

# 3<sup>rd</sup> INTERNATIONAL VEXAS WORKSHOP

***Milano, September 24-25, 2026***

Following the success of the previous meetings in Paris (2024) and New York (2025), we are delighted to announce that the 3<sup>rd</sup> International VEXAS Workshop will take place in Milan, September 24-25, 2026.

Building on the strong momentum of these earlier editions, which fostered global collaboration and deepened understanding of this newly defined autoinflammatory condition, the Milan workshop will further expand the international dialogue on VEXAS syndrome.

In 2026, we will once again bring together leading clinicians, researchers, geneticists, biologists, and specialists across hematology, rheumatology, immunology, and disease modelling to explore the rapidly evolving landscape of VEXAS syndrome. The VEXAS Workshop will highlight advances in genetics, clinical spectrum, and therapeutic strategies, with a particular emphasis on integrating emerging scientific insights into pathological mechanism, patient care, and disease management.

A dynamic scientific programme will include interactive case-based sessions, keynote lectures, and multidisciplinary panels designed to connect discovery with patient care. Participants will have the opportunity to share experience, challenge current paradigms, and define the priorities that will shape future research.

This year, two educational sessions will be included. The aim of these sessions is to provide participants with practical tools to recognize, interpret, monitor, and manage the inflammatory and hematological features of VEXAS syndrome in daily clinical practice. Through case-based discussions, the workshop will support the development of a structured differential diagnostic approach in patients presenting with systemic inflammation and/or unexplained hematologic abnormalities. Emphasis will be placed on critical clinical reasoning and on how to appropriately raise and investigate diagnostic suspicion and monitor disease evolution, including the rational use of laboratory, imaging, and genetic testing to confirm the diagnosis.

Our goal is clear: to make Milan 2026 a pivotal step forward in the collective effort to understand and treat VEXAS syndrome. The 3rd International VEXAS Workshop will be the place where collaboration, insight, and innovation come together to improve patients' lives.

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**Presidential Committee:**

- Prof. Simone Cenci  
Director of Division of Genetics and Cellular Biology, San Raffaele Hospital, Milano, Italy
- Prof. Fabio Ciceri  
Head of the Stem Cell Transplantation & Hematology Unit, San Raffaele Hospital, Milano, Italy
- Prof. Lorenzo Dagna  
Head of UnIRAR, San Raffaele Hospital, Milano, Italy)
- Prof. Luigi Naldini  
Director of SR-Tiget, San Raffaele Hospital, Milano, Italy

**Scientific Committee:**

- Dr. Gregorio M. Bergonzi
- Dr. Corrado Campochiaro
- Dr. Elisa Diral
- Dr. Samuele Ferrari
- Dr. Martina Fiumara
- Dr. Raffaella Molteni
- Dr. Alessandro Tomelleri

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## ***PRELIMINARY SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM***

### Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup>

08.30	Welcome and introduction
09.00	<b>KEYNOTE LECTURE</b> VEXAS Discovery ( <i>P. Grayson - USA</i> )
09.30	<b>SESSION 1</b> <i>Autoinflammatory diseases - VEXAS and beyond</i> Clinical manifestations of VEXAS syndrome ( <i>S. Savic – UK</i> ) Mechanism of VEXAS pathogenesis ( <i>D. Beck – USA</i> ) When the fire misfires: VEXAS and the autoinflammatory spectrum ( <i>S. Georgin-Lavialle – FR</i> ) NK cells and cell death mechanisms in VEXAS ( <i>B. Terrier – FR</i> )
10.50	Discussion
11.05	Coffee break
11.25	<b>SESSION 2</b> <i>Clonal hematopoiesis - VEXAS and beyond</i> Myeloid Clonal Architecture in VEXAS ( <i>M. Sirenko – USA</i> ) Clonal hematopoiesis and inflammation in BMF ( <i>A.M. Risitano – ITA</i> ) Inflammation-driven Anemia in Lower Risk myelodysplastic syndromes: mechanistic basis and Clinical Trial Landscape ( <i>M.G. Della Porta – ITA</i> ) CHIP and MDS ( <i>S. Chan – CA</i> )
12.40	Discussion
12.50	Lunch

