



SPEAKERS

EINSTEIN CONGRESS HOTEL
Sankt Gallen – Switzerland
28. – 30. September 2023

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Prof. Ingeborg Bajema

MD, PHD

Pathologist

[Department of Pathology and Medical Biology, University Medical Center Groningen, the Netherlands](#)

Professor Bajema is a professor of Nephropathology at University Medical Center Groningen. Her research is mainly focused on the development and modification of classification systems for renal diseases. For more than 25 years she has been active in the European Vasculitis Society (EUVAS). In 2021, she was given the Jacob Churg award for exceptional contributions in the field of nephropathology.



Prof. Neil Basu MBCHB, PHD

Rheumatologist

[Infection & Immunity, University of Glasgow](#)

Professor Neil Basu delivers specialist vasculitis services across Scotland and leads a research programme which seeks to apply descriptive, analytical and translational epidemiological methods to better quantify the burden and determinants of systemic vasculitis.



Prof. Maxime Battistella

MD, PHD

Pathologist

[Pathology, APHP Hôpital Saint-Louis, Université Paris Cité, Paris, France](#)

Dr. Maxime Battistella is professor in Pathology at Paris Cité University and pathologist at the Hôpital Saint-Louis in Paris, where he coordinates

the dermatopathology program for residents and fellows. He holds a MSc in human immunology and a PhD in hemato-oncology from Paris Cité University, and has published more than 200 translational or clinical research articles in the field of Dermato-immunology and Dermato-oncology (cutaneous lymphoma, melanoma, carcinoma, sarcoma). He is a board member of the EORTC Cutaneous Lymphoma Group, and member of the Cutaneous Lymphoma International Consortium Pathology/molecular group. In 2012, he received the International Civatte Prize in Dermatopathology for his work on T follicular helper differentiation in cutaneous T-cell lymphomas. As the vice-president of the Dermatopathology club of the French Society of Pathology, and of the Dermatopathology group of the French Society of Dermatology, he delivers many educational programs for pathologists and dermatologists in the field of tumoral and inflammatory dermatopathology.

Dr. Antje Bischof MD

Neurologist

[Neurology with Institute for Translational Neurology, University Hospital Münster, Germany](#)



Dr. Bischof is an attending physician at the University Hospital of Münster, Germany. She is also the head of the neuroimaging research group at the Translational Institute for Neurology. Her primary interest is the development of blood and imaging biomarkers for the diagnosis and monitoring of inflammatory and neurodegenerative diseases including systemic diseases with neurological manifestations. In collaboration with the University Hospital Basel she studies the epidemiology of vasculitic neuropathies in primary vasculitis and the role of NfL

(neurofilament light chain) for diagnosis and monitoring of disease activity in vasculitic neuropathy.



Prof. Thorsten Bley MD
Radiologist

[Department of Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology, University of Wuerzburg, Germany](#)

Dr. Bley is a board-certified radiologist and chairman of the Department of Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology, University of Würzburg, Germany. His scientific focus has been on imaging large vessel vasculitis (LVV) since 2003. Dr. Bley's group inaugurated a high-resolution MRI protocol for non-invasive assessment of mural inflammatory changes in giant cell arteritis (GCA). Following various studies that have proven its validity, this technique has been incorporated in the European League against Rheumatism (EULAR) recommendations for imaging in LVV and in the German multidisciplinary AWMF guidelines for GCA. Multiple scientific manuscripts, book chapters and scientific presentations at national and international meetings on imaging GCA have been authored and coauthored by Dr. Bley and members of his group.



Prof. Daniel Blockmans MD
Internist

[General Internal Medicine, University Hospital Gasthuisberg Leuven, Leuven, Belgium](#)

Prof. Dr. D. Blockmans is responsible for the program on systemic diseases. He is also full professor of Medicine at the KU Leuven University. His special interest goes to giant cell arteritis and polymyalgia

rheumatica. He is the author of >250 scientific publications and of the 'Handboek Systemziekten', the only book on systemic diseases written in Dutch.

