

Abstract Book 2026

36th Congress of the European
Society of Clinical Microbiology
and Infectious Diseases

20
26

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ESCMID Global 2026 Abstract Programme – Note from the Directors

This collection of abstracts from ESCMID Global 2026, held in Munich, Germany, from 17–21 April 2026, reflects the remarkable scientific contributions of the ESCMID community. The continued and growing engagement of researchers and clinicians from around the world further reinforces the role of ESCMID Global as a leading platform for the exchange of innovative research in clinical microbiology and infectious diseases.

This year's congress received a record number of 8,561 abstracts during the regular submission period and an additional 476 late-breaker submissions, reflecting the steady growth in scientific participation observed in recent years. The distribution of submissions across scientific categories remained consistent, with particularly strong representation in bacterial susceptibility and resistance, bacterial infections, and viral infections, accounting for 15%, 14%, and 11% of all submissions, respectively. Case reports and case series also represented a significant portion of contributions, comprising 14% of total submissions.

In total, 134 countries were represented among submitting authors, highlighting the truly international scope of the congress. Notably, 51% of submissions originated from outside Europe, including 17% from low- and middle-income countries, underscoring the expanding global engagement within the ESCMID community.

From the 9,037 abstracts submitted, 1,117 were accepted and selected for oral presentation in sessions held in halls and arenas, while 5,265 were accepted as poster presentations, resulting in an overall acceptance rate of 72%. The breadth, diversity, and quality of the research presented provide a strong foundation for scientific exchange and learning throughout the congress. The knowledge and discoveries shared at ESCMID Global 2026 will undoubtedly contribute to future advances in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of infectious diseases, ultimately benefiting patients and public health worldwide.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all authors who submitted abstracts and whose work forms the scientific backbone of the congress. We are equally grateful to the 1,141 dedicated reviewers, who contributed 42,602 individual reviews, ensuring a thorough and high-quality evaluation process. Finally, we acknowledge the invaluable commitment of the ESCMID Global 2026 Programme Committee, whose expertise and guidance helped shape a dynamic, diverse, and forward-looking scientific programme.

Giulia De Angelis
ESCMID Global
Associate Director



Jacob Moran-Gilad
ESCMID Global
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About ESCMID Global Abstract Book

We are delighted to present the abstract book for ESCMID Global 2026, held in Munich, Germany, from 17 to 21 April 2026. This volume brings together more than 6,000 abstracts presented at the congress, either as oral presentations or as posters, also made available through the ESCMID ePoster repository in accordance with the congress guidelines.

The abstracts are organised into 13 thematic categories reflecting the principal scientific areas addressed at the congress, alongside a dedicated section for late-breaking submissions. Poster abstracts are additionally grouped into subcategories to provide a more detailed clustering across the different research topics. Each abstract included in this book was subject to a peer-review process and assessed by at least three independent reviewers. On average, each abstract received five reviews.

The review process was supported by a distinguished panel of more than 1,000 experts drawn from the ESCMID Global expert members and faculty. Through their expertise and commitment, they played a key role in maintaining the high scientific standards of the selected abstracts.

To preserve the integrity of the authors' work, the abstracts presented in this book are published as submitted, without editorial modification to the text or figures. Authors granted permission for publication during the submission process. Responsibility for the accuracy, originality, authorship, and overall content of each abstract lies solely with the submitting authors. ESCMID does not assume responsibility for the content of the abstracts.

We warmly thank all authors and reviewers for their dedication and valuable contributions. Their efforts not only enrich this abstract collection but also form the scientific foundation of ESCMID Global. We hope this abstract book will serve as a useful reference and as a reflection of the outstanding research shared within the ESCMID community.

