12th International Symposium on Marfan, Loeys-Dietz, Vascular Ehlers-Danlos and Related Syndromes (Day 1)

Sunday, October 4, 2026
Diamante AB/Floor 0

15-minute slot = 8-minute presentation + 7-minute discussion

8:00 AM	Welcome and Opening Remarks Josephine Grima, Bart Loeys, Peter Byers
SESSION #1: Basic & Translational Studies in Vascular Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome *Moderators: Peter Byers; University of Washington; USA and Xavier Jeunemaitre; University Paris Descartes; France*	
8:15 AM	Sex Differences in Aortopathy, Arteriopathy, and Mortality in Vascular Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome Tiffany Lian; Oregon Health & Science University; USA
8:30 AM	Femoral Artery Access for Endovascular Intervention in Vascular Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome: Outcomes, Complications, and Technical Considerations Tiffany Lian; Oregon Health & Science University; USA
8:45 AM	Beyond Collagen Deficiency: Genotype-Specific Extracellular Matrix Alterations in Vascular Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome Apoorva Bhandari; Oregon Health & Science University; USA
9:00 AM	Ciprofloxacin causes lethal arterial complications in a mouse model of vascular Ehlers-Danlos syndrome Scott LeMaire; Geisinger College of Health Sciences; USA
9:15 AM	Manufacturer-specific effects of celiprolol in vEDS mice: Implications for clinical translation Janine Meienberg; Swiss Foundation for People with Rare Diseases; Switzerland
9:30 AM	GLP-1 Analogue in Hereditable Aortopathy: Effects of Liraglutide on the Aortic Wall in a Murine Model of Vascular Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome Máté Csonka; Semmelweis University; Hungary
9:45 AM	Intraluminal pressure at aortic rupture in a mouse model of vascular Ehlers-Danlos syndrome Roland Stengl; Semmelweis University; Hungary
10:00–10:30 AM	BREAK
SESSION #2: Mechanistic and Pathogenic Studies in Animal Models *Moderators: Bart Loeys; University of Antwerp; USA and Mark Lindsay; Massachusetts General Hospital; USA*	
10:30 AM	Key Signaling Events Linking Extracellular Matrix to Aortic Disease in Marfan Syndrome Miguel R. Campanero; Centro de Biologia Molecular Severo Ochoa; Spain
10:45 AM	TREM-1 aggravates Marfan syndrome aortopathy Luna Chetrit; Université Paris Cité, Inserm, PARCC; France
11:00 AM	Perivascular inflammation is critically involved in the progression of aortic aneurysms formation in Marfan syndrome Hiroki Yagi; The University of Tokyo; Japan
11:15 AM	Chromatin and Transcriptional Profiling Reveal Senescence Pathways as Therapeutic Targets in Loeys-Dietz Syndrome Elena MacFarlane; Johns Hopkins School of Medicine; USA

11:30 AM	Striking phenotypical difference between Ipo8 knock-out mouse models on different genetic backgrounds explored by RNA-sequencing Lucia Buccioli; University of Antwerp; Belgium
11:45 PM	Pain hypersensitivity and spinal redox-neuroinflammatory signaling in Fbn1C1041G/+ mice Francesc Jiménez-Altayó; Autonomous University of Barcelona; Spain

SESSION #3: Pharmacological and Therapeutic Intervention Strategies

Moderators: Gustavo Egea; University of Barcelona; Spain and Arturo Evangelista; Vall d'Hebron University Hospital; Spain

12:00 PM	Targeting fibronectin accumulation reverses Marfan syndrome-related aortic disease in mice Iván Alarcón Ruíz; Centro de Biología Molecular Severo Ochoa (CBM-CSIC); Spain
12:15 PM	Multi-targeted oxidative stress pathways as a complementary strategy to current medical treatment against aortopathy progression in Marfan Syndrome Gerard Merino; Universitat de Barcelona; Spain
12:30-2:00 PM	LUNCH
2:00 PM	Opposing Cardiovascular Phenotypes in Fibrillinopathies: A Platform for Drug Target Discovery in Marfan Syndrome Eline Vanaken; University of Antwerp; Belgium
2:15 PM	Targeting oxidative stress with allopurinol attenuates cardiovascular remodeling in Marfan syndrome Rodrigo Barbosa de Souza; Faculdade Santa Marcelina; Brazil
2:30 PM	A Novel Transforming Growth Factor-β Vaccine for Aortic Aneurysm Formation in a Mouse Model of Marfan Syndrome Shun Okamura; The University of Tokyo Hospital; Japan

