



TMA'S GLOBAL MYOSITIS PATIENT CONFERENCE
SEPTEMBER 24 - 27, 2026
HYATT REGENCY • ST. LOUIS AT THE ARCH



Education Schedule

*This preliminary agenda lists breakout sessions scheduled for Friday through Sunday at MyoCon.
View the full conference schedule, including virtual breakout sessions, on [our website](#).*

Friday | September 25, 2026

9:30am – 10:30am Breakout Sessions

- **New! Move at Your Own Pace: Adaptive Pilates & PT Workout** | Craig Miller, PT, MPH; Gwenyth Miller, JDM Advocate | *Please join an exercise session exploring Pilates and the power of physical therapy!* | Sponsored by AstraZeneca
- **New! Rare Disease, Real Power: Why Myositis Advocacy Matters More Than Ever** | Rich DeAugustinis; Grace Kranstover; Mark Vieth

11:00am – 12:00pm Breakout Sessions: Back to Basics

Whether you're newly diagnosed, need a refresher, or are a family member trying to understand what's happening to your loved one, this session covers the basics of myositis diseases, diagnosis, and management. Choose the session with which you most closely identify.

- **Back to Basics: Antisynthetase Syndrome (ASyS)** | Valérie Leclair, MD, PhD
- **Back to Basics: Dermatomyositis (DM)** | Victoria Werth, MD
- **Back to Basics: Immune-Mediated Necrotizing Myopathy (IMNM, NAM, NM)** | Tahseen Mozaffar, MD
- **Back to Basics: Inclusion Body Myositis (IBM)** | Mazen Dimachkie, MD
- **Back to Basics: Polymyositis (PM) & Overlap Myositis (OM)** | Adam Schiftenbauer, MD

12:00pm Lunch on Your Own

12:30pm Exhibits Open

2:30pm – 4:00pm Breakout Sessions: Ask the Experts Panels

These informal Q&A sessions offer the chance to discuss your symptoms, treatments, disease course, and more with mini town halls featuring TMA Medical Advisors and invited experts. Choose the session with which you most closely identify. According to disease type.

- **Ask the Experts: Antisynthetase Syndrome and/or Myositis-associated Interstitial Lung Disease (ILD)** | Keith T. Ferguson, MD; Rebecca Anna Gersten, MD; Didem Saygin, MD; Deepali Sen, MD
- **Ask the Experts: Dermatomyositis** | Emily Cole, MD; Jonathan Kruger, MD; Christian Lood, PhD; Guillermo J. Valenzuela, MD, F.A.C.R.; Victoria Werth, MD

- **Ask the Experts: Immune-Mediated Necrotizing Myopathy** | Robert C. Bucelli, MD, PhD; Tahseen Mozaffar, MD; Adam Schiffenbauer, MD
- **Ask the Experts: Inclusion Body Myositis** | Mazen Dimachkie, MD; Stephanie Hunn, DPT; Nataliya Slater, PhD; Conrad (Chris) Weihl, MD, PhD
- **Ask the Experts: Polymyositis and Overlap Myositis** | David R. Fernandez, MD, PhD; Latika Gupta, MD, MRCP, DM; Valérie Leclair, MD, PhD; Manouela Valtcheva, MD, PhD

4:00pm – 4:30pm **Break, Networking, Exhibitors**

4:30pm – 6:00pm **Opening General Session | “The Invisible Kingdom”** Keynote: Meghan O’Rourke, introduced by Barbara Shaw, DNP, APN, FNP-C

Saturday | September 26, 2026

8:00am – 9:00am **Breakout Sessions**

- **New! Rheum and Pulm Together: A Team Approach to Myositis-ILD** | Rebecca Anna Gersten, MD; Deepali Sen, MD
- **Rare within Rare: Elevating Lived Experience in Myositis Care, presented by TMA Myositis Women of Color Affinity Group** | Holly Jones
- **Your IVIG Field Guide: Infusion Treatment and Daily Life** | Jonathan Kruger, MD; Jan Jones, MSN, RN, IgCN | *Sponsored by Octapharma*