Sincerely,
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Abstract Categories and Subcategories

1. Viral infection & disease (incl COVID-19)

- [1a. HIV/AIDS \(incl diagnostics & epidemiology, anti-retroviral drugs, vaccines, treatment & susceptibility/resistance\)](#)
- [1b. Viral hepatitis \(incl diagnostics & epidemiology, antiviral drugs, vaccines, treatment & susceptibility/resistance\)](#)
- [1c. Influenza and respiratory viruses \(incl diagnostics & epidemiology, antiviral drugs, vaccines, treatment & susceptibility/resistance\)](#)
- [1d. Herpesviruses \(incl diagnostics & epidemiology, antiviral drugs, treatment & susceptibility/resistance, excl clinical studies in immunocompromised hosts\)](#)
- [1e. Emerging/re-emerging, vector-borne and zoonotic viral diseases \(other than COVID\)](#)
- [1f. Diagnostic virology \(other than respiratory viruses, herpesviruses, hepatitis & HIV; incl traditional, molecular, genomic and other methods\)](#)
- [1g. Viral epidemiology – general, prevalence studies, molecular and genomic epidemiology \(other than respiratory viruses, herpesviruses, hepatitis & HIV\)](#)
- [1h. Antiviral drugs, treatment, susceptibility/resistance \(other than respiratory viruses, herpesviruses, hepatitis & HIV\)](#)
- [1i. Fundamental and applied virology \(incl in vitro and in vivo models, novel methods\)](#)
- [1j. COVID-19 \(incl virology, epidemiology, evolution, immune response, diagnosis, treatment, vaccination, prevention, response and societal impact\)](#)

2. Bacterial infection & disease

- [2a. Tuberculosis and other mycobacterial infections \(incl epidemiology, clinical, diagnostics, antimycobacterial drugs, susceptibility testing, treatment & prevention\)](#)
- [2b. Severe sepsis, bacteraemia & endocarditis \(incl epidemiology, diagnosis, host biomarkers, treatment, and outcome prediction\)](#)
- [2c. Community-acquired respiratory infections \(incl epidemiology, clinical features, imaging, treatment & prevention\)](#)
- [2d. Community-acquired abdominal/gastrointestinal infections \(incl epidemiology, clinical, imaging, treatment & prevention\)](#)
- [2e. Community-acquired urinary tract & genital tract infections \(incl epidemiology, clinical, imaging, treatment & prevention\)](#)
- [2f. Community-acquired skin, soft tissue, bone & joint infections \(incl epidemiology, clinical, imaging, treatment & prevention, excl prostheses\)](#)
- [2g. Community-acquired nervous system and other multi-system or invasive bacterial infections \(incl epidemiology, clinical, imaging, treatment & prevention\)](#)
- [2h. Zoonotic bacterial infections \(incl vector-borne pathogens, excl AMR\)](#)
- [2i. Other intracellular or rare bacteria](#)

3. Bacterial susceptibility & resistance

- [3a. Resistance surveillance & epidemiology: Community-acquired bacteria](#)
- [3b. Resistance surveillance & epidemiology: Healthcare-associated bacteria](#)
- [3c. Susceptibility testing methods \(incl assay validation, phenotypic assays and comparative studies, excl TB\)](#)
- [3d. Resistance mechanisms \(incl in vitro and in vivo studies, mobile elements, excl TB\)](#)
- [3e. Resistance detection/prediction approaches \(rapid and/or molecular assays, resistome analysis, inference methods\)](#)
- [3f. Clinical outcome of resistant infections \(retrospective and prospective studies, excl clinical trials of new drugs, excl case series\)](#)
- [3g. Spread of resistance \(incl carriage, reservoirs, ecology, One Health models, excl nosocomial transmission\)](#)
- [3h. Policy aspects of AMR \(incl societal impact, economics, mitigation\)](#)

4. Diagnostic microbiology

- [4a. Diagnostic bacteriology \(incl culture based, traditional and general microbiology, serology, excl AST methods\)](#)
- [4b. Laboratory management \(incl automation, data management, QC/QA, regulatory aspects\)](#)
- [4c. MALDI-TOF and other proteomic methods](#)
- [4d. Molecular diagnostics \(incl POCT and syndromic testing\)](#)
- [4e. Strain typing and surveillance \(incl molecular, genomic and other advanced methods\)](#)
- [4f. Whole genome sequencing \(incl pathogen characterisation, diagnostics, excl typing\)](#)
- [4g. Microbiome studies \(incl clinical and diagnostic studies, One Health aspects, excl fundamental science\)](#)
- [4h. Clinical metagenomics](#)
- [4i. Bioinformatics tools & pipelines](#)
- [4j. Artificial intelligence based tools and digital health](#)
- [4k. Other novel diagnostic technologies](#)

