



National and Kapodistrian University of Athens
School of Medicine

2nd Autoimmune Diseases

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

11

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October
2025

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Βιβλιογραφία: 1. Urowitz MB, et al. Arthritis Care Res. 2012;64:132-137. 2. Fanourakis A, et al., Ann Rheum Dis. 2024 Jan 2;83(1):15-29. 3. Belimumab. Περίληψη Χαρακτηριστικών Προϊόντος, Ιούλιος 2025.

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Invitation

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to the **2nd Meeting on Systemic Autoimmune Diseases and Inflammation: Unmet Clinical Needs Guide Clinical-Translational and Basic Research set to take place in October 11 and 12, 2025**, in the Golden Age Hotel, conveniently located in downtown Athens. This 2-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.

In recent years, the use of targeted treatments for these diseases along with the continuous efforts to identify clinically useful biomarkers, led to a closer interaction between physicians and basic scientists of various disciplines. This meeting promises to be an enriching experience, bringing together the latest advances in laboratory research and clinical studies, employing a dynamic "bench to bedside" approach. Significant findings provided by clinical, translational and basic studies regarding pathogenetic aspects, classification and treatment of patients with chronic autoimmune diseases, will be presented and discussed by eminent scientists from Greece and abroad. High-throughput techniques coupled with robust clinical information should be able to provide new treatment targets and next generation biomarkers, gaining new insights on diagnosis and treatment and, eventually, improving patients' outcomes.

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 Furthermore, the floor will also be given to young fellows who are going to present and discuss their latest unpublished or published contributions in premium journals of internal medicine/rheumatology/immunology.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,

The Chairpersons

Athanasios G. Tzioufas MD, PhD and Evangelos Andreakos PhD

Scientific Program

Saturday, 11 October 2025

08.15 – 09.00 Registrations

09.00 – 09.15 Introduction: **A.G. Tzioufas - E. Andreakos**

09.15 – 10.15 Scleroderma

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

Current therapeutic considerations and future perspectives in the treatment of scleroderma

T. Dimitroulas

Recent advances in the pathogenesis of scleroderma

D. Daoussis

10.15 – 11.00 Plenary lecture

Chairs: **D. Vassilopoulos - A. G. Tzioufas**

Relapse prediction in ANCA associated vasculitis

M. Little

11.00 – 11.15 Coffee break

11.15 – 12.00 Sjogren's Disease

Chair: **R. Giacomelli - M. Bombardieri**

New Insights in the Pathogenesis of Sjogren's Disease

A. Goules

Learning from clinical studies in Sjogren's Disease

L. Chatzis

12.00 – 12.45 Plenary Lecture

Chairs: **C. Mauri - I. Alevizos**

The pathophysiology of ectopic lymphoid structures in autoimmune diseases

M. Bombardieri

12.45 – 13.15 Myositis

Chairs: **D. Daoussis - G. Fragoulis**

Current pathogenetic aspects in myositis

C. Mavragani

13.15 – 14.30 Break

14.30 – 15.45 Co-morbidities in autoimmune diseases

Chairs: **S. Gazi - A. Georgountzos**

Advances in Pathogenesis and treatment of Psoriatic Arthritis

G. Katsifis

Atherosclerosis in SLE and antiphospholipid syndrome. Current status and future perspectives

M. Tektonidou

Comorbidities in patients with systemic vasculitides

C. Koutsianas

15.45 – 16.45 Neutrophils in autoinflammatory Diseases

Chairs: **S-N. Liossis - G. Fragoulis**

Differences and similarities in clinical cellular and molecular level between autoimmune and autoinflammatory diseases

P. Skendros

Neutrophils in the pathobiology of chronic inflammation

K. Kambas

16.45 – 17.30 Plenary lecture

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

The role of endothelial cells in systemic autoimmune diseases. Pathogenetic and therapeutic considerations

R. Giacomelli

17.30 - 17.45 Coffee break

Sponsored by **abbvie**

17.45 – 18.45 Seronegative spondyloarthropathies

Chairs: **P. Trontzas - S. Sougioultzis**

Current advances in treatment of patients with Seronegative spondyloarthropathies

