

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



FINAL 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

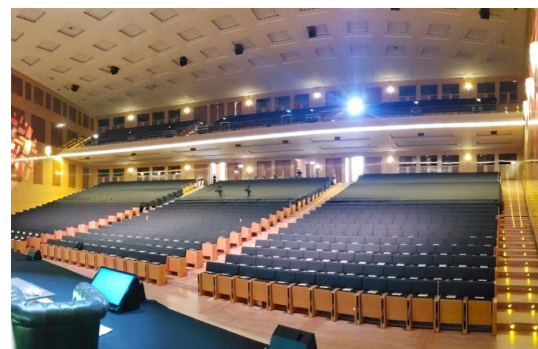
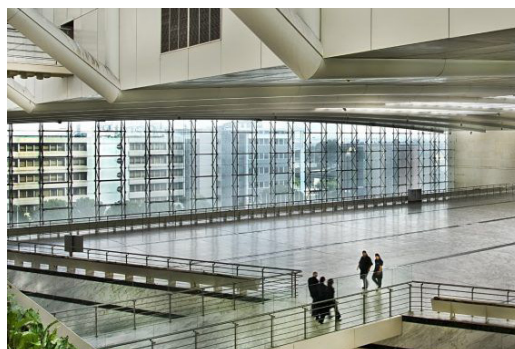
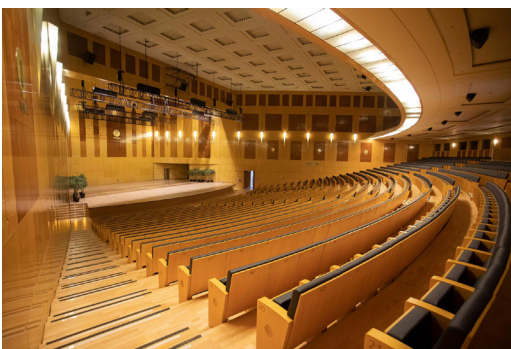
PALACIO MUNICIPAL DE CONGRESOS DE MADRID (PALACIO MUNICIPAL - IFEMA MADRID)

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	MND SWIFTT Meeting	INARC MEETING	BRAINTEASER	PRECISION ALS	
10:00-11:00			Asymptomatic individuals		
11:00-12:00					
12:00-13:00					
13:00-14:00	Lunch time				
14:00-15:00	AL-S Pharma symposium	INARC MEETING	ALS App Europe Initiative	PRECISION ALS	premodiALS Consortium
15:00-16:00					
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	Italfármaco symposium		SEED Consortium
10:00-11:00					
11:00-12:00					
12:00-13:00					

Scientific Grid ENCALS Meeting

WEDNESDAY June 24th

13:00-13:30	WELCOME ADDRESS
13:30-15:00	GENETICS AND GENOMICS IN ALS: FROM DISCOVERY TO PRECISION THERAPIES Plenary Speaker: John Landers (Worcester, MA, United States)
15:00-15:30	Coffee break and posters
15:30-17:00	PRESYMPTOMATIC & BIOMARKERS Plenary Speaker: Alex Thompson (Oxford, United Kingdom)
17:00-17:20	RAPID FIRE PRESENTATIONS
17:20-19:00	ENCALS RESEARCH FORUM – POSTERS SESSION

Scientific Grid

THURSDAY June 25th

08:30-10:00	<p>INNOVATIVE PRECLINICAL MODELS: BRIDGING MECHANISMS AND TRANSLATION Plenary Speaker: Jochen Weishaupt (Ulm, Germany)</p>
10:00-10:30	Coffee break and posters
10:30-11:40	<p>EPIDEMIOLOGY AND PHENOTYPING Plenary Speaker: Mónica Povedano Panadés (Barcelona, Spain)</p>
11:40-12:30	<p>DEBATE: ARE WE READY TO REDEFINE ALS THROUGH PRECISION AND EARLY INTERVENTION? Speakers: Andrea Calvo (Turin, Italy) and Ammar Al-Chalabi (London, United Kingdom)</p>
12:30-12:50	RAPID FIRE PRESENTATIONS
12:50-13:50	Lunch time and posters
13:50-14:50	<p>ALS AS A MULTISYSTEM DISORDER: BEYOND MOTOR NEURON DEGENERATION Plenary Speaker: Teresa Salas Campos (Madrid, Spain)</p>
14:50-15:15	RAPID FIRE PRESENTATIONS
15:15-15:45	Coffee break and posters
15:45-17:00	<p>RETHINKING ALS PATHOGENESIS: EMERGING MOLECULAR PARADIGMS Plenary Speaker: Christine Vande Velde (Montreal, Canada)</p>
17:00-18:15	ENCALS RESEARCH FORUM – POSTERS SESSION