5. New antibacterial agents, PK/PD & Stewardship

- [5a. Drug discovery and new compounds mechanisms of action & spectrum, preclinical data & basic pharmacology \(incl drug design, investigational and non-traditional therapeutics\)](#)
- [5b. Pharmacokinetics/pharmacodynamics of antibacterial drugs & therapeutic drug monitoring \(incl lab methods, models, in vitro and in vivo studies\)](#)
- [5c. New or repurposed antibacterial agents: Clinical studies and randomised trials](#)
- [5d. Antimicrobial stewardship and prescribing \(incl interventions, monitoring, impact, decision-support/prediction tools, behavioural aspects\)](#)
- [5e. Safety, hypersensitivity and adverse effects of treatment](#)
- [5f. Pharmacoepidemiology/pharmacoeconomics \(incl cost-effectiveness, modelling, data tools\)](#)

6. Fungal infection & disease

- [6a. Fundamental mycology \(incl in vitro and in vivo studies, pathogenesis, virulence, mycobiome\)](#)
- [6b. Fungal disease epidemiology](#)

Abstract Categories and Subcategories

- [6c. Diagnostic mycology \(incl traditional, molecular and other methods\)](#)
- [6d. Antifungal susceptibility testing & resistance \(incl surveillance, mechanisms\)](#)
- [6e. Antifungal drugs & treatment \(incl pre-clinical studies and clinical trials\)](#)

[7. Parasitic diseases, travel medicine & migrant health](#)

- [7a. Fundamental parasitology](#)
- [7b. Parasitic disease epidemiology](#)
- [7c. Diagnostic parasitology \(incl traditional, molecular and genomic methods\)](#)
- [7d. Antiparasitic drugs & treatment \(incl pre-clinical studies and clinical trials\)](#)
- [7e. Antiparasitic susceptibility & drug resistance \(incl surveillance, mechanism\)](#)
- [7f. Travel medicine, migrant and refugee health](#)

[8. Healthcare-associated infections, infection prevention & control](#)

- [8a. Intravascular catheter-related infections \(incl epidemiology, prevention\)](#)
- [8b. Other foreign-body and implant-associated infections \(incl PJI\)](#)
- [8c. Surgical site infections](#)
- [8d. Healthcare-associated pneumonia \(incl VAP\)](#)
- [8e. Hospital epidemiology, transmission, surveillance & screening \(incl. hospital environment\)](#)
- [8f. Other healthcare associated infections \(incl CDI, hospital outbreaks\)](#)
- [8g. Infection control interventions and trials \(incl microbiota transplantation\)](#)
- [8h. Disinfection & sterilisation \(incl medical device reprocessing\)](#)
- [8i. Healthcare workers and infection prevention \(incl vaccination, protective equipment, behavioural aspects, training and practices\)](#)

[9. Fundamental microbiology, pathogenesis & immunity to infection](#)

- [9a. Microbial pathogenesis & virulence](#)
- [9b. Host-pathogen interaction \(incl basic microbiome studies, animal models\)](#)
- [9c. Pre-clinical biofilm studies](#)
- [9d. Experimental and cellular microbiology](#)
- [9e. Fundamental science studies using Omics \(in vitro and in vivo\)](#)
- [9f. Immune response to infection \(incl in vitro, animal and human studies, laboratory assessment of immunity and response, excl sepsis biomarkers\)](#)

[10. Immune compromise & transplant ID](#)

- [10a. Host genetics: Susceptibility to infection & primary immunodeficiency](#)
- [10b. Infections related to solid organ transplantation](#)
- [10c. Infections related to haematopoietic stem cell transplantation](#)
- [10d. Infections related to cell-based therapies](#)
- [10e. Infections related to cancer treatment \(incl neutropaenia\)](#)
- [10f. Infections related to other forms of immunosuppression \(e.g. gastrointestinal, rheumatological, dermatological disease, biologicals\)](#)

