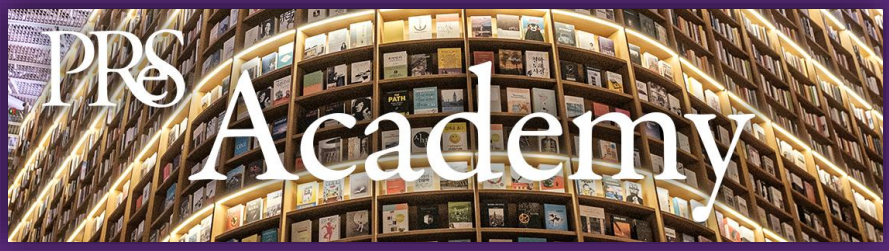

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Friday, April 10

Moderators: Fabrizio De Benedetti and Erkan Demirkaia

09:00-09:25 Actinopathies
Stefano Volpi

09:25-09:50 NF-kB mediated diseases
Ivona Aksentijevich

09:50-10:15 Kinase-related disorders
Catharina Schuetz

10:15-10:45 Coffee break

Moderators: Marco Gattorno and Nuray Aktay Ayaz

10:45-11:10 CNO
Antonella Insalaco

11:10-11:35 Recurrent pericarditis
Antonio Brucato

11:35-12:00 International Registries
Roberta Caorsi, Veronique Hengten

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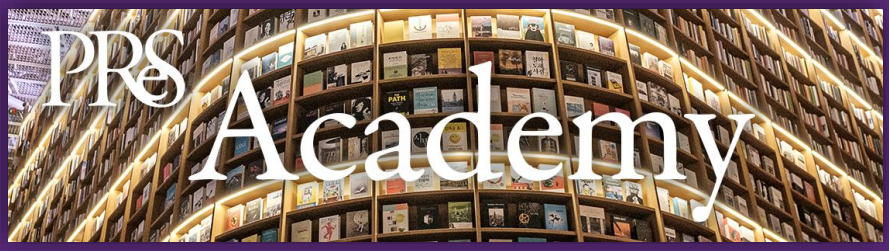

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12:00-12:25 Clinical cases: Interactive session with presentation of clinical cases by young investigators from EMERGE and discussion with the Faculty
EMERGE

12:25-13:25 Light Lunch

Moderators: Alberto Tommasini and Alexandre Belot

13:30-13:55 Non-pharmacological treatment of AID
Deniz Bayraktar

13:55-14:25 Quality of life in AID
Jasmin Kummerle-Deschner

14:25-14:40 Biomarkers in AID
Giusi Prencipe

14:40-15:05 IL-1 inhibition and beyond
Fabrizio de Benedetti

15:05-15:35 Closing remarks
Core team

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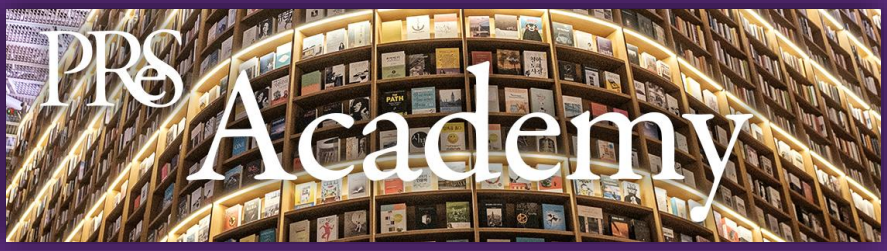

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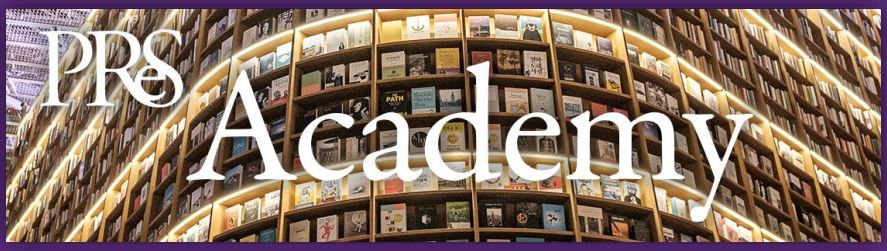

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GENERAL INFORMATION:

Registration fees

Participant in-person attendance	€ 200.00
Participant virtual attendande	€ 200.00
Resident in-person attendance	€ 150.00
Resident virtual attendance	€ 150.00

Click here to register

Venue

Auditorium Valerio Nobili
Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital
Viale Ferdinando Baldelli, 38
00146 Rome

Target audience

The event is primarily addressed to:

- Pediatrician
- Pediatric rheumatologists
- Rheumatologists
- Immunologists
- Specialists involved in the diagnosis and management of autoinflammatory diseases
- Young researchers and clinicians belonging to the EMERGE network

Certificate of Attendance

Certificates of attendance will be sent by email within 10 days following the conclusion of the course

ORGANIZING SECRETARIAT

MCI Italia | Florence Office
Viale Eleonora Duse, 30/B
50137 Firenze
email: events@it.wearemci.com