G. Fragoulis

Pathogenetic aspects of Th17 related diseases

G. Katsifis

18.45 - 19.45 Systemic Lupus Erythematosus

Chairs: **S-N. Liossis - M. Tektonidou**

What's new in the pathogenesis of SLE

G. Bertsias

New and emerging therapies for SLE

S-N. Liossis

19.45 – 20.15 Plenary Lecture

Chairs: **A. G. Tzioufas - V. Soumelis**

Cryoglobulinemia, one name two diseases

P. Cacoub

Sunday, 12 October 2025

Session: Basic and translational immunology

09.00 – 10.45 Work in progress (12min talks)

Chairs: **E. Andreakos – V. Soumelis – A. Goules – M. Bombardieri**

Basic and Translational

The expression map of IFN- λ R1 in mice

A. Piperakis

Lipid mediators in health and disease

M. Papadaki

Steroid effects on cell sub populations and small lipid mediators in patients with Giant Cell Arteritis

D. Palamidas

Inflammatory extra cellular traps in sequential biopsies of patients with giant cell arteritis following treatment with IL6R inhibition

Ch. Spyropoulos

Clinical

Pulmonary involvement in Sjögren disease

P. Panagopoulos

Deep learning and AI for the evaluation of salivary gland biopsies in Sjogren Disease

K. Panagiotopoulos

Fine phenotypic of Raynaud phenomenon in Sjogren's disease

A. Koutsogianni

10.45 – 11.00 Coffee break

11.00 – 13.00 Mechanisms of Inflammation and Autoimmunity

Chairs: **E. Andreakos – C. Mauri**

Multi-omics analysis of human auto-inflammatory diseases

V. Soumelis

Regulatory B cells in immunity and autoimmunity

C. Mauri

Type III IFNs in obesity and cardiovascular disease

M. Salagianni

The role of tumour microenvironment in the pathogenesis of paraneoplastic neurological syndromes

Ch. Alexopoulos

Scientific Program

13.00 - 13.45 Break

13.45 - 14.45 Interferons, immunity and disease

Chairs: **C. Alexopoulos – I. Galani**

Multiparametric profiling of neutrophils in health and disease **I. Galani**

Harnessing Immune Regulatory Network Metabolism to Combat Autoimmune Diseases

Th. Alissafi

14.45 - 15.30 Wrap-up

A. G. Tzioufas – E. Andreacos

Speakers, Chairs and Discussants List (in alphabetical order)

Alexopoulos Charis

Department of Cell Biology and Biophysics, Faculty of Biology, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece

Alissafi Themis

PhD, Assistant Professor Medical School, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Principal investigator, Immune Regulation Laboratory Center for Basic Research, Biomedical Research Foundation Academy of Athens

Andreakos Evangelos

Researcher A' - Director of the Center for Clinical, Experimental Surgery & Translational Research

Bertsias Georgios

Associate Professor in Rheumatology-Clinical Immunology, University of Crete Medical School and University Hospital of Heraklion, Greece

Bombardieri Michele

MD, PhD, FRCP | Professor of Immuno-Rheumatology, Deputy Head Centre for Experimental Medicine & Rheumatology | William Harvey Research Institute, Barts and The London School of Medicine & Dentistry

Cacoub Patrice

Professor, MD, MSc, Sorbonne Université, AP-HP, Groupe Hospitalier Pitié-Salpêtrière, Department of Internal Medicine and Clinical Immunology, Paris, France

Chatzis Loukas

Doctor, Academic fellow, Department of Pathophysiology, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens, Greece

Daoussis Dimitrios

M.D., Assoc. Professor of Internal Medicine/Rheumatology, University of Patras Medical School, Patras University Hospital Dept. of Internal Medicine, Div. of Rheumatology, Greece

Dimitroulas Theodoros

Professor of Rheumatology, School of Medicine, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece

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Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine-Rheumatology, First Department of Propedeutic and Internal Medicine Clinic, "Laiko" hospital, Athens, Greece

Galani Ioanna

Researcher - Assistant Professor level Center for Basic Research Biomedical Research Foundation of the Academy of Athens (BRFAA)

Gazi Suzana

Rheumatologist, Director of the Rheumatology Departement of General Hospital of Attika "KAT", Greece

Georgountzos Athanasios

MD, PhD, MPH, Rheumatologist, Head of the Rheumatological Department General Hospital of Athens "G. Gennimatas", Greece

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Professor of Rheumatology and head of the clinical unit of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Italy

Goules Andreas

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Kambas Kontantinos

Main Researcher, Department of Immunology, Hellenic Pasteur Institute, Greece

Katsifis Gikas

MD, MSc, PhD, RhMSUS, Director and Chief, Rheumatology Clinic, Naval Hospital of Athens, Greece