9:00am – 10:30am **New! Movement as Medicine: Adaptive Yoga Workshop and Panel** | Brooke Eastham, MD; Carrie McCullough, MD; Kristin McGee; Jennifer Swisher, PA-C | *Sponsored by Priovent Therapeutics*

9:30am – 10:30am **Breakout Sessions**

- **New! Integrating Palliative Care into Myositis Treatment** | Rebecca Anna Gersten, MD
- **New! Listening to Your Body: Energy Conservation, Movement, and Flare Response** | Stefanie Remson, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC | *Sponsored by J&J*
- **Real Talk on Myositis Studies from Clinical Trial Participants** | Bennett Darling; Joe Feidt; Lindsay Guentzel; Malati Shinazy | *Sponsored by AstraZeneca*

10:30am – 11:00am **Break, Networking, Exhibitor**

11:00am – 12:00pm **Breakout Sessions**

- **Challenges and Opportunities in IBM Research: What Causes IBM and What Treatments Could the Future Hold?** | Nataliya Slater, PhD (*this session will not be recorded*)
- **New! Count Me In: Why Registries Matter, For You and For the Next Patient** | Jane Myles; Adam Schiffenbauer; Sakshi Solanki, MD; Victoria Werth, MD
- **New! IMNM Uncovered: Weakness, Recovery, and What's Next** | Julie Paik, MD
- **New! Pain in Myositis: What We Know, What We’re Still Learning** | Didem Saygin, MD | *Sponsored by Pfizer*
- **New! Your Resource Roadmap: Navigating Assistance Programs** | Richard Brown

12:00pm – 1:15pm **Networking Lunch by Location**

1:30pm – 2:30pm **Breakout Sessions**

- **A Practical Guide to Fall Risk and Recovery for the Myositis Community** | Stephanie Hunn, DPT
- **Clinical Trials in Myositis: From Trial Design to Results** | Julie Paik, MD, MHS
- **Mitochondria: Power Plants on the Go in Myositis** | Christian Lood, PhD
- **Myositis Medications and Management** | David R. Fernandez, MD, PhD

2:30pm – 3:00pm **Break, Networking, Exhibitors**

3:00pm – 4:00pm **Breakout Sessions**

- **New! IBM Beyond Inflammation: Mitochondrial Involvement and Protein Aggregation** | Elie Naddaf, MD
- **New! Precision Medicine in Myositis: Using Autoantibodies and Blood Biomarkers to Personalize Care** | Julio Huapaya, MD
- **Swallowing Matters: Understanding and Managing Dysphagia in Myositis** | Georgia A. Malandraki, PhD, CCC-SLP, BCS-S, ASHA Fellow
- **New! The Science Behind Complementary and Integrative Health** | Latika Gupta, MD, MRCP, DM

4:00pm – 5:00pm **Break, Networking, Exhibitors**

Sunday | September 27, 2026

8:30am – 9:30am **Breakout Sessions**

- **Assistive Hints & Hacks: Everyday Tools and Technologies for Living Well with Myositis** | Monique Costello, LCSW | *Sponsored by Keenova*
- **Finding Strength through Faith** | Chip Galloway with special guest Father Bart Tolleson
- **The Evolving Landscape of Cellular Therapies for Myositis** | Julie Paik, MD, MHS; Elie Naddaf, MD; Anahit C. Mehrabyan, MD; Guillermo Valenzuela, MD | *Sponsored by Bristol Myers Squibb, Cabaletta Bio, Nkarta*
- **New! Using Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Myositis and Rare Disease** | Latika Gupta, MD; Jennifer Swisher, PA-C
- **New! When Injury Triggers Skin Flares: Understanding Koebner Phenomenon in DM** | Emily Cole, MD

9:30am – 9:45am **Break, Networking, Exhibitors**

9:45am – 11:00am **Closing General Session | “The Strength in Us: Stories of Kindness, Courage and Hope”**

Keynote: Mike Bush, introduced by Karen and Ralph Perkul