Dr. Silke R Brix MD, MRCP
Nephrologist

[Renal, Transplant and Urology Unit, Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust](#)

Silke is a nephrologist and focusses on ANCA vasculitis. She studied in Freiburg and trained in Brighton and Hamburg where she did her postdoctoral research on cellular and molecular markers of disease activity in RPGN. She works in Manchester and concentrates on biomarkers and risk stratification in ANCA GN to advance precision medicine in vasculitis.



Prof. Andrew Chan MD
Neurologist

[Neurology, Insel Gruppe AG, University Hospital Bern, Switzerland](#)

Professor Chan is Head of the Medical Division Neuro, Inselspital, University Hospital of Bern. After studying medicine and obtaining a doctorate at the University of Hamburg, Professor Chan completed his specialist training at the University of Würzburg and continued his professional development as Senior Physician at the Universities of Göttingen and Bochum. Professor Chan has published widely in the field of MS, including papers on molecular markers of disease progression and risk of immunotherapy, treatment optimisation and patient monitoring. He has been the Principal Investigator for several clinical studies in MS. He has also been involved in the development of national treatment



guidelines. Professor Chan serves as board member for several societies, as associate editor for the European journal of neurology and as reviewer for different journals and research organizations.

Prof. Maria C. Cid MD, PHD
Internist

[Autoimmune Diseases, Hospital Clinic, University of Barcelona, Institut d'Investigacions Biomèdiques August Pi i Sunyer \(IDIBAPS\), Barcelona, Spain](#)

Prof. Cid is senior consultant at the Hospital Clínic, professor at the University of Barcelona and Senior Group Leader at the research Institute IDIBAPS. She leads a Vasculitis Care group with long-standing experience in the management of systemic vasculitis and a Vasculitis research group involved in clinical and translational research. The group has performed pre-clinical studies exploring pathophysiologic pathways involved in vasculitis and has participated in the performance and design of pioneer multicenter international clinical trials leading to the approval of new therapies. Prof Cid was involved in the generation of international guidelines for the treatment of large-vessel vasculitis and ANCA-associated vasculitis.



Prof. Antonio Cozzio MD
Dermatologist

[Dermatology, Cantonal Hospital St. Gallen, St. Gallen, Switzerland](#)

Prof. Christian Dejaco MD, PHD, MBA
Rheumatologist

[Rheumatology, Südtiroler Sanitätsbetrieb, Italy](#)

Prof. C. Dejaco is the head of the Department of Rheumatology of the South Tyrol Health Trust and an Associate Professor at the Medical University Graz. He has a long-standing interest and research activity in the field of vasculitis, particularly giant cell arteritis and polymyalgia rheumatica. He has been the first authors of the EULAR imaging recommendations in large vessel vasculitis and has been involved in several national and international guidelines on GCA.



Prof. Haner Direskeneli MD
Rheumatologist

[Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Marmara University, Turkey](#)

Haner Direskeneli is a Professor of Rheumatology and is currently the Chief of the Vasculitis Clinic and Division of Rheumatology in Marmara University, School of Medicine, Istanbul, Turkey. He has a long-standing academic interest and experience in the management of Takayasu's arteritis and Behçet's Disease. He is a member of OMERACT large-vessel vasculitis and Behçet's Study Interest Groups, and is part of the EULAR Taskforce for Imaging in large-vessel vasculitis.





