



Dear PhD Students,

We are delighted to invite you to the **Third PhD Students' Congress** of the Doctoral School in the fields of **Biomedicine and Health** at the **Faculty of Medicine, University of Rijeka**, entitled **“Science and Us.”** The congress will take place in **Rijeka, from May 14 to 16, 2026**, at the **Faculty of Medicine, University of Rijeka.**

**Congress topics:** biomedicine, public health, clinical medicine, health and environmental engineering, and dental medicine.

**Highlights of the congress include:**

- **Plenary lecture** by **Professor Nenad Bogdanović, MD, PhD** (Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden), a renowned expert in geriatric medicine and neurodegenerative diseases,
- **Lecture** by **Professor João Brandão, PhD**, a chemist and biotechnologist specialized in clinical mycology and environmental research at the Portuguese National Institute of Health Doutor Ricardo Jorge,
- **Lecture** by **Professor Maciej Banach, MD, PhD**, an internationally recognized expert in lipid disorders and cardiovascular health, founder of the Polish Lipid Association and leader of numerous research initiatives,
- **Lecture** by **Anita Fekonja, DMD, MSc, PhD**, Assistant Professor and expert in orthodontic anomalies and developmental dental disorders at the University of Maribor,
- **Lecture** by **Professor Oliver Harschnitz, MD, PhD**, a research group leader in neurogenomics focused on neuroimmunological diseases and the development of novel therapeutic approaches,
- **Lecture** by **Professor Giuseppe Vizzielli, MD, PhD**, expert in gynecologic oncology at the University of Udine.

- **Workshop led by Assoc. Prof. Marko Šestan, PhD**, recipient of the prestigious ERC Starting Grant – the so-called “Scientific Oscar” – and EMBO Installation Grant 2026, offering an outstanding and inspiring experience for all PhD students,

- **Workshop led by Assoc. Prof. Sven Maričić, PhD**, distinguished Croatian scientist and professor, pioneer in the application of 3D technologies in biomedicine, providing PhD students with practical experience in innovative 3D biomedical approaches.

**This international congress brings together PhD students from various fields and provides the opportunity for:**

- Presenting your research through oral and poster presentations
- Participation in two workshops to enhance research and professional skills
- Networking and knowledge exchange with eminent domestic and international experts

 **Party** – to celebrate scientific achievements and encourage socializing, we will host a party on **May 15, 2026**. It will be a great opportunity for relaxed networking and fun with colleagues.

**Important dates:**

- Abstract submission deadline: **March 29, 2026**
- Registration deadline: **April 26, 2026**

**Registration fee: 50 EUR** (includes lunch and coffee breaks)

For more information on registration, abstract submission, and the congress, please visit: [3rd](#)

[Biomedicine and Health PhD Students Congress](#)

We look forward to your participation and inspiring discussions in Rijeka from May 14 to 16, 2026!

Kind regards,

**Members of the Organizing Committee of the “Science and Us” Congress**