

# ENCALS

European Network to Cure ALS

ENCALS MEETING 2026  
MADRID • SPAIN

24-25-26 JUNE 2026

PRE-CONGRESS DAY: JUNE 23

[www.encals-congress.com](http://www.encals-congress.com)



## PRE CONGRESS PROGRAM



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## WELCOME LETTER

Dear colleagues and partners,

On behalf of the ENCALS Executive Board and the Organizing Committee ENCALS Madrid 2026, it is our pleasure to welcoming you to the Annual Meeting of the European Network for the Cure of ALS, which is taking place in Madrid, from June 23rd to 26th, 2026, at the Palacio Municipal de Congresos.

ENCALS is the leading European forum for researchers, clinicians, and professionals dedicated to the study of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and other motor neuron diseases. Each year, this meeting brings together the most active and innovative teams in the field to share scientific discoveries, foster collaboration, and accelerate the translation of knowledge into meaningful therapeutic advances.

Madrid is hosting more than 1.000 researchers, neurologists, clinical teams and healthcare professionals during ENCALS 2026, presenting the latest progress in genetics, molecular biology, biomarkers, neuroimaging, clinical trials, technological innovation, and multidisciplinary care.

We would like to thank all the companies participating in ENCALS 2026. Your support is essential to make this event possible, and your participation directly contributes to both scientific progress and social impact in the fight against ALS.

With our warmest regards,

**Leonard van den Berg and Orla Hardiman**  
on behalf of the ENCALS Executive Committee

**Alberto García Redondo and Jesús Esteban Pérez**  
on behalf of the Organizing Committee ENCALS Madrid 2026

## VENUE

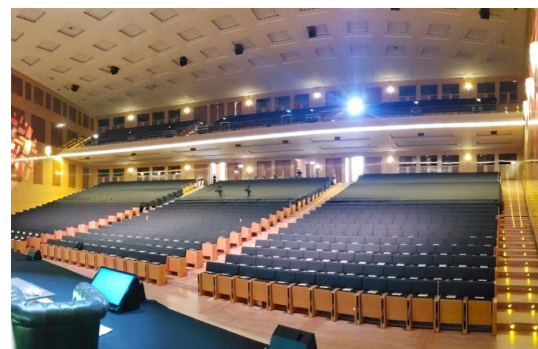
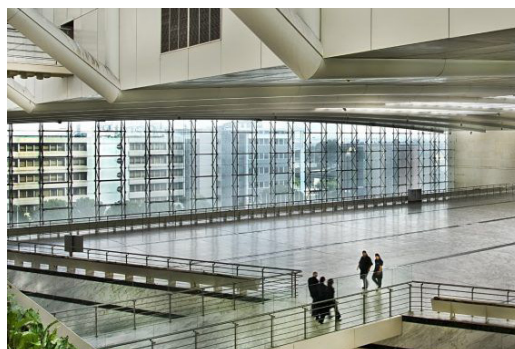
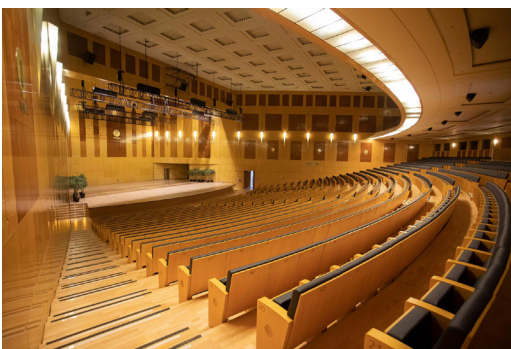
### PALACIO MUNICIPAL DE CONGRESOS DE MADRID (PALACIO MUNICIPAL - IFEMA MADRID)

Av. Capital de España, 7, 28042 Madrid (Spain)

[Website - click here](#)



The IFEMA Palacio Municipal in Madrid, Spain, is a modern and versatile convention center known for hosting a wide range of events, conferences, and exhibitions. Conveniently located near the city center, it offers state-of-the-art facilities and easy access to transportation, making it a prime venue for international gatherings.