Dr. Allyson Egan
BSC (HONS) MRCP
Nephrologist

Department of Renal Medicine,
 Trinity Health Kidney Centre,
 Tallaght University Hospital,
 Dublin, Ireland

Dr. Allyson Egan is a Consultant in Nephrology and Medicine, at Trinity Health Kidney Centre, Tallaght University Hospital, Dublin. Her specialist interest is in vasculitis and lupus. She is President of the Nephrology Section, at the Royal Society of Medicine, London. In 2022, she Chaired the Scientific Organising Committee for the 20th International Vasculitis and ANCA Workshop. Allyson participated on the Local Organising Committee for the EUVAS Vasculitis Course (2019) and UKIVAS Training Course (2022), Downing College Cambridge. She is a member of the EUVAS Education Council, editor, and co-author of the EUVAS Case-base Supplement (Rheumatology 2022) and the five-year EUVAS meeting report highlighting Interconnectivity (KI 2022). She is Chair of the Care pathways Working Group and board member of UKIVAS. She is a member of the ERN-RITA expert Vasculitis panel. Allyson's autoimmune research areas include therapeutic strategies in EGPA, with particular focus on the longitudinal impact of anti-IL5 therapies and Health Service Research for Autoimmune Diseases.



Dr. Giacomo Emmi **MD, PHD**
Immunologist

Department of Experimental
 and Clinical Medicine,
 University of Firenze, Italy

Giacomo Emmi is a clinical Immunologist at the University

Hospital of Careggi, Firenze (Italy). He obtained his MD and PhD at the School of Medicine of the University of Firenze. He is Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine at the Department of Experimental and Clinical Medicine of the same University Hospital. His clinical activity is devoted to the management of systemic autoimmune diseases, mainly systemic lupus erythematosus and vasculitis. He also has a basic science interest in understanding the mechanisms involved in inflammation-induced thrombosis in autoimmune diseases.

Prof. Frauke Förger **MD**
Rheumatologist

Rheumatology and Immunology,
 Inselspital, University Hospital
 and University of Bern, Bern,
 Switzerland

Prof. Dr. Frauke Förger is a senior consultant rheumatologist at the Department of Rheumatology and Immunology of the University Hospital of Bern (CH). She has a long-term expertise in the field of pregnancy and rheumatic diseases. As principle investigator she is currently involved in the update of the "EULAR points to consider for the use of antirheumatic drugs in pregnancy and lactation" and in a study analysing reproduction and pregnancy outcome in Takayasu arteritis.

Dr. Peter C Grayson **MD, MSC**
Rheumatologist

National Institute of Arthritis
 and Musculoskeletal and Skin
 Diseases, National Institutes of
 Health, USA

Dr. Grayson is the Principal Investigator of the Vasculitis Translational



Research Program within the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases and a tenure track investigator at the National Institutes of Health. His work focuses on identification of clinical endotypes within specific forms of vasculitis including Takayasu's arteritis, relapsing polychondritis, and VEXAS syndrome.



Prof. Loïc Guillevin **MD**
Internist

Internal Medicine, HÔPITAL
 COCHIN, APHP, University of
 Paris, France

Loïc Guillevin Emeritus Professor of Medicine and Therapeutics. Cochin Hospital, University of Paris; National Referral Centre for Rare Autoimmune and Systemic diseases, Vasculitis and Scleroderma.

Loïc Guillevin was the Coordinator and President of the French Vasculitis Study Group. He is member of several national and international scientific society boards and is involved in several groups of interest on systemic and autoimmune diseases. He was president of the French committee for clinical research and president of the French National Society of Internal Medicine. Loïc Guillevin is Master of the American College of Rheumatology, Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians (UK), Honorary Fellow of the American College of Physician and Honorary fellow of the European Federation of Internal Medicine. He is member of the French Académie Nationale de Médecine and of the Royal Academy of Medicine (Belgium). Loïc Guillevin has received several national and international Prizes. In 2020-2021 he has received the Cohn de Laval award from the World Apheresis Association, the Carol Nachman Prize

awarded by the Wiesbaden City and the German Society of Rheumatology and the Prize from the Société Médicale de Paris. He was President of the Transparency Commission of the Haute Autorité de Santé and member of the board. Loïc Guillevin is Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur. Loïc Guillevin has published up to 1,000 scientific and teaching papers and published or participated to several scientific books.