20:00	<p>NETWORKING DINNER (Not included in the registration fee)</p>
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Scientific Grid

FRIDAY June 26th

09:00-10:15	CLINICAL TRIALS, STRATIFICATION AND CLINICAL OUTCOMES Plenary Speaker: Ruben van Eijk (Utrecht, The Netherlands)
10:15-10:45	YOUNG INVESTIGATOR AWARD
10:15-11:15	Coffee break
11:15-12:45	ADVANCED CLINICAL PHENOTYPING USING NEW TECHNOLOGIES Plenary Speakers: Alejandro Caravaca Puchades (Barcelona, Spain) and Nicola Ticozzi (Milan, Italy)
12:45-13:15	CLOSING SESSION

Wednesday June 24th

13:00-13:30 WELCOME ADDRESS

13:30-15:00 GENETICS AND GENOMICS IN ALS

13:30-13:45 Plenary Speaker:

John Landers (UMass Medical School, Worcester, MA, United States)

13:45-13:50 Discussion

13:50-14:00 Analysis Of ARPP21 Mutations In Familial And Sporadic Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis In The Spanish Population

Álvaro Carbayo Viejo, Spain

14:00-14:10 Rare Pathogenic Neurologic And Neurodevelopmental Variants In Als Associate With Onset, Survival And Family History

Ciara O'Donoghue, Ireland

14:10-14:20 Using Dutch Archive Data To Reconstruct Als Superpedigrees At Scale

Daphne van Oosten, The Netherlands

14:20-14:30 The Shared And Differential Genetic Risk Factors Of Neurodegeneration

Tomas Gomes, Ireland

14:30-14:40 U7 SnRNAs Based Gene Therapies Targeting Cryptic Splicing Events Involved In ALS/FTD

Alessandro Marrero Gagliardi, United Kingdom

14:40-14:50 Restoring TDP-43 Function: The Translational Potential Of AP-2 In ALS

Ana Martinez, Spain

14:50-15:00 Arc-Mediated TDP-43 Encapsidation Drives Intercellular Propagation In ALS: A Novel Therapeutic "Firewall" Validated By Lenacapavir Repositioning

Gorka Gereñu Lopetegui, Spain

15:00-15:30 Coffee Break and Posters

15:30-17:00 PRESYMPTOMATIC & BIOMARKERS

15:30-15:45 Plenary Speaker:

Alexander Thompson (University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom)

15:45-15:50 Discussion

15:50-16:00 Presymptomatic Changes In Brain Structure In Sporadic And C9orf72 Mutation Carrying ALS Patients

Pauline van Lieshout, The Netherlands

16:00-16:10 Plasma Lipidomic Signatures Contribute To Biological Stratification Of ALS Progression

Bernat Bertran Recasens, Spain

Wednesday June 24th

- 16:10-16:20 **A Large Scale Study Of Urinary P75ECD In Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, Primary Lateral Sclerosis And Mimics**
Koen C. Demaegd, The Netherlands
- 16:20-16:30 **Muscle Proteins Dominate The Circulating Proteomic Signature Of ALS And ALS Phenotypes**
Louisa Azizi, Sweden
- 16:30-16:40 **Sweat Gland TDP-43 Pathology Precedes Symptom Onset In Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis**
Katie Hanna, United Kingdom
- 16:40-16:50 **Lipid And Muscle Biomarker Trajectories Before ALS Or FTD**
Christos V. Chalitsios, United Kingdom
- 16:50-17:00 **Multiparametric Muscle Ultrasound In Early Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis: Morphological And Textural Biomarkers As Diagnostic Discriminators**
José Ríos-Díaz, Spain
- 17:00-17:20 RAPID FIRE PRESENTATIONS**
- 17:00-17:02 **Different Contribution Of Nucleus Accumbens And Amygdala Subnuclei To The Emergence Of Positive And Negative Behavioural Symptoms In Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis**
Alessio Maranzano, Italy
- 17:02-17:04 **Spinal Cord Atrophy Across Clinical Phenotypes And Stages In Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis: Results From a large multicentre MRI Cohort**
Giorgia Querin, France
- 17:04-17:06 **The Effect Of An UNC13A Polymorphism On Neuroimaging In ALS**
Justus van Nispen tot Sevenaer, The Netherlands
- 17:06-17:08 **Quantifying Survival Differences Between ALS Clinical Trial Participants And Population Cohorts: Evidence of prognostic enrichment in clinical trials**
Emeka Uzochukwu, United Kingdom
- 17:08-17:10 **Replication Of Beta EEG Oscillations Related To The Sustained Attention To Response Task In Irish And Dutch Cohorts**
Marit Boxum, The Netherlands
- 17:10-17:12 **Frontotemporal Alpha Power Is Reduced In People With ALS But Alpha Modulation Remains Intact**
Narin Suleyman, Ireland
- 17:12-17:14 **Global Taskforce On Genetic Counselling And Testing In ALS/MND: Developing Consensus-Based Guidelines**
Ammar Al-Chalabi, United Kingdom
- 17:14-17:20 Discussion
- 17:20-19:00 ENCALS RESEARCH FORUM – POSTERS SESSION**
Complete list of posters on page XX

