



“Science and us”

Biomedicine and Health PhD Students Congress

University of Rijeka, Faculty of Medicine

14th – 16th May 2026

Rijeka, Croatia

DAY 1 – THURSDAY, MAY 14th, 2026

13:00 – 14:00

Registration & Welcome Reception

Main Hall

14:00 – 14:20

Opening Ceremony

Lecture Room 1

Josip Španjol, Acting Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Rijeka

Ilija Brzić, Acting Vice Dean for Scientific Research

Marina Šantić, Head of the Doctoral School

Matea Bilobrk, PhD Student, President of the Congress

14:20 – 15:00

Opening Keynote Lecture

Lecture Room 1

Nenad Bogdanović

Understanding Dementia: From Molecular Mechanisms and Biomarkers to Clinical Application and Prevention

Session I: Ageing in Focus: From Risk to Resilience

Moderators: Lovorka Bilajac, Matea Bilobrk

Lecture Room 1

15:05 – 15:15

Kristijan Zulle

Determinants Of Falls in Old Age

15:15 – 15:25

Vedrana Tudor Špalj

Depressive Symptoms and Body Mass are Associated with Disease Activity in Spondyloarthritis: A Cross-Sectional Study

15:25 – 15:35

Odezio Damasceno Brito

Psychosocial Impact and Subjective Well-Being of Patients with Venous Leg Ulcers

15:35 – 15:45

Marija Domislović

Estimated Pulse Wave Velocity in Chronic Kidney Disease

15:45 – 15:55

Round Table Discussion

15:55 – 16:30

Coffee Break & Snacks

Main Hall

Session II: Oral Health, Biomaterials & Beyond

Moderators: Stjepan Špalj, Matea Tomljanović, Matea Badnjević

Lecture Room 1

16:30 – 17:00

Invited Lecture:
Anita Fekonja

Is there a Link Between a Carcinogenesis and Odontogenesis?

17:00 – 17:10

Matea Badnjević

Relationship Between Oral Microbiota, Material Surface Properties, And Plaque Management During Orthodontic Treatment with Vacuum-Formed and Fixed Appliances

17:10 – 17:20

Bojan Glamočanin

How Metals in Fixed Orthodontic Appliances Influence the Supragingival Plaque Microbiota?

17:20 – 17:30

Bojan Glamočanin

Temporomandibular Disorder Symptoms and Jaw Function Limitations Following Functional Appliance Treatment in Adolescents with Class II Division 1 Malocclusion

17:30 – 17:40

Matea Tomljanović

The Impact of Metal and Ceramic Fixed Labial Multibracket Orthodontic Appliances on Gingival Enlargement, Quality of Life, and Masticatory Function in Adolescents: A Randomized Controlled Trial

17:40 – 17:50

Round Table Discussion

17:55 – 18:40

WORKSHOP / Sven Maričić Virtual 3D Model Simulation for Biomedical Applications

18:45 – 19:30

Poster Session I & Networking

DAY 2 – FRIDAY, MAY 15th, 2026

09:30 – 10:00

Registration

Main Hall

Session III: Invisible Threats: Environment, Microbes & Health

Moderators: Darija Vukić Lušić, Neven Sučić

Lecture Room 1

10:00 – 10:30	Invited Lecture João Brandão	Wastewater Surveillance and Regulation – The New Urban Wastewater Directive Is Out with Fungi Not In
10:30 – 10:40	Vesna Kauzarić	Fungi in Seawater and Beach Sand of The Northern Adriatic: Diversity, Abundance and Public Health Relevance
10:40 – 10:50	Neven Sučić	When Iron Deception Kills: Gallium as a Trojan Horse in Legionella Metabolism Revealed by FT-IR Spectroscopy
10:50 – 11:00	Ivana Lakošeljac	Enhancing Colistin Activity: hLF1-11 as a Promising Adjuvant Against Acinetobacter Baumannii
11:00 – 11:10	Round Table Discussion	
11:10 – 11:40	Coffee Break & Snacks	