SESSION #4: Biomarkers, Modifiers and iPSC Studies

Moderators: Catherine Boileau; Paris Cité University; France and Lynn Sakai; Oregon Health & Science University; USA

2:45 PM	KLF15, a protective factor for thoracic aortic aneurysm in Marfan syndrome Bart Loeys; University of Antwerp; Belgium
3:00 PM	Decoding Marfan syndrome cardiomyopathy using advanced stem cell-derived heart models Emiel Van Wetter; Ghent University; Belgium
3:15 PM	Marfan iPSC-vascular smooth muscle cells (vSMCs) model aortic aneurysm by recapitulating their pathogenic phenotypic switching events enabling target identification to curb chondrogenesis in Marfan aortas Deeti Shetty; University of Cambridge; United Kingdom

POSTER SESSION

3:30-5:30 PM Room: Barcelona A&B - Floor 0

12th International Symposium on Marfan, Loeys-Dietz, Vascular Ehlers-Danlos and Related Syndromes (Day 2)

Monday, October 5, 2026
Diamante AB/Floor 0

15-minute slot = 8-minute presentation + 7-minute discussion

SESSION #5: Imaging, Diagnostics and AI Tools *Moderators: Gisela Teixidó Turà; Vall d'Hebron University Hospital; Spain and Siddharth Prakash; The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston; USA*	
8:00 AM	Development of an AI-Powered Mobile Application for Point-of-Care Facial Phenotyping in Heritable Thoracic Aortic Disease David Murdock; The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston; USA
8:15 AM	Quantitative 3D Aortic Shape Analysis Detects Heritable Thoracic Aortic Disease in Non-Dilated Aortas Yogesh Karnam; University of Wisconsin-Madison; USA
8:30 AM	Discriminative value of cardiovascular magnetic resonance-derived pulse wave velocity for aortic dissection in Marfan syndrome Simon D'hulst; Ghent University Hospital; Belgium
8:45 AM	Nanoparticle Contrast-enhanced Computed Tomography of Aortopathy and Cardiac Abnormalities in a Mouse Model of Marfan Syndrome Ketan Ghaghada; Texas Children's Hospital / Baylor College of Medicine; USA
9:00 AM	3D Facial Image-based Morphometric Phenotyping for Diagnosis and Risk Stratification in Heritable Thoracic Aortopathies Alex Buchner Beaudet; University of Calgary; Canada
SESSION #6: Genetic Determinants of Disease Variability *Moderators: Marlies Kempers; Radboud University; the Netherlands and Julie De Backer; Ghent Unversity; Belgium*	
9:15 AM	From Variant to Vessel: Patient-Specific VSMC Dysfunction Mirrors Aortopathy Severity Pepjin Saraber; Maastricht University; the Netherlands
9:30 AM	Gene and Sex-Specific Risk for First Aortic Events in Heritable Thoracic Aortic Disease: Insights from the Montalcino Aortic Consortium (MAC) Ernesto Calderon Martinez; The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston; USA
9:45 AM	High-Throughput Functional Profiling of Arterial Fragility Genes Reveals Shared Mechanisms of Extracellular Matrix Dysfunction and Vascular Instability Emily Bramel; The Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard; USA
10:00 AM	SMAD4 Gain-of-Function Disrupts TGF-β and Flow Sensing Pathways in Aortic Hypoplasia Emily Bramel; The Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard; USA
10:15–10:45 AM	BREAK
SESSION #7: Patient Experiences, Quality of Life, and Patient-centered Care *Moderators: Mary Sheppard; University of Kentucky; USA and Gretchen MacCarrick, Johns Hopkins University; USA*	
10:45 AM	Impact of Attention Deficit Disorder (ADHD) Among Children with Marfan Syndrome: A Multicenter Study from CLARITY Andrea Vosberg; Oregon Health & Science University; USA

11:00 AM	Employment status and socioeconomic deprivation among adults with Marfan syndrome is related to aortic dissection but not with preventive aortic surgery Olivier Milleron; Hôpital Bichat; France
11:15 AM	None of Our Doctors Know About This: Stakeholder Perspectives on the Gaps Between Clinical Recommendations and Real-World Care in Heritable Connective Tissue Disorders Catherine Isadora Côté; Université de Montréal; Canada