Thursday June 25th

08:30-10:00 INNOVATIVE PRECLINICAL MODELS:

BRIDGING MECHANISMS AND TRANSLATION

08:30-08:45 **Plenary Speaker:**

Jochen Weishaupt

(Universitäts und Rehabilitationskliniken Ulm (RKU), Ulm, Germany)

08:45-08:50 Discussion

08:50-09:00 **Elucidating The Pathological Interplay Between Cytoskeletal Alterations And mRNA Metabolism In Profilin1-Mutant Human Motor Neurons**

Christina Steffke, Germany

09:00-09:10 **ALS Susceptibility Gene ARPP21 Assembles Into Dynamic RNA Granules And Drives TDP-43 Proteinopathy**

Afra Aabdien, United Kingdom

09:10-09:20 **Targeting The PP2A-AKT-GSK3 Axis In ALS: Implication Of FMRP**

Benedetta Frizzi, Belgium

09:20-09:30 **Dissecting The Mechanisms And Rescue Of Astrocyte Toxicity In Sporadic Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (SALS)**

Katie Bowden, United Kingdom

09:30-09:40 **Dysregulated Skeletal Muscle Signaling And Extracellular Vesicle Cargo Disrupt Muscle-to-neuron Communication In ALS**

Amaia Elicegui, Spain

09:40-09:50 **TDP-43 Pathology Induces CD8 T Cell Activation Through Cryptic Epitope Recognition**

Matteo Zanovello, United Kingdom

09:50-10:00 **RIG-I Mediated Neuron-Specific IFN Type 1 Signaling In FUS-ALS Induces Neurodegeneration And Offers New Biomarker-Driven Individualized Treatment Options For (FUS-)ALS**

Marcel Naumann, Germany

10:00-10:30 Coffee Break and Posters

Thursday June 25th

10:30-11:40 EPIDEMIOLOGY AND PHENOTYPING

10:30-10:45 Plenary Speaker:

Mónica Povedano Panadés

(Hospital Universitari de Bellvitge – IDIBELL, Barcelona, Spain)

10:45-10:50 Discussion

10:50-11:00 The Risk Of MND In A Large Cohort Of Male UK Former Professional Footballers

Elisabetta Pupillo, Italy

11:00-11:10 The Multistep Pathogenic Hypothesis Of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Is Incompatible With The Epidemiological Data

Guglielmo Foffani, Italy

11:10-11:20 Examining The Age-Incidence Curves Of ALS Across European Register: The Multistep Hypothesis revisited

Robert McFarlane, Ireland

11:20-11:30 Exposome-Wide Association Study (ExWAS) In ALS

Laura van der Schoor, The Netherlands

11:30-11:40 Motor Function And Symptom Burden In Advanced ALS – ALS Functional Rating Scale Assessment Proximate To Death

Susanne Spittel, Germany

11:40-12:30 DEBATE

ARE WE READY TO REDEFINE ALS THROUGH PRECISION AND EARLY INTERVENTION?

