

PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS

1 – 2 October 2026

EuCARE Rome Conference

Explore the
Event Schedule



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CCB
Co-ordinating Centre for
Bioscience

PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS

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EuCARE Rome Conference

LE MERIDIEN VISCONTI, Via Federico Cesi 37, Rome

Day 1 | Thursday

1 October 2026

Focus: Scientific Excellence & Impact

Registration & Welcome Coffee **13:30-14:00**

Opening Plenary **14:00-14:30**

Welcome Address | Francesca Incardona, EuCARE Project Coordinator, Euresist Network

Opening Remarks | Tarek Derrough, European Commission

Session 1 | Clinical Aspects **14:30-16:00**

Moderator | Anders Sönnernborg, Karolinska Institute

Keynote speech | Global lessons from the Covid-19 pandemic. Did we learn anything or are we still even more confused? | **Mika Salminen**, Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare

Results and open issues

Is Covid-19 still a clinical problem? Insights from the EuCARE project

Pontus Naucner, Karolinska Institutet (EuCARE)

Pregnancy, pandemics and preparedness: lessons from VERDI and beyond

Claire Thorne, University College London (VERDI)

Paediatric infection hospital admissions in England before, during and after the COVID-19 pandemic | **Charlotte Jackson**, University College London (VERDI)

Policy Impact Discussion Introductory speech | **Mika Salminen**, Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare

Session 2 | Long Covid **16:00 – 17:30**

Keynote speech | Long COVID: Why does it occur and should we still care?

Steven Deeks, University of California S. Francisco

Results and open issues

PASC in the EuCARE Study: Clinical Trajectories, Biological Mechanisms and Open Questions | **Giulia Marchetti**, University of Milan (EuCARE)

Conceptualizing Predisposing Factors in Long Covid: The Case of the Multi-Traumatic Profile
Julie Mullier, Sorbonne Université

Post-Acute Outcomes After SARS-CoV-2 vs. Other Respiratory Viruses | **Julia Caporali**, Federal University of Minas Gerais (EuCARE)

Policy Impact Discussion Introductory speech

PASC and the Policy Gap: Translating Research into Action | **Clara Lehmann**, DZIF - German Center for Infection Research

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Day 2 | Friday

2 October 2026

Session 3: Vaccination & Immunology

09:00-10:30

Moderator | Maurizio Zazzi, University of Siena

Keynote speech | COVID-19 Immunology and Vaccines: Facts, Legends, and Politics
Guido Silvestri, Emory University, USA

Keynote speech | Pandemic preparedness: the role of Fondazione Biotechnopolo and the European Vaccines Hub | Rino Rappuoli, Biotechnopole Foundation, Siena

Results and open issues

Vaccination in health workers-persuading the persuaders | Francis Drobniewski,
Imperial College London (EuCARE)

Policy Impact Discussion Introductory speech w | Strategies to establish sustainable multinational networks in clinical research on emerging infectious diseases and pandemic preparedness

Guillermo M. Ruiz-Palacios, National Institute of Health Sciences and Nutrition

Coffee Break

10:30-10:45

Session 4: Schools & social aspects

10:45-12:30

Moderator | Rolf Kaiser, University of Cologne

Keynote speech | Epidemiology and public health res: COVID-19, a retrospective on evidence
John Ioannidis, Stanford University

Results and open issues

Ethics: challenges and prospects | Francesca Incardona, Giorgio Resta University of Roma 3

School-based SARS-CoV-2 transmission dynamics using the Lolli method: results from the EuCARE study | Ana Abecasis, NOVA University of Lisbon (EuCARE)

EuCARE School Studies: Epidemiological Findings and Lessons for Future Pandemics

Sara Gandini, European Institute of Oncology (EuCARE)

Beyond COVID-19: Lessons from Children for Future Pandemic Preparedness

Daniele Donà, University of Padua (VERDI)

Policy Impact Discussion Introductory speech

Janna Seifried, Robert Koch Institut | Ana Abecasis, NOVA University of Lisbon

Lunch

12:45-13:45



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Day 2 | Friday

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Session 5: Roundtable – Preparedness

14:00-18:00

Introductory Stakeholder Lectures

Lessons for the future from the pandemic in Sweden

Anders Tegnell, Senior expert to and former State Epidemiologist at Public Health Sweden

Preparing for the next pandemic with epidemic models and AI: key building blocks and challenges

Pieter Libin, Vrije Universiteit Brussel

Moderated Roundtable | "Bridging the Gap Between Research and Policy: towards a shared statement for preparedness."

Moderators | **Anders Sönnernborg**, **Thomas Jänisch**

European coordination | **Evelina Tacconelli**, University of Verona, ORCHESTRA, CCB

Paediatric research | **Carlo Giaquinto**, Penta Foundation, Pipeline

Research networks | **Lennie Derde**, University medical center in Utrecht, Ecraid Foundation

LMIC research | **Thomas Jänisch**, Heidelberg University Hospital, ReCoDID, CONTAGIO

Research Cohorts | **Ali Judd**, University College London, VERDI

Hospital Networks | **Karine Lacombe**, Sorbonne Université, PROACT EU-Response

Afternoon Break

15:40-15:55

Moderators | **Evelina Tacconelli**, **Karine Lacombe**

National institutions perspective | **Daniel Naumovas** - Vice-Minister of Health of the Republic of Lithuania

Epidemiology | **Henrique De Barros**, Universidade do Porto

Schooling | **Roberto Ricci**, INVALSI Italian National Institute for the Educational Evaluation of Instruction and Training

EMA perspective | **Marco Cavaleri**, European Medicines Agency

Discussion and conference legacy: the joint statement on pandemic preparedness

17:30-18:00

Organising Committee

A. Abecasis, S. Gandini, C. Giaquinto, F. Incardona,

A. Sönnernborg, E. Tacconelli, M. Zazzi

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