

32nd Annual Scandinavian Atherosclerosis Conference
March 18-21, 2026 at Krogerup Højskole, Humlebæk, Denmark



2026 Program

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Ida Gregersen (Norway)
Michael Davies (Denmark)
Sofie Taageby Nielsen (Denmark)
Camilla Huse (Norway)
Uwe Tietge (Sweden)
Monique Mulder (The Netherlands)
Lærke Kyhl (Denmark)
Anna-Kaisa Ruotsalainen (Finland)

OFFICE

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Organized by**SCANDINAVIAN SOCIETY
FOR ATHEROSCLEROSIS
RESEARCH**

Kirsten B. Holven (Chairman)
Liv Tybjærg Nordestgaard (Social Media, Temporary treasurer)
Jacob J. Christensen (Social Media)
Matteo Pedrelli (Webmaster)
Anna-Kaisa Ruotsalainen
Pirkka-Pekka Laurila
Vilmundur Gudnason
Monique Mulder (Secretary)
Patrick C.N. Rensen (Fundraiser)

WEBSITE

www.ssar.dk (Matteo Pedrelli, Webmaster)

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

16.00 – 18.00	Arrival, registration, and coffee (dining room until 17.45)
18.00 – 19.30	Dinner
19.30 – 19.35	Welcome Kirsten B. Holven (Norway)
THE NIKKILÄ MEMORIAL LECTURE	
19.35 – 19.40	Introduction of the 2026 Nikkilä Lecturer Anna-Kaisa Ruotsalainen (Finland)
19.40 – 20.25	<u>2026 Nikkilä Lecture</u> <i>Behind and between lipoproteins</i> Kjetil Retterstøl (Norway)
20.25 – 20.45	Discussion
20.45 –	Pub will be open

Thursday, March 19, 2026

07.30 – 08.30	Breakfast
SESSION I	INFLAMMATION AND VASCULAR BIOLOGY Chaired by Ida Gregersen (Norway) and Michael Davies (Denmark)
08.30 – 09.00	<i>Invited speaker</i> <i>Humoral immunity as modulator of atherosclerosis</i> Christoph Binder (Austria)
09.00 – 09.15	Proteomic analysis of murine atherosclerotic plaques and healthy aorta provides evidence for location-specific differences in protein abundances Kathrine Væver Jokumsen (Denmark) - YIA
09.15 – 09.30	IgE ⁺ CD63 ⁺ mast cells positively associate with neovascularization in advanced human atherosclerosis Anish A. Kanhai (The Netherlands)
09.30 – 09.45	Proteomic analysis of oxidative modifications on metabolic proteins in human atherosclerotic plaques and control arteries Michael Davies (Denmark)
09.45 – 10.00	Endothelial STING-IFN-I signaling drives atherogenic inflammation and disrupts cholesterol homeostasis Cong Liu (Denmark) - YIA
10.00 – 10.45	Poster Walk (Session I) Coffee and tea
10.45 – 11.15	<i>Invited speaker</i> <i>Vascular repair: a failing key process in diabetes-associated atherosclerotic events</i> Andreas Edsfeldt (Sweden)
11.15 – 11.30	Sex-dependent immune signatures associate with site-specific plaque progression in gasdermin-deficient ApoE ^{-/-} mice Michelle Zurek (Belgium) - YIA
11.30 – 11.45	Circular RNA as novel, promising mediators in the immunopathogenesis of cardiovascular diseases Tuva Dahl (Norway)
11.45 – 12.00	Lineage tracing uncovers endothelial origin of mesenchymal-like cells in progeroid atheromas Magda R Hamczyk (Denmark)
12.00 – 13.00	Lunch

SESSION II

CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE

Chaired by **Sofie Taageby Nielsen** (Denmark) and **Camilla Huse** (Norway)

13.00 – 13.30

Invited speaker

Mast cell subsets in cardiovascular atherosclerotic disease

Ilze Bot (The Netherlands)

13.30 – 13.45

Lipoprotein(a) lowering and risk of cardiovascular disease in primary and secondary prevention

Peter E. Thomas (Denmark) - YIA

13.45 – 14.00

In familial hypercholesterolaemia, remnant cholesterol above 1 mmol/L implies 50% higher lifetime risk of coronary artery disease

Florian Mourre (Denmark)

14.00 – 14.15

Forcing myocardin expression in smooth muscle cells reduces atherosclerosis and lowers systemic fat deposition in mice

Julian Albarran-Juarez (Denmark)

14.15 – 14.30

Patient preferences in the design of cardiovascular pharmacotherapy trials: a discrete choice experiment focusing on women

Marte F. van der Bijl (The Netherlands) - YIA

14.30 – 15.30

General meeting of the Scandinavian Society for Atherosclerosis Research

Open for all participants

Afternoon free for the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art (5 min walk), beach (5 min walk), Kronborg, the castle of Hamlet (12 min by train) or downtown Copenhagen (50 min by train)