## MAIN CONTACT DETAILS

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European Network to Cure ALS

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## Scientific Grid Pre-Congress Day

### TUESDAY June 23rd

	FIRST FLOOR		SECOND FLOOR		FOURTH FLOOR
	BUENOS AIRES - HAVANA - MEXICO ROOM	PRENSA ROOM	CARACAS - BOGOTÁ ROOM	LA PAZ - MONTEVIDEO ROOM	BRATISLAVA ROOM
09:00-10:00		INARC MEETING		PRECISION ALS	
10:00-11:00					
11:00-12:00					
12:00-13:00					
13:00-14:00	Lunch time				premodiALS Consortium
14:00-15:00	INARC MEETING	ALS App Europe Initiative	PRECISION ALS		
15:00-16:00				Industry session (see page 20)	Asymptomatic Gene Carrier Studies
16:00-17:00					
17:00-18:00					

### WEDNESDAY June 24th

	FIRST FLOOR		SECOND FLOOR		FOURTH FLOOR
	BUENOS AIRES - HAVANA - MEXICO ROOM	PRENSA ROOM	CARACAS - BOGOTÁ ROOM	LA PAZ - MONTEVIDEO ROOM	BRATISLAVA ROOM
09:00-10:00	(09.00-11.45) TRICALS	Neuropsychology workshop	Industry session (see page 20)	SEED Consortium	
10:00-11:00					
11:00-12:00					
12:00-13:00					

## Tuesday June 23th - Pre-Congress

### INTERNATIONAL NETWORK FOR ALS - RESEARCH AND CARE (INARC)

Tuesday, June 23th

9.30 am – 16.45 pm

Prensa room

### PERSON-CENTRED APPROACHES TO CARE AND RESEARCH FOR PEOPLE WITH MND/ALS

09.30-09.45 **Welcome and introduction to the day**

#### 09:45-11:00 **THE HOLISTIC APPROACH: ENSURING OPTIMAL AND APPROPRIATE PRACTICE**

*Fouke Ombelet ALS/MND Nurse Specialist,*

*KU Leuven Center for Brain & Disease Research*

**Explore MDT roles, ethical considerations, and contextual factors that support patient-centred decisions**

11:00-11:30 Coffee Break

#### 11:30-12:30 **COMMUNICATING EFFECTIVELY ABOUT RESEARCH WITH PEOPLE WITH AND AFFECTED BY MND**

*Michaela Waltho, Clinical Nurse Specialist,*

*National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, London*

**Investigate empathic, professional communication in emotionally challenging situations, focusing on what patients need to feel heard and understood.**

**Scenarios include disease progression, delivering bad news, and trial ineligibility.**

12:30-13:15 Lunch

#### 13:15-14:15 **RESPIRATORY SYSTEMS – A HANDS-ON WORKSHOP**

*Saúl Marín Esteban, Physiotherapist and Clinical Trial Coordinator.*

*La Paz University Hospital*

*Paul Matthew Burnham, Specialist Respiratory Physiotherapist.*

*Gregorio Marañón Hospital.*

*Miguel Valdazo Alonso, Respiratory Physiotherapist.*

*Breas Medical*

*Pilar Carbajo Gullón, Clinical Trials Research Nurse.*

*La Paz University Hospital*

**This interactive session introduces respiratory devices, SNIP, FVC and peak flow, and their use in research.**

## Tuesday June 23th - Pre-Congress

**14:15-15:00 COGNITIVE AND BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE: PROVIDING GOOD CARE & ENABLING RESEARCH PARTICIPATION WHEN THESE ARE PRESENT**

*Professor Eneida Mioshi, University of East Anglia*

This session will present current evidence while exploring experiences of those involved in care and research recruitment when cognitive and behavioural changes are present. We will share some potential parameters to support care and research participation practices across all affected by MND/ALS.

15:00-15:15 Comfort break

**15:15-16.30 PRACTICAL CHALLENGES IN MND RESEARCH**

*Alizé Chalançon, Project Manager, National Clinical Research Network France.*

In this session you will share the launch of the new Start Up package – a guide to setting up clinical trials.

16:30-16:45 Evaluation of the day



## Tuesday June 23th - Pre-Congress

### PRECISION ALS

Tuesday, June 23th

12.00 am – 18.00 pm

La Paz -Montevideo room

- 12.00-12:30 Lunch and Registration
- 12.30-12.45 **Introduction to the Largest ALS Dataset in the World**
- 12.45-13.45 **PRECISION ALS Platform**  
*Ronan McDonnell and the Technical Team*
- 13.45-14.15 Discussion
- 14.15-14.30 **Data Harmonisation, Update and Progress**
- 14.30-15.00 **Biomarkers: Neurofilaments, Proteomics, Transcriptomics**
- 15.00-15.15 Discussion
- 15.15-15.30 Coffee
- 15.30-15.45 **Digital Health Technologies**  
*Marc Elliot*
- 15.45-16.15 **Social Determinants of Health**  
*Miriam Galvin*
- 16.15-16.45 **AI & Machine Learning**  
*Robert Ross*
- 16.45-17.30 **Discussion and Next Steps**
- 17.30-17:50 **Summary and Date for the Next Meeting**