Prof. Ahmet Gül **MD**
Rheumatologist

Department of Internal
 Medicine, Division of
 Rheumatology, Istanbul
 University, Istanbul Faculty
 of Medicine, Turkey

Professor Ahmet Gül is a rheumatologist at Istanbul Faculty of Medicine. His research has been focused on the immunopathogenesis and genetics of inflammatory rheumatic disorders, especially Behçet's disease, vasculitis, familial Mediterranean fever (FMF), and other monogenic autoinflammatory disorders as well as on the development of new drugs and biomarkers.



Prof. Gülen Hatemi **MD**
Rheumatologist

Department of Internal
 Medicine, Division of
 Rheumatology, Istanbul
 University, Cerrahpaşa, Turkey

Gülen Hatemi is a Professor of Medicine in Istanbul University – Cerrahpaşa, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology. Her main research area is Behçet's syndrome. She is the convenor of the Disease Assessment Study Group of the



International Society for Behçet's Disease and convened the EULAR Recommendations for the Management of Behçet's syndrome.



Prof. Peter Heeringa PHD
Immunologist (non-clinical)

Pathology and Medical Biology,
University Medical Center
Groningen, the Netherlands

Peter Heeringa PhD is an immunologist and member of the Vasculitis Expertise Center Groningen with longstanding experience in translational vasculitis research. His current research focuses on the role of ageing and immune regulation in the pathogenesis of vasculitis.



Prof. Bernhard Hellmich MD
Rheumatologist

Klinik für Innere Medizin,
Rheumatologie und
Immunologie, Medius Kliniken,
Akademisches Lehrkrankenhaus
der Universität Tübingen,
Germany

Dr. Bernhard Hellmich is a Professor of Medicine at the University of Tübingen and Chair of the Department of Internal Medicine, Rheumatology and Immunology at the Medius Klinik Kirchheim, Teaching Hospital of the University of Tübingen, a ERN-RITA reference center for vasculitis. Prof. Hellmich received his MD degree at the University of Bochum, Germany. He completed his internal medicine residency at the Department of Medicine at the University Hospital Bergmannsheil in Bochum and his rheumatology training at the Rheumaklinik Bad Bramstedt and University of Lübeck. From 2002 – 2007 he was vice-chair of the department of rheumatology at the Rheumaklinik Bad Bramstedt and University of Lübeck. Prof. Hellmich's clinical and research interests

are in the field of vasculitis. He is clinical chair of the reference laboratory for ANCA-diagnostics at Medius Klinik Kirchheim and is actively involved in multicenter clinical trials and cohort studies in different forms of vasculitis. Prof. Hellmich is lead author of the EULAR recommendations for management of large vessel vasculitis (2018 Update), of the EULAR recommendations for management of ANCA-associated vasculitis (2022 Update) and lead coordinator of the 2020 German S2k guidelines for management of large vessel vasculitis.

Dr. Alojzija Hocevar MD, PHD
Rheumatologist

Department of Rheumatology,
University medical centre,
Ljubljana, Slovenia

I work as a consultant rheumatologist in University medical centre Ljubljana, Slovenia. My research area for many years has been systemic vasculitis. The departmental research group of which I am a member focuses mainly on giant cell arteritis (research in diagnosis, treatment) and IgA vasculitis in adults (characterization of the disease in adults, its treatment, prognosis).



Dr. Benjamin Hunter MD
Otolaryngologist

ENT Clinic, Cantonal Hospital
St. Gallen, St. Gallen, Switzerland

Dr. Hunter is a consultant rhinologist, endoscopic skull-base and facial plastic surgeon currently working as a Leitender Arzt at the Kantonsspital St. Gallen. He is involved in managing complex rhinology patients including those affected by vasculitis, often in conjunction with colleagues across the disciplines. He is involved in nasal reconstructive surgery following destructive



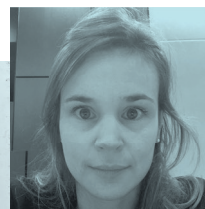
disease processes, neoplasia or trauma. Dr. Hunter trained in the UK as an otolaryngologist and head and neck surgeon, before completing a rhinology, skull-base and facial plastic surgery fellowship at Guy's Hospital London and continuing his cosmetic training under the auspices of the European Academy in Facial Plastic Surgery. He was a consultant at St. Georges Hospital in London before moving to St. Gallen in 2017.

