

26TH – 27TH

MARCH
2026

VERONA

Crowne Plaza Verona
Via Belgio, 16

An aerial view of Verona, Italy, with a large, glowing, pinkish-red brain superimposed over the Colosseum. The brain is surrounded by a network of glowing, orange and yellow lines, suggesting neural activity or a complex network. The background shows the city's architecture and the Colosseum's iconic arches.

From **ACTIVE**
to **SMOLDERING DEMYELINATING**
CNS DISEASES:

*Bridging Peripheral and
Compartmentalized Inflammation*

SUMMARY

From **ACTIVE**
to **SMOLDERING DEMYELINATING**
CNS DISEASE:
*Bridging Peripheral and
Compartmentalized Inflammation*

In the last few years, the understanding of central nervous system demyelinating diseases (MS, NMOSD, and MOGAD) has undergone a profound conceptual transformation. Technological advances in imaging, the increasingly refined characterization of immunological phenotypes, and advances in neuropathology are redefining how we explain inflammation, tissue damage, and clinical progression. The Verona 2026 Congress arises from the need to integrate these dimensions, building a bridge between peripheral and compartmentalized inflammation, which represent the two complementary though distinct motors of neuroimmune dysfunction.

MS and NMOSD, for example, while often sharing a common presentation as inflammatory diseases of the CNS, follow radically different biological trajectories. MS exhibits a peripheral inflammatory component from the early stages of the disease, which is responsible for the development of new lesions and relapses. Additionally, it involves compartmentalized inflammation, contributing to the smoldering component of the disease, and fuels silent neurodegeneration and chronic active lesions. In parallel, NMOSD represents the opposite paradigm: a disease dominated by peripheral humoral immunity, often driven by highly pathogenic auto-antibodies, with minimal evidence of smoldering inflammation. Understanding the similarities and differences between these mechanisms is not merely an academic exercise but a fundamental step in personalizing diagnosis, monitoring, and treatment.

The conference will address these topics from three complementary perspectives. **Neuropathology** will provide an updated understanding of the compartmentalized niches of inflammation—such as the leptomeninges, perivascular spaces, and lesion margins—and the mechanisms that underpin neurodegeneration. **Neuroimmunology** will link peripheral and intrathecal dynamics: B-cell trafficking, resident plasma cells, key cytokines such as CXCL13, OPN, and GFAP, as well as the modulatory role of the microbiota. Finally, **diagnostic imaging** will show how quantitative magnetic resonance imaging (QSM, PRL, cortical lesions, selective atrophy) now allows us to identify deeply markers that were once exclusively neuropathological.

This integrated approach has direct implications for therapeutic management. Understanding when peripheral inflammation dominates and when compartmentalized inflammation prevails is crucial for determining the timing of highly effective therapies, identifying patients at risk of silent progression, and developing interventions that target chronic neurodegenerative mechanisms.

The Verona 2026 Congress, therefore, aims to offer a unified and up-to-date view of the entire spectrum of demyelinating diseases, creating a dialogue between disciplines and laying the foundation for a more precise and personalized approach to patient care.

26TH

Thursday
MARCH

 12:00-18:20

12:00
Registration

12:30
WELCOME LUNCH

13:30
Welcome and
Opening Remarks
Day 1
M. Calabrese

13:35
Greetings from
the Authorities
Prof. Gino Gerosa
*Assessore alla Sanità
Regione del Veneto*

Prof.ssa Chiara Leardini
*Rettrice
Università degli
Studi di Verona*

SESSION 1 NEUROPATHOLOGY SESSION

Chairs
R. Magliozzi, M. Vercellino

14:00
MAIN LECTURE
Immunopathology of
multiple sclerosis compared
NMOSD and MOGAD
S. Hametner

14:30
EBV as instigator
of disease-specific
lymphocyte perturbations
in multiple sclerosis
M. Van Luijn

14:55
Same disease, different
outcome: defining
the demography and
pathological features
of rapidly progressing MS
O. Howell

SESSION 2 IMMUNITY AND NEUROINFLAMMATION

Chairs
G. Constantin, D. Marastoni

15:20
Microbiota and autoimmune
disorders
A. Peters

15:45
Redefining B cell immune
involvement in multiple
sclerosis: past, present
and future
R. Magliozzi

16:10
Regulatory T Cells in MS:
Emerging role of Metabolic
Regulation, New evidence
and Clinical Implications
C. Procaccini

16:35
COFFEE BREAK
Poster viewing

SESSION 3 BIOMARKERS AND DISEASE PROGRESSION

Chairs
N. De Stefano, R. Reynolds

17:05
Next-Generation Proteomics
in Neuroimmunology:
A Window into Mechanistic
Insights
A. Abdelhak

17:30
From BOIgG to K index
and other B cell biomarkers
in clinical prospective
M. Di Filippo

17:55
From Molecular to
Radiological Biomarkers
A Multimodal Approach
to Multiple Sclerosis
A. Cagol

18:20
Closing Remarks
M. Calabrese

27TH

Friday
MARCH

 8:30-16:30

SESSION 4
**CLINICAL
SESSION**

Chairs

E. Portaccio, S. Ziccardi

8:30
Poster viewing

Chairs

**P. Biasi, R. Orlandi,
A. Tamanti**

9:40
Welcome and
Opening Remarks
Day 2
M. Calabrese

9:45
Toward a Unified Definition
of Smoldering Associated
Worsening in Multiple
Sclerosis
A. Scalfari