Plenary Speakers:

Andrea Calvo

(Università degli Studi di Torino and AOU Città della Salute e della Scienza di Torino Hospital, Turin, Italy)

Ammar Al-Chalabi

(Maurice Wohl Clinical Neuroscience Institute and King's College London, London, United Kingdom)

12:30-12:50 RAPID FIRE PRESENTATIONS

12:30-12:32 Large-Scale Exome Analyses Reveal Novel Rare Variant Contributions In Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis

Paul Hop, The Netherlands

12:32-12:34 Identity-By-Descent Analyses Reveals C9orf72 Discordance, Cryptic Relatedness, And Expanded ALS Pedigrees

Ciara O'Donoghue, Ireland

12:34-12:36 Genetic Architecture Of Familial ALS In The Netherlands

Bi-Nan Wang, The Netherlands

12:36-12:38 Exploring The Power To Detect Pathogenic Mutations Through Haplotype Analyses In Distantly Related patients with ALS

Paul Beele, The Netherlands

Thursday June 25th

- 12:38-12:40 **APOEε4 Homozygosity Accelerates The Onset And Progression Of ALS Neurodegeneration**
Sebastian A. Lewandowski, Sweden
- 12:40-12:42 **Integrated CSF–Blood Immune Profiling Reveals Immune Signatures Associated With Clinical Response**
Timothy Tree, United Kingdom
- 12:42-12:44 **Clustering On CSF Biomarkers And Clinical Parameters Reveals A Signature Of Neuroinflammation**
Manuela Basso, Italy
- 12:44-12:46 **Metabolic Signatures Of Ferritin And TDP-43 Co-Pathology Provide A Mechanistic Basis For Stratified Therapeutic approaches in ALS**
Holly Spence, United Kingdom
- 12:46-12:50 Discussion
- 12:50-13:50 Lunch Time and Posters
- 13:50-14:50 ALS AS A MULTISYSTEM DISORDER: BEYOND MOTOR NEURON DEGENERATION**
- 13:50-14:05 **Plenary Speaker:**
Teresa Salas Campos
(Hospital Universitario La Paz/Carlos III, Madrid, Spain)
- 14:05-14:10 Discussion
- 14:10-14:20 **Neuropsychological Sub-Phenotypes In Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis**
Barbara Poletti, Italy
- 14:20-14:30 **Quantifying Behavioral Changes In ALS: Longitudinal Trajectories And Functional Network 72 Correlates Of A Domain-Specific Behavioral Scale**
Laura Josephine Hagedorn, The Netherlands
- 14:30-14:40 **Cognitive Profiles In C9orf72 Families: Evidence For Nurture By Nature**
Annebelle Michielsen, The Netherlands
- 14:40-14:50 **Somatosensory Neurological Soft Signs Associate With Executive Function In Unaffected Familial ALS Relatives Independent Of C9orf72 Status**
Sarah Darcy, Ireland
- 14:50-15:15 RAPID FIRE PRESENTATIONS**
- 14:50-14:52 **C9orf72 Repeat Expansion Affects Immune Response In A Xenografted Microglia Mouse Model**
Laura Fumagalli, Belgium
- 14:52-14:54 **A Distinct SPP1 Microglial Subset Initiates CD44–astrocyte Crosstalk In ALS**
Jianing Lin, Sweden
- 14:54-14:56 **Proteomic And Histological Profiling Of The ALS Visual Cortex Reveals Early Presynaptic Dysfunction And White Matter Atrophy**
Zsofia Laszlo, United Kingdom

