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2026

4th INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

CHRONIC FATIGUE SYNDROME, LONG COVID AND POST INFECTION SYNDROMES

EDUCATIONAL SYMPOSIUM OF THE EUROPEAN BOARD OF CLINICIANS, RESEARCHERS AND PATIENT ASSOCIATIONS FOR CHRONIC FATIGUE SYNDROME

EMERG / EMECC / EMEA

ORGANIZERS

"Dedinje" Cardiovascular Institute

Prof. dr Branislav Milovanović

Acad. prof. dr Milovan M. Bojić

Република Србија
МИНИСТАРСТВО ЗДРАВЉА

ДЕДИЊЕ

ЛЕКАРСКО ЛЕКАРСКО 1872

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УДРУЖЕЊЕ ЗА НЕУРОХАРИОЛОГИЈУ СРБИЈЕ

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EDUCATIONAL SYMPOSIUM OF THE EUROPEAN BOARD OF CLINICIANS, RESEARCHERS AND PATIENT ASSOCIATIONS FOR CHRONIC FATIGUE SYNDROME

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We are honored and pleased to invite you to the 4th INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM titled CHRONIC FATIGUE, LONG COVID AND POST-INFECTION SYNDROMES, which will be held on November 13, 2026, at the Institute for Cardiovascular Diseases "Dedinje". The symposium is of particular importance as it is organized by the Institute for Cardiovascular Diseases "Dedinje" under the patronage of the Ministry of Health and supported by several institutions and associations:

The Association for Neurocardiology of Serbia, the Serbian Medical Society, the Section for the Autonomic Nervous System of the Serbian Medical Society, and the Association of Patients with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and Syncope Crises. The symposium also holds international significance, as it is organized under the auspices of the European ME Alliance (EMEA), whose members are actively involved in organizing this and future events.

While the acute effects of COVID-19 have been well documented, the research community has recently shifted its focus toward the chronic consequences of the disease. About 87% of COVID-19 patients continue to experience at least one symptom two months after the onset, and up to 30% report at least one symptom six months later, even when SARS-CoV-2 is no longer present. This chronic phase has been labeled as "Long COVID," "Post-COVID Syndrome," or "Post-Acute Sequelae of SARS-CoV-2 Infection (PASC)."

Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS) is a highly complex and disabling, multisystemic chronic illness that affects millions worldwide. Despite its increasing prevalence and debilitating nature, it remains largely unfamiliar to the public and many medical professionals. Understanding of its etiology and pathophysiology is limited, diagnostic criteria are inconsistent, and guidelines for diagnosis and treatment are inadequate and outdated. Initially, the disease was defined simply as a "persistent or relapsing, debilitating fatigue of new onset and unknown origin," and diagnosis was based on the exclusion of other potential causes, often neglecting the importance of other symptoms.

Given the nearly identical symptomatology, the question arises whether we are dealing with one or two distinct syndromes. Hoping to successfully address these questions, we warmly greet you and invite you to take an active part in the symposium.

LOCATION

New Amphitheatre of Dedinje 2 Facility, First Floor
''Dedinje'' Cardiovascular Institute
Heroja Milana Tepica 1, 11040 Belgrade, Serbia

WITH SUPPORT

Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation

УНИВЕРЗИТЕТ У БЕОГРАДУ МЕДИЦИНСКИ ФАКУЛТЕТ | UNIVERSITY OF BELGRADE FACULTY OF MEDICINE

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III INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON CHRONIC FATIGUE SYNDROME, LONG KOVID AND POSTINFECTION SYNDROMES

FINAL PROGRAMME

13th November 2026 , National Institute for Heart and Blood vessels - Dedinje,Belgrade, Serbia

08:00-09:00 Registration

09:00-09:30 Openning Ceremony

Branislav Milovanovic
President of Section for Autonomic Nervous system of Serbian Medical Society, Member of EMERG board