Koutsianas Christos

Assistant Professor in Medicine & Rheumatology, Athens Medical School, NKUA, 2nd Department of Medicine and Laboratory, Hippocraton General Hospital of Athens, Greece

Koutsogianni Alexandra

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Little Mark

Professor of Nephrology and Consultant Nephrologist Trinity College, Dublin / Tallaght and Beaumont Hospitals ADAPT SFI Centre Investigator, RITA-Ireland coordinator

Mauri Claudia

Professor of Immunology, Theme Director UCL Birkbeck MRC DTP - Experimental and Personalised Medicine, Editor in Chief of Clinical & Experimental Immunology, University College London

Speakers, Chairs and Discussants List (in alphabetical order)

Mavragani Kleio

Professor of Physiology/Clinical Physiology, Head of Department of Physiology, Attending Rheumatologist, Department of Pathophysiology, School of Medicine, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece

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Molecular Biologist-Geneticist, PhD Candidate, Medical School of Athens, Greece

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Panagopoulos Panagiotis

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Piperakis Artemis

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Salagianni Maria

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Skendros Panagiotis

MD, PHD, Associate Professor of internal medicine, First Department of Internal Medicine & Laboratory of Molecular Hematology, medical school, Democritus University of Thrace, Greece

Sougioultzis Stavros

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Soumelis Vassili

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Tektonidou Maria

Professor of Medicine - Rheumatology, Head of Rheumatology Unit

Head, National Centre of Expertise for Rare & Complex Connective Tissue and Musculoskeletal Diseases, First Department of Propaedeutic and Internal Medicine, Laiko Hospital

EULAR Centre of Excellence, Joint Academic Rheumatology Program, School of Medicine, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece

Trontzas Panagiotis

Rheumatologist, Athens, Greece

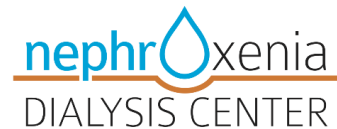
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Vasilopoulos Dimitrios

Prof. of Medicine-Rheumatology, Chair, 2nd Department of Medicine and Laboratory, Head, Clinical Immunology-Rheumatology Unit, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, School of Medicine, General Hospital of Athens "Hippocratio", Athens, Greece