SESSION #8: Phenotypic Studies and Outcomes

Moderators: Fleur S. van Dijk; Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS Foundation Trust; United Kingdom and Shaine Morris ; Texas Children's Hospital; USA

11:30 AM	Longitudinal Aortic Growth in Individuals with Filamin A Deficiency Christopher Spence; Texas Children's Hospital / Baylor College of Medicine; USA
11:45 AM	Myocardial Recovery after Mitral Valve Surgery in Children with Marfan Syndrome: A Multicentre European Study Simon D'hulst; Ghent University Hospital; Belgium
12:00 PM	Aortic Events After Proximal Thoracic Aortic Repair in Heritable Thoracic Aortic Disease: Insights from the Montalcino Aortic Consortium Ernesto Calderon Martinez; The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston; USA
12:15 PM	Longitudinal Aortic Root Growth and Outcomes in Pediatric Marfan Syndrome Compared by Baseline Dilation Status: A Multicenter Study From CLARITY Bita Salamat; Texas Children's Hospital; USA
12:30-2:00 PM	LUNCH

SESSION #9: Genotype-Phenotype Correlations

Moderators: Kathryn Holmes; Oregon Health & Science University; USA and Dianna Milewicz; The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston; USA

2:00 PM	Loss-of-function variants in ADAMTS6: a novel syndrome with heart defect, thoracic aortic aneurysm and neurodevelopmental features Carine Le Goff; Inserm; France
2:15 PM	Beyond Aortic Disease: Preliminary Evidence of Myocardial Dysfunction and Arrhythmias in Pediatric HTAD Simon D'hulst; Ghent University Hospital; Belgium
2:30 PM	Gene-Specific Enrichment of Bicuspid Aortic Valve in Heritable Thoracic Aortic Disease: Insights from the Montalcino Aortic Consortium Siddharth Prakash; The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston; USA

SPECIAL SESSION: Valentin Fuster; The Mount Sinai Hospital; General Director of Spain’s National Center for Cardiovascular Research

Moderator: Kim Eagle ; University of Michigan; USA

2:45 PM	The Heart, the Aorta, and the Brain: Role of Imaging as Evolving Prevention Approaches

POSTER SESSION

3:15-5:15 PM	Room: Barcelona A&B - Floor 0

Joint Session of the Genetic Aortic Network and the ESC Working Group on Aorta & Peripheral Vascular Diseases (Day 1)

Tuesday, October 6, 2026
Diamante AB/Floor 0

8:00 AM	Welcome and Introduction Josephine Grima; The Marfan Foundation; USA Kim Eagle; University of Michigan; USA Arturo Evangelista; Vall d'Hebron University Hospital; Spain
8:10 AM	KEYNOTE: Genomic Editing for Genetically-Triggered Arteriopathies Mark Lindsay; Massachusetts General Hospital; USA
8:20 AM	Discussion
SESSION #1: Acute Aortic Syndrome Management *Moderator: Jose Fernando Rodriguez Palomares; Vall d'Hebron University Hospital; Spain*	
8:30 AM	DEBATE: Ascending Aortic Dilatation Management - ESC Position Alessandro Della Corte; University of Campania "L. Vanvitelli"; Italy
8:40 AM	DEBATE: Ascending Aortic Dilatation Management - AHA Position Elaine Tseng; University of California San Francisco; USA
8:50 AM	Discussion
9:00 AM	TEVAR Before Discharge in Uncomplicated Descending Aorta Dissection Arturo Evangelista; Vall d'Hebron University Hospital; Spain
9:10 AM	Risk and Outcomes of Type B Dissection in Marfan Syndrome Nupoor Narula; Weill Cornell Medicine; USA
9:20 AM	The Impact of Time Spent Normotensive on Surgically Managed Aortic Dissection Outcomes Andrew Huang; University of Michigan; USA
9:30 AM	30 Years of Patient Care and Management Guillaume Jondeau; Hôpital Bichat-Claude Bernard; France
9:40 AM	Discussion
9:50 AM	Break
SESSION #2: Maternal and Aortic Health: Insights into Pregnancy in HTAD *Moderators: Alan Braverman; Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine; USA & Gisela Teixidó Turà; Vall d'Hebron University Hospital; Spain*	
10:10 AM	The Pregnancy Roadmap with Aortopathy and the Unmapped Territories Between: Comparison of ESC and ACC/AHA Guidelines - ESC Position Julie De Backer; Ghent University; Belgium
10:20 AM	The Pregnancy Roadmap with Aortopathy and the Unmapped Territories Between: Comparison of ESC and ACC/AHA Guidelines - ACC/AHA Position Melissa Russo; Brown University; USA
10:30 AM	Discussion
10:40 AM	Registry of Pregnancy and Cardiac Disease III (ROPAC III) Update Julie De Backer; Ghent University; Belgium