Dr. Marie Jachiet MD
Dermatologist

Dermatology, Hôpital
Saint-Louis, Paris, France

I am dermatologist at the university Saint Louis Hospital, Paris, France. I am

the head of the „centre des dermatoses inflammatoires“ and responsible for an inpatient department. I have an expertise in the field of cutaneous vasculitis, autoimmune dermatosis, atopic dermatitis and leprosy.



Prof. David Jackson
MRCP, MSc, PhD
Pulmonologist

Guy's Severe Asthma Centre,
Guy's Hospital campus, King's
College London, London,
England

David Jackson is a specialist in severe asthma and eosinophilic lung diseases and Professor of respiratory medicine at King's College London. He heads the severe asthma centre at Guy's & St Thomas' Hospitals which is the largest centre of its kind in the UK with over 1000 patients treated with anti-IL5/5R mAbs for asthma, EGPA and other associated eosinophilic lung diseases. He runs a dedicated multidisciplinary EGPA clinic



with rheumatology and cardiology colleagues at Guy's Hospital, London.

Prof. David Jayne MD
Nephrologist

Medicine,
University of Cambridge

David Jayne is a clinician practicing in Cambridge where he directs a severe autoimmune disease service caring for 1800 patients with vasculitis, lupus and associated disorders. He has over 35 years research experience, focusing on first into disease clinical trials, biomarker development and the assembly of multi-national (now global) collaborative research networks. He is the founder and current President of the European Vasculitis Society and a founder member of the Lupus Nephritis Trials Network. He has led or contributed, with academia and industry, to successful Phase III programs for rituximab and avacopan (anti-C5aR) in ANCA vasculitis, mepolizumab (anti-IL5) in EGPA, mycophenolate mofetil and voclosporin in lupus nephritis.



Dr. Andreas Kronbichler
MD, PHD
Nephrologist

Department of Medicine,
University of Cambridge

Dr. Kronbichler is consultant nephrologist at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge University Hospitals. His research focuses on complications and co-morbidities of autoimmune disorders.





Prof. Martin Laudien MD
Otolaryngologist

Department of Otorhinolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery, Kiel University, University Medical Centre Schleswig-Holstein, Kiel, Germany

Prof. Dr. Laudien is a senior physician in the Department of Otorhinolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery, Kiel University. He is author of numerous original publications concerning vasculitis especially in head and neck. He is co-author of the EULAR/ERA-EDTA recommendations for the management of ANCA-associated vasculitis and actually co-writing the German guideline "Diagnostic and Therapy of ANCA associated Vasculitides".



Prof. Mark Little FRCP, PHD
Nephrologist

Trinity Kidney Centre Trinity College Dublin

After graduating from medicine in Trinity College Dublin Prof Little obtained

a PhD from Imperial College London and consolidated a postdoctoral translational research programme focused on autoimmunity and systemic vasculitis. His research interests include novel model systems for investigating the pathogenesis of ANCA vasculitis, biomarker development and application of data science techniques to study autoimmunity. He leads the HELICAL, PARADISE and FAIRVASC EU consortia, which seek to apply novel data science and linkage techniques to health data. He is a co-founder and autoimmune lead of ERN-RITA, the rare immune disorders

European Reference Network, lead of the European Vasculitis Society Registry initiative, chair of the Vasculitis Ireland Network and co-founder of UKIVAS, the vasculitis society of UK and Ireland.

