

**International Conference**  
**AUTOIMMUNE DISEASES: MAIN PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS**

Rīga Stradiņš University, 16 Dzirciema Street, Riga, Latvia  
Hippocrates Lecture Theatre, Block A

**9 – 10 November 2023**

**AGENDA**

<b>Thursday, 9 November</b>	
8.30 – 9.30	Registration
9.30 – 9.40	<b>OPENING</b> <b>Modra Murovska</b> , Assoc. Professor, Project Coordinator, RSU, Latvia <b>Agrita Kiopa</b> , Vice-Rector for Science, RSU, Latvia
<b>Session I – <u>Understanding Autoimmunity</u></b>	
<b>Chairs: Modra Murovska and Marion Schneider</b>	
9.40 – 10.10	<b>Yehuda Shoenfeld</b> , Professor, Sheba Medical Center, Israel Why Autoimmunity? Hyper-Stimulation of the Immune System CPI and Breast Silicone Implants Are Proofs of Concept
10.10 – 10.25	<b>Zaiga Nora-Krūkle</b> , Leading Researcher, Institute of Microbiology and Virology, RSU, Latvia Gut Microbiome Analysis and Effect on Cytokine Levels in Individuals with Fibromyalgia
10.25 – 10.40	<b>Christian Scheiber</b> , PhD student, Ulm University, Germany Autoantibodies Directed Against Plasma Cytokines Mirror Autoimmune Characteristics in Patients with Inflammatory Diseases
10.40 – 11.10	<b>Miri Blank</b> , Professor, Sheba Medical Center, Israel Phosphorylcholine (PC) – Mode of Activity and Therapy Development for Autoimmune Diseases
11.10 – 11.30	Coffee Break
<b>Session II – <u>Viruses and Autoimmunity</u></b>	
<b>Chairs: Simona Doniņa and Bhupesh Prusty</b>	
11.30 – 12.00	<b>Bhupesh Prusty</b> , Senior Researcher, University of Würzburg, Germany Understanding the Infectious Origin of Autoimmunity from the Sars-Cov-2 Pandemic
12.00 – 12.15	<b>Claudio Trapella</b> , Professor, University of Ferrara, Italy Novel Compounds to Control Human Herpesvirus 6 Infection
12.15 – 12.30	<b>Silvia Beltrami</b> , PhD student, University of Ferrara, Italy Neurodegenerative Role of West Nile Virus Non-Structural Protein 1: Effect on TLR3 and Amyloid Beta Expression

12.30 – 12.45	<b>Irina Holodņuka</b> , Leading Researcher, Institute of Microbiology and Virology, RSU, Latvia The Highest EBV DNA Copy Numbers Are Detected in Untreated Patients with the High-Risk Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia
12.45 – 13.00	<b>Ingrīda Čēma</b> , Professor, Department of Maxillo-Facial Surgery and Oral Medicine, RSU, Latvia Possible Role of EBV in the Pathogenesis of Oral Lichen Planus
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch Break
<b>Session III – <u>Myalgic Encephalomyelitis / Chronic Fatigue Syndrome</u></b>	
<b>Chairs: Roberta Rizzo and Zaiga Nora-Krūkle</b>	
14.00 – 14.30	<b>Sławomir Kujawski</b> , Assistant Professor, Bydgoszcz Nicolaus Copernicus University, Warsaw Medical University, Poland The Role of the Gut Microbiome in the Pathogenesis of Autoimmune Disorders and Non-Pharmacological Interventions for Its Modification. An Example Chronic Fatigue Syndrome
14.30 – 14.45	<b>Modra Murovska</b> , Lead Researcher, Institute of Microbiology and Virology, Rīga Stradiņš University, Latvia Selection of Biomarkers in ME/CFS for Patient Stratification and Treatment Surveillance / Optimisation
14.45 – 15.00	<b>Diāna Arāja</b> , Researcher, Institute of Microbiology and Virology, Rīga Stradiņš University, Latvia Complementary Disease Management Approaches in Myalgic Encephalomyelitis / Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Patients
15.00 – 15.15	<b>Santa Rasa-Dzelzkalēja</b> , Leading Researcher, Institute of Microbiology and Virology, Rīga Stradiņš University, Latvia Kynurenine and Human Herpesvirus-6B in Myalgic Encephalomyelitis / Chronic Fatigue Syndrome
15.15 – 15.35	Coffee Break
<b>Session IV – <u>Inflammation and Autoimmunity</u></b>	
<b>Chairs: Claudio Trapella and Santa Rasa-Dzelzkalēja</b>	
15.35 – 15.50	<b>Sofija Semenistaja</b> , PhD student, Joint Laboratory of Electron Microscopy, RSU, Latvia Mitochondrial Myopathy as a Mimic of Inflammatory Myopathy
15.50 – 16.05	<b>Mihails Tarasovs</b> , PhD student, Department of Internal Medicine, RSU, Latvia Low-Grade Inflammation Contribution to Neuropsychiatric State in Osteoarthritis Patients
<b>Poster session I (P1–P5)</b>	
16.05 – 16.35	<b>P1 Sofija Semenistaja</b> , PhD student, Joint Laboratory of Electron Microscopy, RSU, Latvia HHV-7 Protein Expression in the Synovial Tissue of Osteoarthritis Patients and Its Possible Contribution to the Degree of Inflammation <b>P2 Nityanand Jain</b> , Medical student, Assistant Lecturer, RSU, Latvia Vascular Presence of HHV-6 in Substantia NIGRA Pars Compacta of Chronic Alcohol Users and Controls: A Histopathological Evaluation <b>P3 Achim Oberfell</b> , MD, CSL Vifor, Switzerland Infections During the AVACOPAN Early Access Program (EAP) for Anca-Associated Vasculitis (AAV)

