

ARTERY26

Innovations in vascular ageing

PROGRAMME

24 - 25 September 2026, Split



ORGANISER:

Artery Society

CO-ORGANISER:

Alumni Association of the University of Split School of Medicine

HOSTS:

University of Split School of Medicine
University of Split Faculty of Health Sciences

SCIENTIFIC BOARD:

Presidents: Pedro Cunha Guimarães (Portugal), Rosa Maria Bruno (France),
Ana Jerončić (Croatia)

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Iva Bilić, Dario Mraz, Borna Bakliža

ON BEHALF OF THE ARTERY26 ORGANISING TEAM:



Prof. Pedro Guimarães Cunha
President, Artery Society



Prof. Ana Jerončić
Chair, ARTERY26 Conference

CONFERENCE RESOURCES

Click a resource below to open the latest ARTERY26 information online.

01

PROGRAMME BOOK

Accepted abstracts, scientific contributions and author information from ARTERY26.

[OPEN RESOURCE >](#)

02

GENERAL INFORMATION

Practical information for delegates, including venue, registration, travel and conference details.

[OPEN RESOURCE >](#)

03

TRAINING SCHOOL PROGRAMME

Programme and practical details for the Artery Society and VascAgeNet International Training School, 23 September 2026.

[OPEN RESOURCE >](#)

All links open the official ARTERY26 conference website.

Venue: University of Split School of Medicine, Šoltanska 2a, Split, Croatia
All scientific sessions will take place in **the Amphitheatre, Building B** unless otherwise indicated.

WEDNESDAY, 23RD SEPTEMBER

17:30 – 20:00 ARTERY Working Meetings (Faculty Council Room/Vijećnica, Building A)

- 17:30 – 18:15 Scientific Council Meeting
18:15 – 19:00 Editorial Board Meeting
19:00 – 20:00 ARTERY Executive Committee Meeting

20:30 – 23:00 Welcome Reception (Cellars of Diocletian's Palace)

Open to all registered participants of the Training School or ARTERY26 Conference.

📍 Obala Hrvatskog narodnog preporoda 1, Split (waterfront entrance)

THURSDAY, 24TH SEPTEMBER

08:00 Registration desk opens (open throughout the conference)

09:00 – 09:15 Conference Opening Remarks

Conference Co-Chairs: Pedro Guimarães Cunha, Portugal; Ana Jerončić, Croatia

09:15 – 09:45 Douglas R. Seals, United States — Opening Lecture

Chair: Pedro Guimarães Cunha, Portugal

Translational research approaches to study vascular ageing: the case of aerobic exercise

09:45 – 11:00 Session 1 – AI Applications in Vascular Ageing

Co-chairs: Patrick Segers, Belgium; Bart Spronck, the Netherlands

09:45 – 10:05 Peter Charlton, United Kingdom

AI applications in PPG signal analysis

10:05 – 10:25 Vivek Muthurangu, United Kingdom

Fully automated measurement of PWV from routine cardiac MRI studies

10:25 – 10:45 Sandra Ortega-Martorell, United Kingdom

AI-driven virtual twins in stroke prevention and management: multimodal approaches

10:45 – 11:00 Critical Reflection

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee Break (Ground Floor Foyer)

11:30 – 12:10 Session 2 – Young Investigator Award I

Co-chairs: Christopher Mayer, Austria; Alessandro Giudici, the Netherlands

11:30 – 11:40 Pressure-independent assessment of the carotid artery vasomotor response to exercise and nitroglycerin administration — Madelief J. Knol, the Netherlands

11:40 – 11:50 Increased transmission of maximal blood flow velocities in healthy, heart failure and left ventricular assist device — Michelle Ottlik, Germany

11:50 – 12:00 Deep learning segmentation improves the performance of hypertension diagnostic based on carotid ultrasound radiomics — Jeremy Rabineau, France

12:00 – 12:10 Dual-wavelength speckle measurements of the microcirculation and macrocirculation during arterial occlusion — Lieke Bergmans, the Netherlands

