

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)

Members: Smriti Badhwar (France), Elisabetta Bianchini (Italy), Rachel
Climie (Australia), Alessandro Giudici (Netherlands), Christopher Mayer
(Austria), Barry McDonnell (UK), János Nemcsik (Hungary), Mario Podrug
(Croatia), Bart Spronck (Netherlands), Dimitrios Terentes-Printzios (Greece)

LOCAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE:

Chair: Ana Jerončić

Members: Mario Podrug, Renata Pecotić,
Zoran Đogaš, Natalia Cotić

D8solutions & Certitudo members: Ivan Jelaković, Katarina Stojanović,
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)**

Posters P1-P48 (*Vascular ageing and lifestyle; Methodologies I*)

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 Jerončič, 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 (Restaurant Kampus)**
Followed by informal networking and dancing
📍 Cvite Fiskovića 3, 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)**

Posters P49-P102 (*Experimental; Methodologies II; Clinical and Pathophysiology*)

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 – 14:05 **John Petrie, United Kingdom — Invited Lecture**

Vascular ageing in diabetes

14:05 – 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.

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF

Ministry of Health of the
Republic of Croatia



DONORS

Split-Dalmatia County



City of Split



CO-ORGANISERS

Alumni Association of the
University of Split School of
Medicine



University of Split School of
Medicine



University of Split Faculty of
Health Sciences



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.



SPONSORS

Quipu S.R.L. www.quipu.eu 	ALF Distribution GmbH www.alf-distribution.com 
STIMULUS project, University of Turku sites.utu.fi/stimulus/project 	MESI, Ltd., mesimedical.com 

COFFEE BREAK SPONSOR
Uglešić Health & Care Group

www.uglesichealthandcare.hr



Thank you for supporting ARTERY26 – Innovation in vascular ageing.