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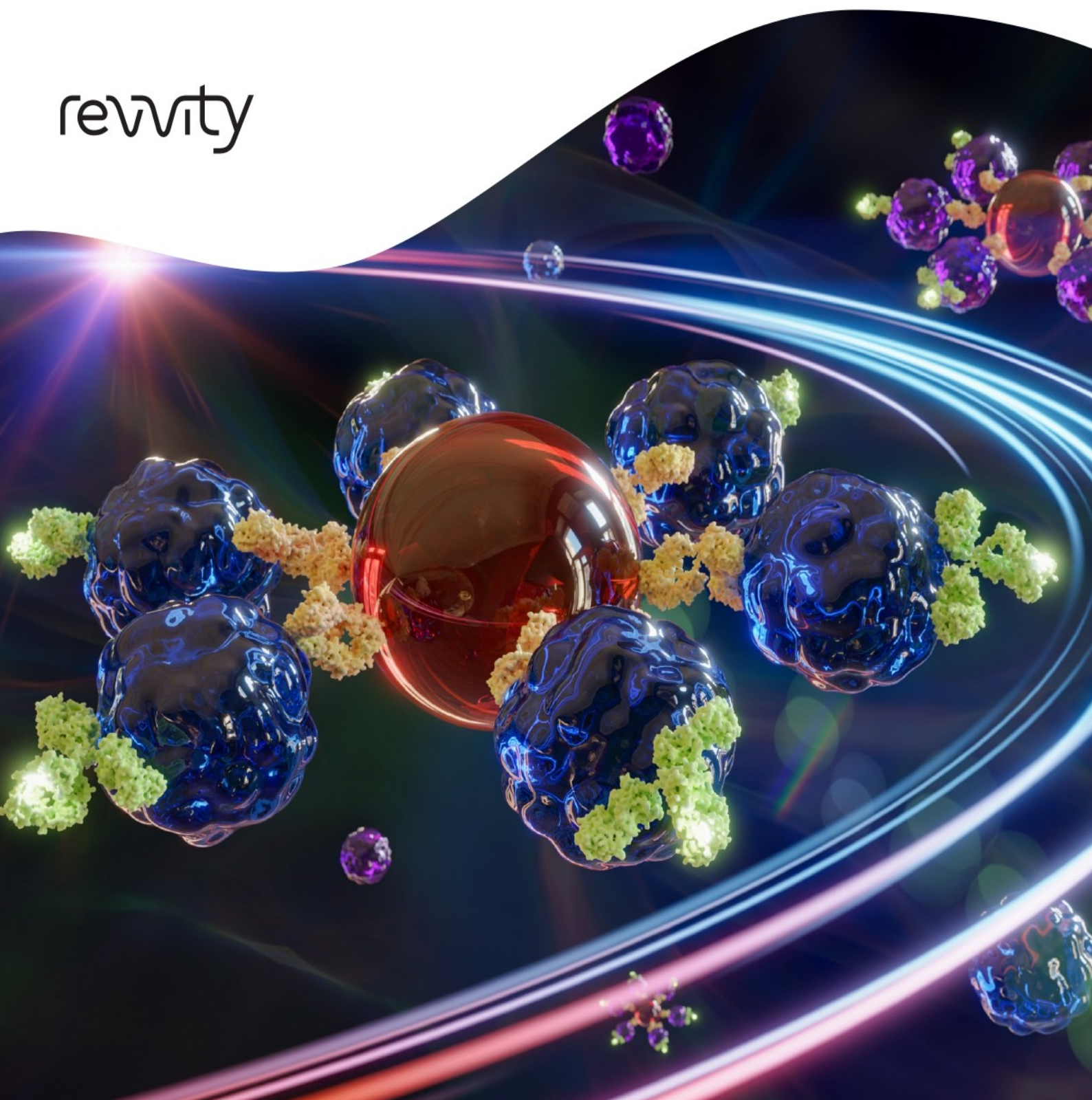
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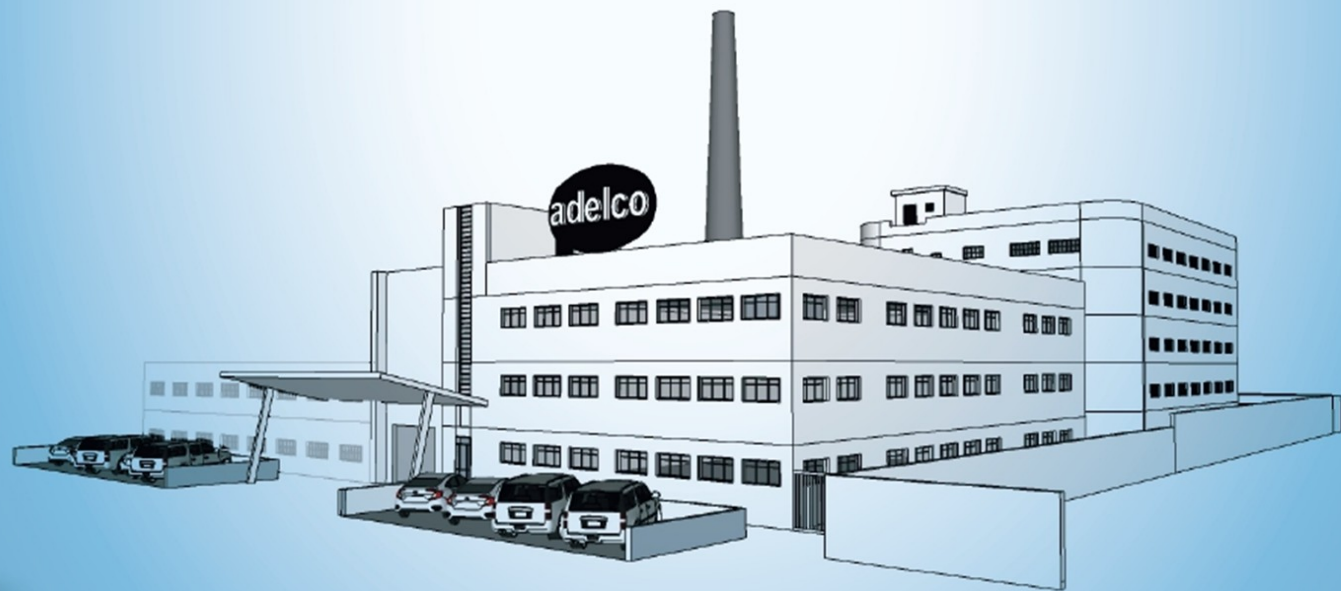
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