12:10 – 12:25 Poster Storm I

Co-chairs: Carolina Seabra, Germany; Cedric Neutel, the Netherlands

Hybrid CNN–transformer modeling for aortic pulse wave velocity estimation from single site photoplethysmography — Nabeel P M, India

Metabolic predictors of arterial stiffness in normotensive children with obesity — Marina Vaccari, Argentina

A finger-cuff derived micro–macrocirculation pressure ratio as a potential biomarker of microvascular involvement in vascular ageing — Inka Mustajoki, Finland

Early vascular aging in women classified as low risk by traditional cardiovascular risk scores: impact of emerging and sex-specific risk factors — Albertina Ghelfi, Argentina

Impact of sleep on arterial function, psychological and cognitive complaints in hypertensive patients with poor sleep quality — Sofia Gomes, Portugal

Poster Storm I - continued

Estimating arterial blood pressure from ultrasound-derived blood flow velocity: a feasibility study — *Diletta Guberti, Italy*

Common genetic variants with known mechanistic links to arterial wall remodelling are associated with arterial stiffness in adolescence — *Scott Chiesa, United Kingdom*

Cross-sectional associations of sleep and physical activity with wearable-based estimated arterial stiffness in young to middle-aged adults — *Gizem Yilmaz, Singapore*

Oxidative stress imbalance relates to higher blood pressure in children: the ExAMIN Youth SA study — *Angela Lucas-Herald, United Kingdom*

12:25 – 13:25 **Poster Presentations I (Lower Ground Floor, level -1)**

13:25 – 14:25 **Lunch (Medical School Cafeteria)**

14:25 – 15:05 Session 2 – Young Investigator Award II

Co-chairs: Barry McDonnell, United Kingdom; Elisabetta Bianchini, Italy

14:25 – 14:35 **Blood pressure-independent aortic stiffness is associated with vascular brain health in the UK Biobank** — *Tilly Roy, United Kingdom*

14:35 – 14:45 **Sex-specific post-COVID carotid arterial remodelling: the CARTESIAN study** — *Smriti Badhwar, France*

14:45 – 14:55 **Towards disease-specific in silico datasets: sex-specific modelling of arterial pulse waves in normotensive and hypertensive ageing** — *Natali van Zijl, United Kingdom*

14:55 – 15:05 **Perivascular adipose tissue influences ex vivo vascular stiffness and reactivity measurements** — *Charlotte Jacobs, Belgium*

15:05 – 15:55 Session 3 – Career Development Lectures

Co-chairs: Alberto P. Avolio, Australia; Luca Faconti, United Kingdom

15:05 – 15:10 *Introduction by the Co-chairs*

15:10 – 15:25 **Jaime Ibarrola Ulzurrun, Spain**

The road to vascular stiffness: mechanistic insights from mineralocorticoid receptor signaling, ageing and obesity

15:25 – 15:40 **Andrea Grillo, Italy**

Vascular ageing and cardiac perfusion: clinical translation of a revised subendocardial viability ratio

15:40 – 15:55 **Matthew K. Armstrong, United States**

Circulating the globe for cardiovascular research: from physiology to epidemiology

15:55 – 16:25 **Coffee Break (Ground Floor Foyer)**

16:25 – 16:55 Session 4 – Real-World Evidence

Co-chairs: Ana Jerončić, Croatia; Enrique Rodilla, Spain

16:25 – 16:45 **Gorana Čapkun, Switzerland — Invited Lecture**

Real-world evidence: from real patients to better care

16:45 – 16:55 *Critical Reflection*

16:55 – 17:40 Session 5 – Debate: What is the Major Driver of the Circulation?