Dr. Ole Christopher Maas MD
Nuclear Medicine physician

Department of Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, Cantonal Hospital St. Gallen, Switzerland

Senior physician in nuclear medicine at the Cantonal Hospital St. Gallen. Focus of activity on nuclear medicine therapies, nuclear medicine cardiac imaging and musculoskeletal diagnostics incl. rheumatological diseases.



Dr. Sarah Mackie BM, BCH, PHD
Rheumatologist

Leeds Institute of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine, University of Leeds, England

Dr. Sarah Mackie is Associate Professor of Vascular Rheumatology at the University of Leeds and Honorary Consultant Rheumatologist at Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust. Her research interests are giant cell arteritis (GCA) and polymyalgia rheumatica (PMR). She was first author of the 2020 British Society for Rheumatology guideline on giant cell arteritis. Her team won a 2022 British Society for Rheumatology Best Practice Award for its multidisciplinary GCA pathway. She is chief investigator of the STERLING-PMR trial.



Prof. Peter A. Merkel MD, MPH
Rheumatologist

Division of Rheumatology, Department of Medicine, and Division of Epidemiology, Department of Biostatistics, Epidemiology, and Informatics, University of Pennsylvania, USA

Dr. Merkel is the Chief of Rheumatology and a Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Merkel is an internationally recognized research and clinical expert in vasculitis and scleroderma and is an author on over 400 scientific publications. He is the Principal Investigator of the Vasculitis Clinical Research Consortium (VCRC), a leading international research infrastructure for vasculitis clinical investigation. Dr. Merkel's research focuses on clinical trial design and conduct, outcome measure development, clinical epidemiology, genetic epidemiology, and biomarker discovery. He co-led the recent PEXIVAS, ADVOCATE, and RITAZAREM clinical trials and the ACR-EULAR Classification Criteria for Vasculitis project.



Associate Prof. Aladdin Mohammad MD, MPH, PHD
Rheumatologist

Clinical Sciences, Rheumatology- Lund, Lund University

Dr. Mohammad is a Consultant in Rheumatology at Skåne University Hospital, Lund, Sweden. He is associate professor of Rheumatology at Lund University and the leader of the Vasculitis Epidemiology Study Group. His interest is in studying the epidemiology, comorbidities and outcomes in systemic vasculitis.

PD Dr. Thomas Neumann
Rheumatologist

Clinic for Rheumatology, Cantonal Hospital St. Gallen, St. Gallen, Switzerland

As an internist and rheumatologist, I am interested in inflammatory systemic diseases with a special focus on vasculitides. ANCA-associated vasculitides have been a clinical and scientific focus in recent years. There are still so many unanswered questions in the understanding of these diseases, which particularly motivates me.



Prof. Seza Ozen MD, MSC
Pediatrician

Pediatric Rheumatology, Hacettepe University, Ankara, Turkey

Dr. Seza Ozen is the Head of the Department of Pediatric Rheumatology in Hacettepe University. Her research focuses on vasculitis, Behçet's disease and autoinflammation. She has pioneered the EULAR and PRoS endorsed work for the classification in childhood vasculitides including the criteria for IgA Vasculitis. She has been a member of the European committee that published recommendations for childhood vasculitides. Dr. Ozen has authored/coauthored >500 papers with >22000 citations. Currently her group is involved in many national and international studies.



Prof. Thomas Pfammatter MD
Radiologist

Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology, Zurich University Hospital, Switzerland

Dr. Thomas Pfammatter is heading the section of vascular



and interventional radiology at the university hospital of Zurich. He has a longstanding interest in imaging diagnosis and interventional treatment of vascular diseases.