Main Hall

Session IV: Cancer Frontiers: From Innovation to Therapy

Moderators: Marko Klarić, Gabrijela Sopta Primorac

Lecture Room 1

11:40 – 12:10	Invited Lecture Giuseppe Vizzieli	From Research to Clinical Practice: A Holistic Vision of Innovation in Gynecological Oncology
12:10 – 12:25	Sponsored Lecture Andrej Belančić	Game-changing combination therapy in oncology: Urothelial carcinoma
12:25 – 12:35	Gabriela Oršova	Use Of Diffusion Tensor Imaging (DTI) In Patients with Prostate Cancer
12:35 – 12:45	Viola Angyal	SCREENGPT – Developing and Evaluating a Custom Large Language Model to Support Cervical Cancer Prevention
12:45 – 12:55	Maryen Vasanthakumar	Investigating Heart-Generated Mechanical Stimuli as an Innovative Cancer Therapy
12:55 – 13:05	Round Table Discussion	

13:05 – 14:15

Lunch Break

Main Hall

14:15 – 15:00

WORKSHOP II
Marko Šestan

Chaos, Curiosity, and Questionable Decisions: A Lab Memoir

Session V: Healthcare in Real Life: Patients, Systems & Society

Chair: Barbara Franović, Ema Dejhalla

Lecture Room 1

15:05 – 15:15	Vanda Cattonaro	Everything Has Changed!: A Qualitative Study of First-Time Fathers' Experiences During the Transition to Parenthood
15:15 – 15:25	Luiza Siqueira de Lima	Retrospective Evaluation of Opioid Dispensing and Opioid-Related Adverse Events in Pediatric Patients at a Large Tertiary Hospital in Brazil
15:25 – 15:35	Mohammed Elmadani	Cancer Literacy and Help-Seeking Barriers Among Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities in Hungary: A Cross-Sectional Study
15:35 – 15:45	Anida Sehanovic	The Role of Ethical Culture and Team Support in Enhancing Employee Retention in Healthcare
15:45 – 15:55	Aleš Krulec	Concise Communication Strategy for Long-Term Care Facilities During Healthcare-Associated Outbreaks: A Case Study and Recommendations for Improvement

15:55 – 16:05	Round Table Discussion
16:05 – 16:35	Coffee Break & Snacks
	<i>Main Hall</i>
16:35 – 17:35	Poster Session II
20:00	Congress Dinner & Social Event
	<i>Azura Lounge, Riva 6, 51000 Rijeka</i>

DAY 3 – SATURDAY, MAY 16th, 2026

Session VI: Rethinking Cardiovascular Risk Moderators: Lovorka Bilajac, Andrej Belančić *Lecture Room 1*

10:00 – 10:30	Invited Lecture Maciej Banach	Lipids Reimagined: How Poland's 2026 Guidelines Can Rewrite European and American Practice
10:30 – 10:40	Adea Llano	Whole-Fruit Usual Intake And 10-Year Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease Risk in the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey 2007–2018: A High-Dimensional Machine-Learning Mediation Analysis
10:40 – 10:50	Raphael Feurstein	Methodological Framework for Artificial Intelligence Based Cardiovascular Risk Assessment Using Routine Non-Gated Oncologic Chest Computed Tomography
10:50 – 11:00	Round Table Discussion	
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee Break & Snacks	
	<i>Main Hall</i>	

Session VII: Inside Biology: Host–Pathogen Interactions and Cellular Mechanisms Moderators: Vanda Juranić Lisnić, Matea Bilobrk *Lecture Room 1*

11:30 – 12:00	Invited Lecture Oliver Harschnitz	Human Trigeminal Ganglion Organoids Enable Modelling of Host–Virus Interactions of Herpesviruses
12:10 – 12:20	Magdalena Medved	"MCMV strikes back: Counteracting Ly49H receptor activation"
12:20 – 12:30	Alen Omerović	Spatiotemporal Tracking of Lipid Droplet Dynamics During Murine Cytomegalovirus Infection
12:30 – 12:40	Sara Čabrijan	Phosphatidylinositol-4-Kinase Alpha Mediates Platelet Aggregation Through Integrin Activation
12:40 – 12:50	Oliver Solymosi	Effect of Maternal Neisseria Gonorrhoeae Infection on Pregnancy and Neonatal Outcomes: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis
12:50 – 13:00	Round Table Discussion	
13:05 – 13:30	Awards Ceremony & Closing Remarks	
	<i>Main Hall</i>	

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