Chair: Rosa Maria Bruno, France

Debate positions

16:55 – 17:10 **The heart — Eric Stohr, Germany**

The heart is the major driver of the circulation

17:10 – 17:25 **The vessels — Carmel McEniery, United Kingdom**

The vessels are the major driver of the circulation

17:25 – 17:40 *Rebuttal/Discussion*

17:40 – 17:55 **Patrick Lacolley, France — Lifetime Achievement Award Presentation**

Chair: Stéphane Laurent, France

18:00 – 18:50 **ARTERY Annual Business Meeting**

19:00 – 20:00 Transcontinental working meeting (Faculty Council Room/Vijećnica, Building A)
By invitation only

20:30 – 23:00 **Conference Dinner and Awards Ceremony (Mediterranean Institute for Life Sciences)**

Followed by informal networking and dancing

📍 Meštrovićevo šetalište 45, Split

Advance booking and payment required

FRIDAY, 25TH SEPTEMBER

08:00 Registration desk opens (open throughout the conference)

09:00 – 10:15 **Session 6 – Targeting Arterial Stiffness and Integrating It into Clinical Decision Pathways**

Co-chairs: Carmel M. McEniery, United Kingdom; Alun D. Hughes, United Kingdom

09:00 – 09:20 **Rosa Maria Bruno, France — Invited Lecture**

Arterial stiffness: marker or target?

09:20 – 09:40 **Luca Faconti, United Kingdom**

Aldosterone in vascular ageing: the next target for prevention?

09:40 – 10:00 **Amani Norling, United States**

Arterial stiffness in cerebrovascular ageing: from neuroaxonal injury and cognition to cardiovascular reserve

10:00 – 10:15 **Critical Reflection**

10:15 – 10:40 **Coffee Break (Ground Floor Foyer)**

10:40 – 11:40 **Session 7 – Open Abstract Session I**

Co-chairs: János Nemcsik, Hungary; Mai Tone Lønnebakken, Norway

10:40 – 10:50 **Inhibition of elastin-derived peptide signalling attenuates aortic dysfunction in Fbn1C1039G/+ mice — Melissa Van Praet, Belgium**

10:50 – 11:00 **Sexual dimorphism in vascular remodeling associated with obesity and its modulation by SGLT2 inhibitors — Jaime Ibarrola Ulzurrun, Spain**

11:00 – 11:10 **Visceral adiposity is the primary determinant of aortic stiffness: a sex-specific MRI study — Mohsen Agharazii, Canada**

11:10 – 11:20 **Circulating biomarker correlates of photoplethysmography-derived cardiovascular age gap: a cross-sectional analysis of 29,120 individuals — Aleksi Rantanen, Finland**

11:20 – 11:30 **Comparison of 24-h Arteriograph and SphygmoCor measures of arterial stiffness in relation to incident cardiovascular disease in a population-based study from Sweden — Peter M Nilsson, Sweden**

11:30 – 11:40 **Carotid-femoral pulse wave velocity determined by oscillometric pulse wave analysis predicts cardiovascular events — Alexander Stäuber, Germany**

11:40 – 11:55 **Poster Storm II**

Co-chairs: Smriti Badhwar, France; Mario Podrug, Croatia

Quantifying and reproducing aortic anatomy using statistical shape and conditional generative modeling: application to a healthy cohort of the UK Biobank — Jellis Bollens, Belgium and United States

Gut microbial alpha-diversity is associated with lower carotid intima-media thickness in adults without cardiovascular disease — Rita Salvado, Spain

Different remodelling responses among arterial beds in response to simulated microgravity: a growth and remodelling study — Alessandro Giudici, the Netherlands

Association of pulse wave velocity with cognitive impairment in difficult to control hypertension — Arman Postadzhiyan, Bulgaria

Comparative effects of head-up tilt on carotid–femoral and finger–toe pulse wave velocity — Mohsen Agharazii, Canada

Comparison of nocturnal blood pressure dipping between an ambulatory cuff and a continuous wearable device — Jesse D. Quadt, the Netherlands

Sex differences in the haemodynamic response to exercise — Siana Jones, United Kingdom

Nocturnal blood pressure fluctuations and non-dipping patterns in obstructive sleep apnoea: a novel approach for detection and treatment monitoring — Tomas L. Bothe, Germany

A spatial parameterisation framework for patient-specific constitutive modelling across the aorta — Mobina Izadpanah, the Netherlands