10:10
Bridging Research
and Clinical Practice:
Implementing the IMSCOGS/
ECTRIMS Guidelines
on Cognition
M. Schoonheim

10:35
Large-scale online
assessment uncovers a
distinct Multiple Sclerosis
subtype with selective
cognitive impairment
R. Nicholas

11:00
☕ FREE BREAK
Poster viewing

SESSION 5
**MRI
SESSION**

Chairs

M. Calabrese, C. Gasperini

11:30
Imaging the Continuum:
Advanced MRI from Acute
to Smoldering Inflammation
in MS
M. Filippi

11:55
Paramagnetic Rim Lesions
in MS: Bridging Diagnosis
and Prognosis
M. Absinta

12:20
2024 MAGNIMS-CMSC-
NAIMS consensus
recommendations on the use
of MRI for the diagnosis
of multiple sclerosis
P. Preziosa

12:45
Artificial Intelligence Meets
MRI: Towards Precision
Imaging in Multiple Sclerosis
M. Rocca

13:10
LIGHT LUNCH
Poster viewing

SESSION 6
**TREATMENT
SESSION**

Chairs

F. Crescenzo, A. Gajofatto

14:10
Treatment algorithm in MS
L. Moiola

14:40
NMOSD Treatment Update:
From Immunosuppression
to Targeted Immunotherapy
C. Tortorella

15:10
Treating the smoldering
disease: BTK e microglia
C. Orea Guevara

15:40
**Presentation and
Best Poster Award**
Chairs
**P. Biasi, R. Orlandi,
A. Tamanti**

16:00
*Closing Remarks and
Welcome to Verona 2027*
M. Calabrese

*Compilazione di:
Questionario ECM
Questionario di gradimento*

FACULTY

Ahmed Abdelhak	<i>San Francisco</i>
Martina Absinta	<i>Milano</i>
Pietro Biasi	<i>Verona</i>
Alessandro Cagol	<i>Basilea</i>
Massimiliano Calabrese	<i>Verona</i>
Gabriela Constantin	<i>Verona</i>
Francesco Crescenzo	<i>Legnago (VR)</i>
Nicola De Stefano	<i>Siena</i>
Massimiliano Di Filippo	<i>Perugia</i>
Massimo Filippi	<i>Milano</i>
Alberto Gajofatto	<i>Verona</i>
Claudio Gasperini	<i>Roma</i>
Simon Hametner	<i>Vienna</i>
Owain Howell	<i>Swansea</i>
Roberta Magliozzi	<i>Verona</i>
Damiano Marastoni	<i>Verona</i>
Lucia Moiola	<i>Milano</i>
Richard Nicholas	<i>Londra</i>
Cecilia Orea Guevara	<i>Madrid</i>
Riccardo Orlandi	<i>Verona</i>
Anneli Peters	<i>Monaco</i>
Francesca Benedetta Pizzini	<i>Verona</i>
Emilio Portaccio	<i>Firenze</i>
Paolo Preziosa	<i>Milano</i>
Claudio Procaccini	<i>Napoli</i>
Richard Reynolds	<i>Londra</i>
Mara Rocca	<i>Milano</i>
Antonio Scalfari	<i>Londra</i>
Menno Schoonheim	<i>Amsterdam</i>
Agnese Tamanti	<i>Verona</i>
Carla Tortorella	<i>Roma</i>
Marvin Van Luijn	<i>Rotterdam</i>
Marco Vercellino	<i>Torino</i>
Stefano Ziccardi	<i>Verona</i>

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DESTINATARI

Medici Chirurghi specializzati in:

neurologia, neurochirurgia, neuroradiologia, medicina generale, radiodiagnostica, geriatria, medicina interna, psichiatria, medicina fisica e riabilitazione.

Specialisti in Neuroscienze Farmacisti

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CREDITI ECM

SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR

Prof. Massimiliano Calabrese

Director of the Regional High-Specialty Center for Multiple Sclerosis

Neurology Unit B, G.B. Rossi University Hospital

Department of Neurosciences, Biomedicine and Movement

Verona

SCIENTIFIC SECRETARIAT

Dott. Damiano Marastoni

Dott.ssa Roberta Magliozzi

Prof.ssa Francesca Benedetta Pizzini

Dott.ssa Agnese Tamanti

Dott. Stefano Ziccardi

WITH THE UNCONDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION OF



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UNIVERSITARIA INTEGRATA
VERONA



UNIVERSITÀ
di VERONA
Dipartimento
di NEUROSCIENZE,
BIOMEDICINA E MOVIMENTO

Sin
SOCIETÀ ITALIANA DI NEUROLOGIA



ENDORSEMENT REQUESTS

Regione Veneto

CALL FOR ABSTRACT

We are pleased to announce that our congress will include a **dedicated and extensive Poster Session**.

The **deadline for abstract submission** (maximum 500 words) is **31 January 2026** to be sent to following mail info@eolocongressi.it (including your name, surname e telephone number)



Provider ECM ID 6207
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