

Report from the 1st PReS Academy Course on sJIA and MAS

The **1st PReS Academy Course on systemic Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis and Macrophage Activation Syndrome**, organized by the MAS/sJIA Working Party of PReS, was held on **March 17-18th 2022** in **Rome**.

Collectively, thanks to a hybrid format, 185 participants (49 on-site, 136 virtual attendees) from 48 different countries attended the course, representing Asia, America, Africa and Europe.

The overall educational objective was to catch-up on the state-of-the-art understanding of the clinical features and mechanisms of disease in sJIA and MAS. The scientific program involved 14 international speakers with high expertise in the field, covering the most relevant and recently updated topics on both sJIA and MAS, with a particular focus on immunology, diagnosis and clinical management.

The first day of the meeting was dedicated to sJIA and addressed the main challenges in definition and diagnosis, the most relevant updates in pathophysiology and the complexity of refractory disease courses, including an entire session dedicated to sJIA associated-lung disease.

The second day of the course was focused on MAS, and particularly on diagnostic work-up, novelties in pathogenesis, new biomarkers and therapeutic approaches.

Three sessions were dedicated to the discussion of paradigmatic and challenging clinical cases, presented by young investigators. A call for abstracts previously launched in collaboration with EMERGE resulted in 12 abstracts submitted and 6 clinical cases were then selected for oral presentation at the course. The best presentation was awarded a free registration for the upcoming 28th European Pediatric Rheumatology Congress.

Finally, patients' representatives from USA (sJIA Foundation), Italy and The Netherlands were actively involved into a dedicated session, which addressed their perspectives on current challenges and needs.

The course was actively supported by PReS and obtained the unconditional sponsorship of two pharmaceutical companies (Sobi and Roche), as well as from the sJIA Foundation which covered the registration fees of all young investigators who submitted an abstract.