



MAY 14–16  
Toronto · 2026  
SPARTAN



## Agenda

### THURSDAY, MAY 14

7:00–8:00 AM Breakfast

#### MRI WORKSHOP

8:00–9:00 AM **AxSpA Radiology Introduction** — Denis Poddubnyy, MD, PhD, MSc

9:00 AM–12:00 PM **MRI Workshop** — Denis Poddubnyy, MD, PhD, MSc

12:00–1:00 PM Lunch

#### SPARTAN SCIENTIFIC MEETING

1:00–1:30 PM Welcome to SPARTAN Annual Meeting — Matthew Stoll, MD, PhD and Nigil Haroon, MD

##### **Therapeutics in axSpA**

1:30–2:00 PM Therapeutics in axSpA, What Works —Carla Goncalves, Medicina da Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil

2:00–2:30 PM What Did Not Work —Atul Deodhar, MD, Oregon Health & Science University

2:30–3:00 PM Why Do Some Therapies Work and Some Don't, What is in the Pipeline  
—Akihiro Nakamura, MD, PhD, Queen's University, Ontario

3:00–3:30 PM **Break with Posters**

3:30–4:30 PM **Poster Tour**

##### **Gut-Joint Axis in SpA**

4:30–4:50 PM IBD: Recent Advances in our Understanding of Pathogenesis  
—John T. Chang, MD, University of California San Diego

4:50–5:00 PM Integrin Bridges: Linking Gut Inflammation to Joint Pathogenesis  
—Zoya Qaiyum, University of Toronto

5:00–5:20 PM Gut Joint Axis (Host-Microbe Interactions and Key Cellular Responses: What Decides the Destiny of the Host?)  
—Kristi Kuhn, MD, PhD, University of Colorado School of Medicine

5:20–5:30 PM How does IBD Impact Clinical Presentation of axSpA Patients  
—Patricia Remalante-Rayco, MD, University Health Network, Toronto

5:30–5:50 PM IBD and SpA: Considerations for Managing Patients with IBD and SpA  
—Joerg Ermann, MD, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston

5:50–6:00 PM **Questions & Discussion with Faculty**

7:00 PM **Dinner + Entertainment**

## FRIDAY, MAY 15

7:00–8:00 AM Breakfast

### SPARTAN SCIENTIFIC MEETING

8:00–9:00 AM **Abstracts Session**

#### Personalized Medicine

9:00–9:30 AM Tissue Resident Memory T Cells: the Rookie with a Reputation  
—Siba Raychaudhuri, MD, VA Medical Center Sacramento/University of California, Davis

9:30–10:00 AM Predicting Response to IL17 Inhibitors in axSpA —Robert Inman, MD, Toronto Western Hospital

10:00–10:30 AM Personalized Medicine in PsA, Where are We Currently?  
—Vinod Chandran, MBBS, MD, DM, PhD, University of Toronto

10:30–11:00 AM Break

11:00–12:00 AM **Imaging**

Imaging Advances in SpA, Low Dose CT, PET, Synthetic CT, AI in Imaging, Thinking Beyond MRI  
—Denis Poddubnyy, MD, PhD, MSc, University of Toronto

ASAS-SPARTAN Classification Criteria and New Directions  
—Walter Maksymowych, MD, FRCP, FACP, University of Alberta

12:00–1:00 PM Lunch

#### Year in Review

1:00–1:30 PM Year in Review: Basic/Translational —Matthew Stoll, MD, PhD, MSCS, University of Alabama at Birmingham

1:30–2:00 PM Year in Review: Clinical —Mohammed Bittar, MD, Oregon Health & Science University

2:00–2:30 PM Year in Review: Clinical Trials  
—Wilson Bautista Molano, MD, PhD, University Hospital Fundación Santa Fe de Bogotá, Columbia

#### AI in Medicine/Science

2:30–3:00 PM Promise & Peril: Navigating the GenAI Wave in Healthcare  
—Muhammad Mamdani, PharmD, MA, MPH, University of Toronto

3:00–3:30 PM AI and MI in Discovery Science for PsA and axSpA —Igor Jurisica, PhD, University of Toronto

3:30–4:00 PM AI in SpA Imaging: the Promises and Pitfalls —Keno Bressem DHM at Technical University Munich

4:00–4:15 PM Break

4:15–5:15 PM **Breakout Sessions**

Clinical I: Develop a SPARTAN Registry and Identifying Disease Endotypes in SpA (SPARTAN Project)

Clinical II Collaborating on Imaging Studies in axSpA

Basic I: Animal Studies, Human Translational Studies, Fundamental Research

Basic II: Developing a Collaborating Network for Translational Science in North America

Education: Tools for Screening, Outreach to APPs and Other Touch Points

5:15–6:00 PM **Great Debate**

Invert the Pyramid in Treatment of axSpA  
—Marina Magrey, MD, University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center  
—Philip Mease, MD, Seattle Rheumatology Associates

6:00–6:30 PM **Poster Tour and Reception**

## SATURDAY, MAY 16

7:00–8:00 AM Breakfast

### SPARTAN MEMBER FORUM

8:00–9:00 AM **Fellowship/Grants Session**

Characterizing Nociceptive Pain in Axial Spondyloarthritis: a Prospective Longitudinal Study  
—Mohamad Bittar, MD, Oregon Health & Science University

Sex Differences in Real World Treatment Patterns and Drug Adherence in Axial Spondyloarthritis: a Comprehensive Assessment from the RISE Registry and Medicare Claims  
—Rachael Stovall, MD, MAS, University of Washington

Live Visualization of Neutrophil Infiltration in Early Stages of New Bone Formation in SpA  
—Brian Wu, PhD, Queen's University, Ontario

A Joint Effort: Comparing Treatment Outcomes in Patients with IBD Associated axSpAx  
—Savannah Bowman, MD, UTHealth Houston

### SPARTAN Projects

9:00–9:30 AM axSpA Treatment Guidelines

—Liron Caplan, MD, PhD, University of Colorado

9:30–10:00 AM MRI: New Definitions for axSpA

—Walter Maksymowich, MD, FRCP, FACP, University of Alberta

10:00–10:30 AM Physiotherapy Knowledge / Practice Patterns Education Committee

—Romy Schwabe, Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases, Bath, UK

10:30–11:00 AM PANLAR-SPARTAN Collaboration

11:00–11:15 AM CLASSIC Data Secondary Analysis

11:15 AM–12:00 PM Invitation for SPARTAN Collaboration and Secondary Analysis

—Ruth Napier, PhD, University of Colorado

—Michael Paley, MD, PhD, Washington University in St. Louis

12:00–1:00 PM Lunch

1:00 PM Annual Meeting Concludes