Prof. Cristina Ponte MD, PHD
Rheumatologist

[Rheumatology, Hospital de Santa Maria, Centro Hospitalar Universitário Lisboa Norte, Lisbon, Portugal](#)

Cristina Ponte, MD, PhD, is a Rheumatologist at Hospital de Santa Maria, Centro Hospitalar Universitário Lisboa Norte, where she leads the Vasculitis Clinic. She is an Assistant Professor of Rheumatology at Faculdade de Medicina da Universidade de Lisboa and a Clinical Researcher at Instituto de Medicina Molecular, Centro Académico de Medicina de Lisboa. She has worked as a Vasculitis Clinical Research Fellow at the University of Oxford, UK (2013-2015), and has been involved in several vasculitis research projects, particularly related to the development of classification criteria in primary vasculitis and the use of ultrasound in the assessment of large vessel vasculitis.



Dr. Jo Robson MBBS, PHD, FRCP
Rheumatologist

[Centre for Health and Clinical Research, University of the West of England, UWE Bristol, England](#)

Dr. Jo Robson is an Associate Professor in Rheumatology with a specialist research and clinical interest in the Systemic Vasculitides, specifically ANCA-associated vasculitis and Giant Cell Arteritis, in particular, patient focused

research and outcome measures. She chaired the steering committee for the 2022 ACR/EULAR Classification criteria for ANCA associated vasculitis, and led the development of a patient reported outcome for ANCA-associated vasculitis (the AAV PRO), giant cell arteritis (the GCA PRO) and a treatment specific PRO to capture the impact of glucocorticoids (the Steroid PRO). She leads the Bristol and Bath Toci for GCA regional meeting and the CTDVAS multidisciplinary service at the Bristol Royal Infirmary.

Prof. Dirk Roggenbuck PHD
Immunologist

[Faculty of Health Sciences Brandenburg Brandenburg University of Technology, Cottbus-Senftenberg](#)

Dr. Roggenbuck is a honorary professor at the Brandenburg University of Technology. He is the managing director of GA Generic Assays and Medipan. He has many years of experience in the development of immunoassays for the detection of autoantibodies for the serological diagnosis of organ- and non-organ-specific autoimmune diseases.



Prof. David Saadoun MD, PHD
Internist

[Internal Medicine and Clinical Immunology, Sorbonne University, Pitié Salpêtrière Hospital, Paris, France](#)

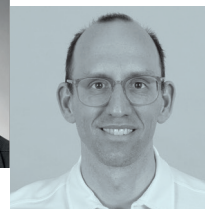
Dr. Saadoun is clinical immunologist at Sorbonne University in Paris and director of a reference centre for rare autoimmune diseases and autoinflammatory diseases.



Prof. Alan Salama
MBBS, PHD, FRCP
Nephrologist

[Department of Renal Medicine, University College London, Royal Free Hospital, England](#)

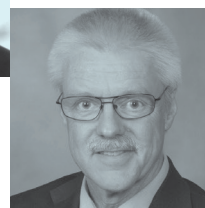
Alan is a consultant nephrologist in London with an interest in kidney inflammation and the regulation of immunity that controls this. He has advocated for better and more rational use of steroids as well as defining better biomarkers of disease and remission in systemic vasculitis.



Prof. Michael B. Soyka MD
Otolaryngologist

[Otorhinolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery, University and University Hospital Zurich, Switzerland](#)

Prof. Soyka is the co-leader in rhinology at the university hospital of Zurich. He has specialized in medical and surgical treatment of chronic rhino sinusitis as well as functional and esthetic surgery of the nose. Together with the colleagues of the immunology department he established an interdisciplinary outpatient clinic and successfully treats difficult cases including CRS and vasculitis patients. He is heavily involved in type 2 CRS research and treatment with biologicals.