	<p><b>P4 Anastasija Balašova</b>, Research Assistant, Latvian Institute of Organic Synthesis, Latvia Development of Benzoxaphosphepine 2-Oxides as Carbonic Anhydrase Inhibitors</p> <p><b>P5 Tatjana Borisova</b>, Dr. chem., Latvia Films of Hen`s Stomachs in Folk Medicine</p>
16.35 – 16.45	Information, organizational issues

<b>Friday, 10 November</b>	
<b>Session V – <u>COVID-19 Autoimmune Aspects</u></b>	
<b>Chairs: Slawomir Kujawski and Ingrīda Čēma</b>	
9.30 – 10.00	<b>Marion Schneider</b> , Professor, Ulm University, Germany Functional Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms (Snps) Linked to Autoimmune Manifestations in Long COVID
10.00 – 10.15	<b>Sabrina Rizzo</b> , PhD student, University of Ferrara, Italy Gestational Covid-19: Maternal and Fetal Morphological Alterations Caused by Sars-Cov-2 Infection
10.15 – 10.30	<b>Ieva Vanaga</b> , MD, Department of Infectology, RSU, Latvia Association of Liver-Related Autoantibodies with Possible Post-COVID Condition
10.30 – 10.45	<b>Hele Everaus</b> , Professor Emeritus, Consultant doctor, Tartu University, Tartu University Hospital, Estonia New Onset of Autoimmune Diseases Following Covid-19 Diagnosis and Vaccination
10.45 – 11.00	<b>Vadims Bartkevičs</b> , Head of the Laboratory of Chemistry, Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health and Environment “BIOR”, Latvia Determination of Population Health Status Biomarkers in Wastewater Samples
11.00 – 11.30	Coffee Break
<b>Session VI – <u>Challenges and Solutions</u></b>	
<b>Chairs: Valērija Groma and Irina Holodņuka</b>	
11.30 – 12.00	<b>Boris Gilburd</b> , Senior Researcher, Sheba Medical Center, Israel Infra-Red Spectroscopy in Diagnosis of Autoimmune Diseases
12.00 – 12.15	<b>Edgars Vasīļevskis</b> , Researcher, Institute of Anatomy and Anthropology, RSU Latvia Integrative Medicine Approach in the Treatment of Autoimmune Diseases
12.15 – 12.30	<b>Yuri Ostrinski</b> , Autoimmunity Projects Manager, Sheba Medical Center, Israel Personalized Physical Activity as a Therapeutic Strategy for Autoimmune Diseases
12.30 – 12.45	<b>Irene Soffritti</b> , PhD student, University of Ferrara, Italy Circulating miRNAs Expression in Myalgic Encephalomyelitis / Chronic Fatigue Syndrome
12.45 – 13.00	<b>Maria D'Accolti</b> , PostDoc, University of Ferrara, Italy Coinfection of Dermal Fibroblasts by Human Cytomegalovirus and Human Herpesvirus 6 Can Boost the Expression of Fibrosis-Associated Micrnas
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch Break

<b>Session VII – Challenges and Solutions II</b>	
<b>Chairs: Hele Everaus and Uldis Berķis</b>	
14.00 – 14.15	<b>Simona Doņiņa</b> , Lead Researcher, Institute of Microbiology and Virology, RSU, Latvia Immune-Related Adverse Events During the Treatment with Anti Pd-1 Antibodies in Melanoma Patients: Literature Review and Two Year Experience at REUH
14.15 – 14.30	<b>Justine Kaupe</b> , Lecturer, Department of Pharmacology, RSU, Latvia Suboptimal Selenium Serum Concentrations in Latvian Patients with Autoimmune Gastritis and Autoimmune Thyroid Disorders
14.30 – 14.45	<b>Inga Mauliņa</b> , PhD student, Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, RSU, Latvia Resistance of Enterococcus Isolates in Hospitalised Patients from Two Multidisciplinary Hospitals: From Science to Practice
<b>Poster session II (P1–P5)</b> 14.45 – 15.00	
15.00 – 15.20	Coffee Break
<b>Session VIII – WIDESPREAD project’s achievements</b>	
<b>Chairs: Angelika Krūmiņa and Yuri Ostrinski</b>	
15.20 – 15.35	<b>Raivis Žalubovskis</b> , Head of the Applied Chemistry Group, Latvian Institute of Organic Synthesis, Latvia Strategies for Advanced Development of Antibacterials – Springboard Project’s Achievements
15.35 – 15.50	<b>Modra Murovska</b> , Assoc. Professor, Project Coordinator, Institute of Microbiology and Virology, RSU, Latvia Implementation of VirA Project “Reducing Networking Gaps Between Rīga Stradiņš University (RSU) and Internationally-Leading Counterparts in Viral Infection-Induced Autoimmunity Research”
15.50 – 16.05	<b>Uldis Berķis</b> , Head of RIS3 Unit, Ministry of Education and Science, Latvia Autoimmunity Research in European Agendas
16.05 – 16.30	<b>Discussion, Conclusion, Final Remarks</b> <b>Aivars Lejnieks</b> , Professor, Department of Internal Diseases, RSU; Head of VirA Advisory Board <b>Modra Murovska</b> , Assoc. Professor, Project Coordinator, VirA project, Institute of Microbiology and Virology, RSU, Latvia <b>Uldis Berķis</b> , Head of RIS3 Unit, Ministry of Education and Science, VirA Advisory Board Member <b>Andris Skride</b> , Assoc. Professor, Department of Internal Diseases, RSU, VirA Advisory Board Member All VirA Partners and WP Leaders