# Wednesday June 24th - Pre-Congress

## PREMODIALS

Wednesday, June 24th

1.00 pm – 3.30 pm

Bratislava room

- 1:00 **Welcome and Introduction**  
(Lingor)  
**State of the analysis and plan of future analysis**
- 1:05 **Overview of current analysis**  
(Tzeplaeff / Lingor / Galhoz / Menden)
- 1:20 **Future analyses**  
**Speech analysis – Ki-elements**  
(Thies)  
**miRNA analysis**  
(Magen / Hornstein)  
**Cell free DNA analysis**  
(Lingor)
- 1:40 **Predicting Phenoconversion to Clinically Manifest ALS**  
(Benatar)
- 1:55 **Discussion on the stage of the data, plans, publication strategies**  
(all)  
**Ongoing and future Recruitment**
- 2:15 **Overview of the international recruitment**  
France - Tours (Corcia)  
Slovakia (Turčanová)  
Turkiye - Antalya (Uysal)  
Switzerland (Weber / Neuwirth)  
Israel (Lerner / Alhlim)  
Czech Republic (Vlčkova / Betík)  
Germany - Rostock (Hermann)  
Germany - Munich (Lingor)
- 2:45 **Presentation of the new recruitment centers**  
France (Couratier / Guy / Danel Brunaud / del Mar Amador / Soriani / Bernard)  
Turkiye - Istanbul (Oflazer)  
Spain (Rubio)  
Belgium (Masroni)
- 3:00 **Discussion on recruitment planning and goals (all)**  
**Future of premodiALS – how to maintain a sustainable structure?**
- 3:20 **Prolongation of premodiALS and novel opportunities**  
(Lingor / all)
- 3:30 **End of the official meeting**

## Wednesday June 24th - Pre-Congress

### TRICALS

Wednesday, June 24th

9.00 am – 11.45 am

Buenos Aires – Havana - Mexico room

### Insights in recent and current clinical trial results

During the TRICALS satellite meeting, Companies will present their trial results, and several companies will provide updates on their ongoing studies. There will be ample opportunity for questions and discussion. This meeting represents an important moment to showcase the current state of clinical research in ALS and to highlight what lies ahead.

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### NEUROPSYCHOLOGY WORKING GROUP

Wednesday, June 24th

9.00 am – 12.30 pm

Prensa room

### Findings from last year

*Joke De Vocht*

### Introduction to this year's theme

*Ratko Radakovic, Caroline McHutchison*

### Talks from young researchers

*[TBD]*

## Wednesday June 24th - Pre-Congress

### SEED-ALS

Wednesday, June 24th

9 am-11.30 am

La Paz - Montevideo Room

9:00-9:05	<b>Welcome</b> <i>Carlos Sanz</i>	9:20-10:00	<b>Clinical core</b> <i>Carmen Paradas</i>
9:05-9:20	<b>PROJECT UPDATE</b> <b>Economic data</b> <i>Carlos Sanz</i> <b>General section</b> <i>Adolfo López de Munain</i> <b>Registry</b> <i>Carmen Paradas</i>	10:00-10:30	<b>BASIC CORE</b> <b>Cellular</b> <i>Ana Martínez</i> <b>Lipidomics and metabolism</b> <i>Estela Área</i> <b>Cellular</b> <i>Sonia Alonso</i>
		10:30-11:30	<b>Questions and discussion / Q&amp;A session</b>

### ALS APP EUROPE INITIATIVE MEETING

Wednesday, June 24th

3 pm-6 pm

Caracas - Bogotá Room

3.00 to 3.15	Welcome coffee
3.15 to 3.45	<b>Revised self-explanatory ALSFRS-R</b>
3.45 to 4.15	<b>Introduction of ALS Center App</b>
4.15 to 4.45	Coffee break
4.45 to 5.30	<b>ALS-OPM classification: correlation with ALS progression, NfL and survival</b>
5.30 to 6.00	<b>ALS-OPM in multiple languages</b>

## SECOND SECTION

**ENCALS**

European Network to Cure ALS

# Industry Sponsored session

## **AL-S PHARMA**

**AL-S Pharma Symposium**  
Tuesday, June 23rd  
3 pm-6 pm  
Buenos Aires – Havana – Mexico Room

**Ferrer-Prilenia Symposium**  
Wednesday, June 24th  
11.45 am-1 pm  
Buenos Aires – Havana – Mexico Room



**Italfarmaco Symposium**  
Wednesday, June 24th  
9 am-1 pm  
Caracas - Bogotá Room

# ENCALS

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