10:50 AM	Contraceptive Practices and Patterns: A Comparison between Aortopathy and Congenital Heart Disease Individuals Melissa Russo; Brown University; USA
11:00 AM	Reproductive Decision-Making in Marfan Syndrome: Our Center's Experience Patricia Muñoz-Cabello; Vall d'Hebron University Hospital; Spain
11:10 AM	Discussion

SESSION #3: Imaging and Engineering Frontiers

Moderator: Arturo Evangelista; Vall d'Hebron University Hospital; Spain

11:20 AM	How to Measure the Aortic Root Using Multimodality Jose Fernando Rodriquez-Palomares; Vall d'Hebron University Hospital; Spain
11:30 AM	New Tools to Improve Aorta Growth Rate Reproducibility Andrea Guala; Vall d'Hebron University Hospital; Spain
11:40 AM	Personalized 3D Aortic Z-Scores Identify Heritable Aortopathy from a Single CTA Carlos Alberto Campello Jorge; University of Wisconsin-Madison; USA
11:50 AM	Discussion
12:00 PM	Predicting Aortic Dissection Using Advanced Image Analysis Nick Burris; University of Wisconsin-Madison; USA
12:10 PM	Descending Aortic Distensibility Is Not Associated with Development of Type B Dissection in Marfan Syndrome Nick Burris; University of Wisconsin-Madison; USA
12:20 PM	Discussion
12:30 PM	Publications & Career Reflections Arturo Evangelista; Vall d'Hebron University Hospital; Spain
12:40-2:00 PM	LUNCH

SESSION #4: Emergency and Critical Care Management of Acute Aortic Syndrome

Moderators: Marion Hofmann Bowman and Rob Pena; University of Michigan; USA

2:00 PM	A Tale of Two Patients: Difficulties in Diagnosing AAS in the Emergency Department Marion Hofmann Bowman; University of Michigan; USA
2:05 PM	Ruling Out AAS in the Emergency Department (ADvISED and AORTAs Algorithms) Robert Pena; University of Michigan; USA
2:15 PM	Physician Clinical Practices in Evaluating Suspected AAS in the Emergency Department Colin Greineder; University of Michigan; USA
2:25 PM	Emergency Department Care for vEDS Patients; Sherene Shalhub; Oregon Health and Science University; USA
2:35 PM	Future Directions: Biomarkers for Risk-Stratifying Medically-Managed Type B Aortic Dissections in the ICU Robert Pena; University of Michigan; USA
2:40 PM	Discussion

SESSION #5: AI Applications: From Genes to Populations

2:50 PM	Linking Genetics and AI-derived Aortic Phenotypes from Clinical Imaging Tooraj Mirshahi; Geisinger Health; USA
3:00 PM	Creation of Aortic Digital Twin Technology for Prognosis in Loeys-Dietz Syndrome Bharath Ambale Venkatesh; Johns Hopkins Medicine; USA
3:10 PM	AI-Driven Facial Recognition of HTAD Cases David Murdock; The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston; USA
3:20 PM	AortaGPT: An AI-Enabled Clinical Decision Support Platform for Heritable Thoracic Aortic Diseases Siddharth Prakash; The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston; USA
3:30 PM	Discussion

POSTER SESSION

4:00-6:00 PM Room: Barcelona A&B - Floor 0

Joint Session of the Genetic Aortic Network and the ESC Working Group on Aorta and Peripheral Vascular Diseases (Day 2)