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13.40

## SESSION 3

*Diagnoses, monitoring and treatment of VEXAS*

Techniques for Molecular Disease Monitoring in VEXAS syndrome  
(*C. Gurnari – ITA*)

VEXAS diagnosis: when to prefer Sanger and when to choose NGS  
(*M.G. Cangi – ITA*)

Clone-targeted therapy in VEXAS syndrome: 5-azacitidine vs allogeneic stem cell transplantation (*V. Jachiet & B. Patel – FR-USA*)

Anti-inflammatory therapy in VEXAS syndrome: IL-6 vs JAK inhibitors  
(*J. Hadjadj & Y. Kirino – FR-JP*)

15.00

Discussion

15.15

Coffee break

15.35

## SESSION 4

*Oral presentations*

Best abstracts - basic/translational research

16.05

## SESSION 5

*Clinical studies of VEXAS*

VEX-AZA clinical trial (*J. Werner Hansen - DK*)

TBD (*A. Mekinian – FR*)

17.20

Discussion

17.35

## Poster Session 1

18.30

Adjourn

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Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup>

08.00      Welcome and introduction

08.15      **KEYNOTE LECTURE**  
Hematopoietic stem cell gene therapy (*L. Naldini – ITA*)

08.45      **SESSION 1**  
*Tracing origin, fate, and states across hematopoiesis*  
Lineage tracing at single cell resolution (*A. Rodriguez Fraticelli – ES*)  
Hematopoiesis across age, diseases and therapies (*S. Scala – ITA*)  
Evolutionary biology, somatic mutations and clonal hematopoiesis  
(*N. Young - USA*)  
Dysfunctional neutropoiesis in CHIP (*E. Laurenti - UK*)

10.05      Discussion

10.20      Coffee break

10.40      **SESSION 2**  
*Oral presentations*  
Best abstracts - clinical research

11.10      **SESSION 3**  
*Stories from patients and caregivers*

11.40      **EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS**  
*VEXAS for rheumatologists*  
(*C. Campochiaro, S. Georgin-Lavialle, F. Muratore*)  
*VEXAS for hematologists*  
(*E. Diral, P. Fenaux, L-P. Zhao*)

12.20      Lunch & **Poster Session 2**

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13.10	<b>EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS</b>  <i>VEXAS for rheumatologists</i> ( <i>F. Crisafulli, B. Terrier, A. Tomelleri</i> )  <i>VEXAS for hematologists</i> ( <i>G. M. Bergonzi, T. Comont, J. Ferrari</i> )
13.50	<b>SESSION 4</b> <i>Cellular stress responses - VEXAS and beyond</i> Stem cell biology and stress responses ( <i>tbc – USA</i> ) TBD ( <i>S. Cenci – ITA</i> ) HSC metabolism and stress and their impact on inflammatory diseases ( <i>S. Ghaffari – USA</i> ) UBA1 In VEXAS and beyond ( <i>A. Werner – USA</i> )
15.30	Discussion
15.45	Coffee break
16.05	<b>SESSION 5</b> <i>Patient registries</i> French VEXAS registry ( <i>A. Mekinian – FR</i> ) Patient registry ( <i>M. Ferrada – USA</i> ) German VEXAS registry ( <i>K. Socket – DE</i> ) Japanese VEXAS registry ( <i>Y. Kirino – JP</i> ) AIDA Network VEXAS registry ( <i>L. Cantarini – ITA</i> )
16.55	Discussion

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17.05

## SESSION 6

*Inflammation and immunity - VEXAS and beyond*

Independent mechanisms of inflammation and myeloid bias in VEXAS syndrome (A. Gitlin – USA)

IL-1 signaling and beyond (C. Garlanda – ITA)

DADA2 from basic to translational and clinical research (A. Mortellaro & F. Barzaghi – ITA)

18.25

Discussion

18.40

Final remarks