[11. Public health & vaccines](#)

- [11a. General vaccinology \(incl in vitro and in vivo studies, safety, regulatory, policy, social aspects\)](#)
- [11b. Antiviral vaccines \(excl respiratory and bloodborne viruses\)](#)
- [11c. Antibacterial vaccines](#)
- [11d. Other preventive modalities \(incl new vaccine technologies, antibody-based treatments\)](#)
- [11e. Food & water safety, environmental health, vector epidemiology](#)
- [11f. Veterinary microbiology and One Health \(excl AMR\)](#)
- [11g. Global health & health security \(incl policy-making, climate change, biosafety/biosecurity\)](#)
- [11h. Infections in low-resource settings \(incl disease burden, health infrastructure, health disparities and vulnerable populations\)](#)

[12. Professional and educational affairs](#)

- [12a. Professional affairs and career development](#)
- [12b. Publishing, ethics, other academic affairs](#)
- [12c. Medical education for CM/ID](#)
- [12d. Diversity and equality](#)
- [12e. Advocacy and role of patients](#)

[13. Case reports and case series \(n<10\)](#)

- [13a. Viral infections](#)
- [13b. Bacterial infections](#)
- [13c. Fungal infections](#)
- [13d. Parasitic infections](#)
- [13e. Other unusual clinical situations](#)

[20. Late-breakers](#)

[21. New drugs and vaccines](#)

[22. Clinical trials](#)

[23. New and emerging pathogens](#)

[24. Outbreaks and public health emergencies](#)

Neutrophil apoptosis markers in children with pyelonephritis caused by *Klebsiella pneumoniae* on background of congenital hydronephrosis

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Background

The disruption of apoptosis mechanisms plays a significant role in development of bacterial kidney disease in children. Thus, pathophysiological role of apoptosis mechanisms in kidney pathology development and progression requires detailed study.

The aim was to establish pathogenetic significance of apoptosis markers in primary and secondary pyelonephritis progression in children.

Methods

Microbiological (MICRO-LA-TEST kits), microscopic (detection of morphological features of apoptosis), immunocytochemical (FACS Calibur flow cytometer, CELLQuestPro program), statistical methods were used.

Results

The number of neutrophils at early stage of apoptosis in young children with primary *K.pneumoniae* pyelonephritis averaged 4.2 ± 0.02 %; in 4-8 years – 3.1 ± 0.04 %, in 9-18 years – 3.8 ± 0.09 %. In children with secondary *K.pneumoniae* pyelonephritis on background of hydronephrosis, the number of neutrophils in early stage of apoptosis was significantly increased: in 0-3 years – 28.1 ± 0.2 %, in 4-8 years – 22.7 ± 0.8 %, in 9-18 years – 18.2 ± 0.6 %, which can be explained by bacterial pathogenicity factors action, especially dense daily biofilms formation.

The number of lymphocytes with fragmented nuclei in blood smears of children with secondary pyelonephritis on background of hydronephrosis was found to be in six times higher than corresponding indicator in children with primary pyelonephritis ($p < 0.001$). Metabolic products and *K.pneumoniae* biofilms are inducers of early stages of apoptosis and lead to expression of CD95 apoptosis receptors: level of CD95+ lymphocytes was in 1.8 (0-3 years), 2.3 (4-8 years) and 3.8 (9-18 years), and in children with secondary pyelonephritis on background of hydronephrosis in 4.2, 5.1 and 6.3 (respectively) times higher than the control values.

Conclusions

The study showed that children, especially young, with primary *K.pneumoniae* pyelonephritis have increased lymphocytes apoptotic activity, manifested by increased expression of CD95 and Annexin V+ cells together with increased content of lymphocytes with nuclei fragmentation. In children with secondary *K.pneumoniae* pyelonephritis on background of hydronephrosis, a direct high correlation ($r=0.89$) was found between expression of apoptosis marker CD95 and density of daily *K.pneumoniae* biofilms.