Wednesday, October 7, 2026
Diamante AB/Floor 0

8:00 AM	Marfan Foundation Partnerships Josephine Grima; The Marfan Foundation; USA
8:05 AM	Patient to Physician Perspective on Living with an Aortopathy Geoff Lester; Monash University; Australia
SESSION #6: Insights from Registries: Research To Improve Clinical Outcomes *Moderators: Dianna Milewicz; The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston; USA and Shaine Morris; Texas Children's Hospital; USA*	
8:10 AM	Modeling of Timing of Aortic Replacement (CLARITY) Shaine Morris; Texas Children's Hospital; USA
8:20 AM	Prevalence of Developmental and Psychological Concerns Among Children with Aortopathy. (CLARITY) Kathryn Holmes; Oregon Health & Science University; USA
8:30 AM	Previously Unrecognized Syndromic Aortopathies Identified by Postmortem Whole Genome Sequencing in Fatal Aortic Dissection Ellen Hostetler; The John Ritter Foundation for Aortic Health; USA
8:40 AM	Discussion
8:50 AM	Gene-Based Management for Heritable Thoracic Aortic Disease: Translation to Physicians and Patients (MAC) Siddharth Prakash; The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston; USA
9:00 AM	Risk Score for Thoracic Aortic Disease: Genetic Modifier of Aortic Outcomes in Heritable Thoracic Aortic Disease (MAC) Dianna Milewicz; The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston; USA
9:10 AM	Genetic Determinants of Aortic Complications After Elective Proximal Aneurysm Repair: Insights from the Montalcino Aortic Consortium (MAC) Ernesto Caldron Martinez; The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston; USA
9:20 AM	Discussion
9:30 AM	SMAD3 Dataset of 200+ Participants Anji Yetman; University of Nebraska; USA
9:40 AM	Insights from the Spanish Network on Genetic Aortic Disease (REPAG): Advancing Aortic Risk Prediction and Sex-Specific Prognosis Gisela Teixidó-Turà; Vall d'Hebron University Hospital; Spain
9:50 AM	Thoracic Aortic Disease with Bicuspid Aortic Valve: Limited Contribution of Genetic Testing Pauline Arnaud; Hôpital Bichat; France
10:00 AM	Discussion
10:10 AM	BREAK

SESSION #7: Modern Surgical Strategies Across the Aortic Arch and Thoracoabdominal Aorta

Moderators: John Eleftarides; Yale University; USA and Bo Yang; University of Michigan; USA

10:30 AM	Bicuspid Aortic Valve Surgery in Women Bo Yang; University of Michigan; USA
10:40 AM	What Every Surgeon Should Know about Vascular Ehlers Danlos Syndrome Sherene Shalhub; Oregon Health & Science University; USA
10:50 AM	Surgical Advances in Endo-Bentall Procedure Mehrdad Ghoreishi; Johns Hopkins University; USA
11:00 AM	Discussion
11:10 AM	Open Aortic Arch Surgery: Current Surgical Strategies Maral Ouzounian; University of Toronto; Canada
11:20 AM	Modern Surgical Strategies Across the Aortic Arch and Thoracoabdominal Aorta Sherene Shalhub; Oregon Health & Science University; USA
11:30 AM	Thoracoabdominal Aortic Repair: Technical Nuances & Outcomes Rafael Rodriquez Lecoq; Vall d'Hebron University Hospital; Spain
11:40 AM	Discussion

SESSION #8: Thrivorship: Incorporating Exercise and Improving Mental Health

Moderator: Mary Sheppard; University of Kentucky; USA

11:50 AM	Home-based Exercise after Aortic Dissection: Lessons Learned From a Pragmatic Randomized Trial. Siddharth Prakash; The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston; USA
12:00 PM	The Aorta in Athletes Alan Braverman; Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine; USA
12:10 PM	From Tragedy to Prevention: Caring for the Family After Post-Mortem Aortic Dissection Diagnosis Rajani Aatre; University of Michigan; USA
12:20 PM	Discussion
12:30 PM	Lunch

SESSION #9: Pediatric Aortopathy Management

Moderator: Shaine Morris; Texas Children's Hospital; USA

2:00 PM	Pediatric Transition in Aortopathy Mary Sheppard; University of Kentucky; USA
2:10 PM	Exercise Considerations and Limitations: Parent Experience with Schools Kathryn Holmes; Oregon Health & Science University; USA
2:20 PM	Prophylactic Irbesartan Therapy in Young Patients with Bicuspid Aortopathy: Aortic Growth Rates from a New England Collaborative Registry Jonathan Flyer; University of Vermont; USA
2:30 PM	Challenges in Medical Therapy for Pediatric Aortopathies: What is the Current Evidence and How Do We Gather More Evidence? Ron Lacro; Boston Children's Hospital; USA
2:40 PM	Cardiovascular Outcomes and Survival in Patients with Neonatal Marfan Syndrome Christopher Spence; Texas Children's Hospital / Baylor College of Medicine; USA
2:50 PM	Discussion

3:00 PM	Summary and Conclusion Kim Eagle; University of Michigan; USA