Milovan Bojić
Director of Institute for Cardiovascular Diseases-Dedinje

Milan Nedeljkovic
President of Serbian Medical Society

Ivana Nedeljković
President of Cardiology Society of Serbia

Vladislav Vukomanović
Director of Institute for mother and child

Ilija Brčeski
Representative of European Academy of Science and Arts

I SESSION
09:30-11:00
ME/CFS-Organisations and Patients

Richard Simpson
UK charity Invest in ME Research / European ME Alliance

Gracemarie Bricalli
President European ME Alliance (EMEA)
What ME/CFS patients want healthcare decision-makers to know

Ina Ignjatović
President of Serbian Society of ME/CFS patients
When tests say you're healthy, but life stops. The reality of life with chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS) and post-COVID syndrome: a path to better healthcare.

Sanda Špac
President of Croatian Society of ME/CFS patients

Barbara Gros,
President of Slovenian Society of ME/CFS patients

MCAS and Other Comorbid Conditions from the Patients' Perspective

Kornelia Korica

President of Society of patients with ME/CFS in Bosnia and Herzegovina

11:00-11:30 Cofee Break

II SESSION

11:30-13:30 ME/CFS and Long Kovid Syndrome:Basic and Clinical Aspects

Chairs: Branislav Milovanovic,(Belgrade, Serbia), Louis Teulieres(Paris,France), TatjanaMijatovic(Brussels,Belgium)

11:30-12:00 Intracelular infections and autonomic dysfunction by patients with chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS)

Branislav Milovanović
University of Belgrade,Medical Faculty
National center for Cardiovascuolar Diseases-Dedinje
(Belgrade,Serbia)
President of Neurocardiological Society of Serbia
President of Section for Autonomic Nervous System of Serbian Medical Society
Member of European Academy and Science and Arts
Member of EMERG board

12:00-12:30 DecodeME: the genetics of ME/CFS (Myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome)"?

Chris Ponting (Edinburg,UK)
Chair of Medical Bioinformatics at the University of Edinburgh and group leader in the MRC Human Genetics Unit.
Associate Faculty member of the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute,
Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences
Member of the European Molecular Biology Organisation
Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh

12:30-13:00 Biological and immunological exposome:a comprehesive and detailed understanding of the exposome concept and enviromental health,and its intrinsic relationship with biology and immunology

Louis Teulieres
ILADS /ILADEF Board Member
Universidad Complutense de Madrid lecturer

13:00-13 :30. Overview of indirect and direct testing options for vector-borne infections.
Tatjana Mijatovic (Brussels,Belgium)
R.E.D.Laboratories Chief Science Officer and lab Manager (Brussels,Belgium)

13:30-14:00 Cofee Break

III SESSION
(Session from members of Young EMERG)

14:00-16:00 ME/CFS and Long Covid syndrome:New advances,diagnostics and treatment

Chairs:Nikola Markovic,(Belgrade,Serbia),Timon Zupanc (Ljubljana,Slovenia)

14:00-14 :15: From endotel to dysautonomia in patients with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome:vascular aspects
Nikola Markovic (Belgrade,Serbia)
Member of Young EMERG

14:15-14 :30 Clinical Phenotypes in ME/CFS: The Role of Hypermobility
Timon Zupanc (Ljubljana,Slovenia)
Member of Young EMERG

14:30-14 :45 Combining Immune and Red Blood Cell Parameters to Distinguish Long COVID from ME/CFS and Fibromyalgia
Karen Giménez-Orenga
School of Medicine and Health Sciences, Catholic University of Valencia, Valencia, Spain
Member of Young EMERG

14:45-15 :00 Profiling of plasma extracellular vesicle-associated markers across ME/CFS, Fibromyalgia, and Long COVID
María Ljungström
School of Doctorate, Catholic University of Valencia, Valencia, Spain
Member of Young EMERG

15:00-15 :30 Integrated microarray-based profiling of endogenous retroelements reveals HERV and MALR dysregulation in female long COVID patients"

Jesús Ignacio López-Palau
School of Doctorate, Catholic University of Valencia, Valencia, Spain

16 :00 Lunch

Notes

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Institute for Cardiovascular Diseases "Dedinje"
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