Poster Storm II – continued

Association of in-hospital blood pressure variability with early neurological recovery after acute ischemic stroke — *Filipa Madalena Fernandes Gonçalves, Portugal*

In vitro hemodynamic evaluation of Inner- vs. Outer-branched thoracoabdominal endografts — *Eason Rangarajan, United Kingdom*

11:55 – 12:55 **Poster Presentations II (Lower Ground Floor, level -1)**

12:55 – 13:45 **Lunch (Medical School Cafeteria)**

13:45 – 14:35 Session 8 – Vascular Ageing in Diabetes and the Effect of Modern Anti-Diabetes Drugs

Chair: Pedro Guimarães Cunha, Portugal

13:45 – 14:10 **John Petrie, United Kingdom — Invited Lecture**

Vascular ageing in diabetes

14:10 – 14:25 **Peter M Nilsson, Sweden**

The effect of modern anti-diabetes drugs on vascular ageing

14:25 – 14:35 **Critical Reflection**

14:35 – 16:00 Session 9 – Open Abstract Session II

Co-chairs: Nikolaos Stergiopoulos, Switzerland; Christopher Mayer, Austria

14:35 – 14:45 **ESCORT: a connecting ecosystem to unmask and manage early vascular ageing and precocious lung and renal diseases in the community setting** — *Enrique Rodilla, Spain*

14:45 – 14:55 **Tiny neural network-based vascular ageing score for granular cardiovascular risk stratification** — *Jayaraj Joseph, India*

14:55 – 15:05 **Revisiting the generalized morphology transfer function between finger photoplethysmography and digital arterial pressure** — *Mikael Karlsson, Sweden*

15:05 – 15:30 **Coffee Break (Ground Floor Foyer)**

Session 9 – Open Abstract Session II – continued

15:30 – 15:40 **Can unilateral change in vascular resistance and compliance produce interarm blood pressure difference?** — *Alberto P. Avolio, Australia*

15:40 – 15:50 **Regional differences in arterial stiffness responses to hydrostatic pressure load during head-up tilt** — *Mohsen Agharazii, Canada*

15:50 – 16:00 **Opening the black box of finger ischemia: very high-resolution ultrasound reveals the spectrum of vascular abnormalities in secondary Raynaud's phenomenon** — *Douwe J Mulder, the Netherlands*

16:00 – 16:25 ARTERY Working Groups: Progress, Impact, and Future Vision

Moderator: Rosa Maria Bruno, France

WG leaders: Luca Faconti, United Kingdom; Rachel Climie, Australia; Bart Spronck, the Netherlands

16:25 – 16:55 Nikolaos Stergiopoulos, Switzerland — McDonald Lecture (Honorary Lecture)

Co-chairs: Pedro Guimarães Cunha, Portugal; Rosa Maria Bruno, France

Modeling and Analysis of Wave Phenomena in the Arterial System: From Pure Science to Inverse Modeling and AI-Driven Applications

16:55 – 17:40 Transcontinental Round Table: Future Directions in Vascular Ageing

Joint session of ARTERY and partner societies

Supported by an unrestricted educational grant

Open to all conference participants

Moderator: Pedro Guimarães Cunha, Portugal

Participating societies: **ARTERY Society** – Pedro Guimarães Cunha; **ARTERY LATAM** – Mario Fritsch Neves; **North American Artery** – Gary Pierce and Julio Chirinos; **Pulse of Asia** – Alberto Avolio and Jeong Bae Park; **ESH** – Thomas Weber; **ISH** – Cesar Romero; **Working Group on Large Arteries (ESH)** – Elisabetta Bianchini

17:40 – 18:10 **Closing Remarks and preview of ARTERY27**

WITH THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

ARTERY26 gratefully acknowledges the organisations and partners whose support made the conference possible.

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ORGANISATIONAL CONTRIBUTION

PBM KRO project, Faculty of Health Sciences – Project team members
contributed to the organisation of ARTERY26 as part of project activities.



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME SUPPORT

AstraZeneca – Support provided to the Transcontinental Round Table
through an unrestricted educational grant.



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