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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

4th INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM CHRONIC FATIGUE SYNDROME, LONG COVID AND POST INFECTION SYNDROMES

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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is limited, diagnostic criteria are inconsistent, and guidelines for diagnosis and treatment are inadequate and outdated.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**



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

FINAL PROGRAMME

**14th November 2025 , National Institute for Heart and Blood vessels -
Dedinje, Belgrade, Serbia**

08:00-09:00 Registration

09:00-09:30 Opening 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

President of Charite- Invest in ME research
UK

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 Cardiovascular 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 comprehensive and detailed understanding of the exposome concept and environmental 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 of Young EMERG board)**

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 board

14:15-14 :30 Clinical Phenotypes in ME/CFS: The Role of Hypermobility

Timon Zupanc (Ljubljana,Slovenia)

Member of Young EMERG board

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

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

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



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