Thursday June 25th

- 14:56-14:58 **Novel TDP-43 Amyloid Polymorphs Uncover Aggregation Mechanisms In ALS**
Javier Oroz, Spain
- 14:58-15:00 **STMN2 Protein Depletion Via Translation Deficits And Stress Granules Independent Of TDP-43 Loss Of function**
Brittany Ellis, United Kingdom
- 15:00-15:02 **M6A-Dependent RNA Condensation Underlies FUS Autoregulation And Can Be Harnessed For ALS Therapy**
Vedanth Kumar, United Kingdom
- 15:02-15:04 **TDP-43 Dysfunction Disrupts Brain Cholesterol Homeostasis And Is Exacerbated By A High-Fat Diet**
Irene García-Toledo, Spain
- 15:04-15:06 **Patient-Derived Cortical Brain Organoids Model Key Pathological Features Of ALS**
Beatriz Fernandez-Muñoz, Spain
- 15:06-15:08 **CRISPR Kinome Screens In Human Motor Neurons Reveal Druggable Modulators Of TDP-43 Pathology**
Tania Atienzar, United Kingdom
- 15:08-15:10 **Disruption Of The Motor Neuron Translatome Is Disease-Specific In ALS And SMA But Converges On MCM5**
Hannah Smith, United Kingdom
- 15:10-15:15 Discussion
- 15:15-15:45 Coffee Break and Posters
- 15:45-16:55 RETHINKING ALS PATHOGENESIS: EMERGING MOLECULAR PARADIGMS**
- 15:45-16:00 **Plenary Speaker:**
Christine Vande Velde
(Université de Montréal, Montreal, Canada)
- 16:00-16:05 Discussion
- 16:05-16:15 **Glial Phagocytosis As A Mechanism Of Synapse Loss In ALS**
Zsofia Laszlo, United Kingdom
- 16:15-16:25 **Distinct Routes To Abnormal TDP-43 Oligomerisation In ALS-C9 And Sporadic ALS**
Anna Sanchez Avila, United Kingdom
- 16:25-16:35 **Longitudinal Single-Cell RNAseq Reveals Immune Lineage Diversion And Accelerated Senescence As Drivers Of ALS Progression And Neurodegeneration**
Oriol Dols-Icardo, Spain
- 16:35-16:45 **Virotrap-Based Interactomic Profiling Reveals Novel HDAC6 Interactors With Therapeutic Relevance To ALS**
Dufie Strubbe, Belgium
- 16:45-16:55 **Immune Stimulation Exacerbates Cell Autonomous Microglial Dysfunction In A Stem Cell Model Of TBK1-Associated ALS-FTD**
Owen M. Peters, United Kingdom

Friday June 26th

09:00-10:15 CLINICAL TRIALS, STRATIFICATION AND CLINICAL OUTCOMES

09:00-09:15 **Plenary Speaker:**

Ruben van Eijk

(University Medical Center Utrecht, Utrecht, The Netherlands)

09:15-09:20 Discussion

09:20-09:30 **Introducing A Standardized Protocol Template For Early-Efficacy Trials In ALS: Improving Phase 2-to-3 Decision-Making (MAGNET-II)**

JWJ Van Unnik, The Netherlands

09:30-09:40 **Towards Regulator-Aligned Synthetic Placebo Construction In ALS: A Prespecified And Externally Validated PRO-ACT Framework**

Mandy Miresmaeili, United Kingdom

09:40-09:50 **Efficacy And Tolerability Of-Hydroxybutyrate In Patients With Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (KETO-ALS) - A Randomised, Placebo-Controlled, Double-Blind Study**

Christine Herrmann, Germany

09:50-10:00 **Salivary Dim-Light Melatonin Onset Predicts Functional Decline And Survival In Early Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis**

Alessandro Bombaci, Italy

10:00-10:15 Discussion

10:15-10:45 YOUNG INVESTIGATOR AWARD

10:45-11:15 Coffee Break and Posters

11:15-12:40 ADVANCED CLINICAL PHENOTYPING USING NEW TECHNOLOGIES

11:15-11:27 **Plenary Speaker:**

Alejandro Caravaca Puchades

(Hospital Universitari de Bellvitge-IDIBELL, Barcelona, Spain)

11:27-11:30 Discussion

11:30-11:42 **Plenary Speaker:**

Nicola Ticozzi

(Istituto Auxologico Italiano, University of Milan, Milan, Italy)

11:42-11:45 Discussion

11:45-11:55 **The Precision ALS Research Platform**

Ronan McDonnell, Ireland

11:55-12:05 **Machine Learning Validation Of Gene Expression-Based ALS Subtypes Across Brain And Blood Tissues**

Esteban Alberto Gomez Cifuentes, United Kingdom

Friday June 26th

- 12:05-12:15 **Symptom-Based Phenotype Discovery In Motor Neuron Disease Using Natural Language Processing Of Electronic Health Records**
Yusuf Abdulle, United Kingdom
- 12:15-12:25 **Red Flags For The Early Diagnosis Of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis: Machine-Learning Algorithms Applied To Data From A Referral Center**
Enrico Matteoni, Italy
- 12:25-12:35 **Progression Of ALS Milestones Differs Across Disease Phenotypes**
Rosario Vasta, Italy
- 12:35-12:45 **Linking Clinical And Laboratory Electrophysiology Studies For Patient-Stratified Research In MND**
Daniel de la Fuente, United Kingdom
- 12:45-13:15 CLOSING SESSION: THE ROAD AHEAD IN ALS**
- Meeting Summary
 - Rapid Fire and Poster prizes
 - Welcome to Lübeck

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