Prof. Ulrich Specks MD
Pulmonologist

[Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine, Mayo Clinic, USA](#)

Dr. Specks is consultant pulmonologist at Mayo Clinic Rochester, MN and Professor of Medicine at the Mayo Clinic College

of Medicine & Science. Dr. Specks has had a career-long interest in ANCA-associated vasculitis which has been the focus of his clinical activities as well as widely published research. He's made substantial contributions to the understanding of the pathogenesis of ANCA-associated vasculitis, the refinement of ANCA test methodologies and our understanding of optimal clinical applications of ANCA testing. Dr. Specks is an expert for respiratory manifestations of vasculitis and has had a keen interest in novel therapies for ANCA-associated vasculitis. He introduced rituximab to the treatment of ANCA-associated vasculitis and was the co-principal investigator of the "Rituximab for ANCA-associated Vasculitis (RAVE)" trial. He has also served as Mayo Clinic site-PI or on the steering committee of most randomized controlled trial in ANCA-associated vasculitis enrolling patients in the United States.

Prof. Cord H. Sunderkötter MD
Dermatologist

[Department of Dermatology and Venereology, University Hospital Halle, Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany](#)

Cord Sunderkötter is director and chair of the Department of Dermatology and Venereology at the University Hospital Halle and the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg. His clinical and basic research fields are cutaneous vasculitides, esp. immune complex vasculitides, collagen vascular diseases, skin infections and melanoma, as well as the involvement of neutrophils and macrophages in these diseases. In recent years he has initiated an interdisciplinary nomenclature of cutaneous vasculitides in close cooperation with the CHCC



2012 group. With his research group he is analysing interactions between neutrophils, IgA, and vessel wall.



**PD Dr. med.
Christoph Tappeiner MD**
Ophthalmologist

Department of Ophthalmology,
Pallas Klinik, Olten/Bern,
Switzerland

Christoph Tappeiner, MD, FEBO, is a board-certified senior ophthalmologist and ophthalmic surgeon, holding the position of deputy chief physician at the Pallas Klinik in Olten, Switzerland, and heading the Uveitis Clinic. He has completed a research fellowship, funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation, at the Uveitis Center in Muenster and the German Rheumatism Research Center at the Charité in Berlin. His expertise includes uveitis, vasculitis, ocular surface inflammation and ocular imaging techniques. He has led and contributed to a number of clinical studies and published in the field of inflammatory eye diseases.



Prof. Zoubida Zazi Mezalek MD
Internist

Internal medicine/ Clinical
Hematology Ibn Sina teaching
hospital, Faculty of Medicine
and Pharmacy, Rabat, Morocco

Head of Clinical Hematology department
Member of the Hematology and Internal
Medicine teaching and research units
President of the 20th International
Conference on Behcet's Diseases 2024

Prof. Benjamin Terrier

MMD, PHD

Internist

Internal Medicine,
Cochin Hospital

Dr. Benjamin Terrier is a specialist in Internal Medicine In Cochin Hospital and Paris Cité University, Paris, France. He was trained by his mentor, Prof. Loïc Guillevin, who set up the French network for vasculitis forty years ago. He is currently the president of the French Vasculitis Study Group and coordinates several randomised controlled trials in the field of vasculitis.



Associate Prof. Gunnar

Tomasson MD, PHD

Rheumatologist

Faculty of Medicine,
University of Iceland, Iceland

Gunnar is a rheumatologist in Reykjavik, Iceland. He is an associate professor of epidemiology at University of Iceland and rheumatologist both at Landspítali University Hospital and private practice. His research interest includes the outcome measure development in vasculitis. He is a programming enthusiast that he uses to capture patient-reported outcomes both for research and clinical practice.



Prof. Augusto Vaglio MD, PHD

Nephrologist

Department of Biomedical
Experimental and Clinical
Sciences 'Mario Serio'
University of Florence

Dr. Vaglio is consultant nephrologist at the Meyer Children's Hospital in Florence, associate professor



of Nephrology and director of the Nephrology Fellowship Program at the University of Florence. His research areas include ANCA-associated vasculitis, Lupus, histiocytosis and IgG4-related disorders. He has authored >220 papers in international peer-reviewed journals and is a member of the committee for the development of guidelines for the management of ANCA-associated vasculitis. He chaired the committee for the development of EGPA guidelines and coordinates the European EGPA Study Group.