16.00 – 17.00

Traditional soccer match between countries

Remember to bring sports clothing and suitable footwear

18.00 – 19.00

Dinner

SESSION II

CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE – continued

Chaired by **Sofie Taageby Nielsen** (Denmark) and **Camilla Huse** (Norway)

19.00 – 19.30

Invited speaker

Preeclampsia and later development of cardiovascular disease in mothers and their children

Heather Boyd (Denmark)

19.30 – 20.30

Poster Walk (Session II)

Coffee and tea

20.30 – 20.45

Association between a healthy lifestyle and risk of cardiovascular disease in patients with familial hypercholesterolemia

Tone Svilaas (Norway)

20.45 – 21.00

Cardioprotective glucose-lowering drugs, statins, and secondary major adverse cardiovascular events

Tummas Ternhamar (Denmark) - YIA

21.00 – 21.15

Elevated remnant cholesterol explains a substantial part of the excess risk of myocardial infarction and atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease in the metabolic syndrome

Karen Hvid (Denmark) - YIA

21.15 – 21.30

Lipid-lowering treatment in familial hypercholesterolaemia from 1996 through 2021: a nationwide Study

Jacob Reeh (Denmark) - YIA

21.30 –

Pub will be open

Friday, March 20, 2026

07.30 – 08.30	Breakfast
SESSION III	LIPOPROTEINS AND LIPID TRANSPORT Chaired by Uwe Tietge (Sweden) and Monique Mulder (The Netherlands)
08.30 – 09.00	<i>Invited speaker</i> <i>Connecting atherosclerosis and thrombosis through lipoproteins</i> Ze Zheng (USA)
09.00 – 09.15	High lipoprotein(a) confers highest absolute risk of atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease in individuals aged 70-100 years Janeni Jeevanathan (Norway) - YIA
09.15 – 09.30	Inhibition of nicotinamide N-methyltransferase reverses dyslipidemia and protects against atherosclerosis in APOE*3-Leiden.CETP mice Jing Miao (The Netherlands) - YIA
09.30 – 09.45	Long-acting glucagon receptor agonism increases circulating triglyceride levels in diet-induced obese mice Jamie I. van der Vaart (The Netherlands) - YIA
09.45 – 10.00	Bempezoic acid: real-world data and sex-specific analysis from an Italian cohort Elisa Acitelli (Italy)
10.00 – 11.00	Poster Walk (Session III) Coffee and tea
11.00 – 11.30	<i>Invited speaker</i> <i>HDL in age-related macular degeneration</i> Magda Smoor (The Netherlands)
11.30 – 11.45	Cardiovascular disease and age-related macular degeneration in the general population Aniq Shamin (Denmark) - YIA
11.45 – 12.00	Lipoprotein(a), age and sex-specific absolute and relative hazards of atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease: new insights from 16-year follow-up of the Norwegian HUNT study Youssef Khalil (Norway) - YIA
12.00 – 12.15	Elevated plasma triglycerides in incidence of atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease versus acute pancreatitis in women and men: prospective and nationwide cohort studies Børge G. Nordestgaard (Denmark)
12.15 – 13.15	Lunch

SESSION IV

OTHER TOPICS

Chaired by **Lærke Kyhl** (Denmark) and **Anna-Kaisa Ruotsalainen** (Finland)

13.15 – 13.45

Invited speaker

Lipoprotein retention, atherosclerosis and liver disease

Stefano Romeo (Sweden)

13.45 – 14.00

Cardiometabolic risk factors, dietary habits and pharmacological treatment in Norwegian adults with severe mental illness

Madeleine E. Angelsen (Norway) - YIA

14.00 – 14.15

Mast cell activation induced eosinophilia in pulmonary inflammation and atherosclerosis.

Iris J. van Wissen (The Netherlands) - YIA

14.15 – 14.30

Many women with familial hypercholesterolemia do not receive lipid-lowering therapy and are diagnosed too late: results of a survey of women with FH across the world

Marianne Klevmoen (Norway) - YIA

14.30 – 14.45

Pregnancy complications and risk of chronic kidney disease

Rikke Mohr Lytsen (Denmark) - YIA

14.45 – 15.45

Poster Walk (Session IV)

Coffee and tea

15.45 – 16.15

Invited speaker

Decoding steatotic liver disease: a multiomics approach to pathogenesis

Stefan Stender (Denmark)

16.15 – 16.30

The impact of menstrual cycle on lipid levels in healthy premenopausal women: a systematic review and meta-analysis

Eirin B. Løvheim (Norway) - YIA

16.30 – 16.45

Characteristics of females and males with familial hypercholesterolemia and self-perceived side effects to lipid-lowering drugs

Amara Synøve Ø Uduma (Norway) - YIA

16.45 – 17.00

Cetoleic acid in adipose tissue is inversely associated to the risk of atherosclerotic Cardiovascular disease: a case-cohort study

Iselin Schjelle Holen (Norway) - YIA

17.00 – 17.15

Midlife metabolic syndrome and rare functional GLP-1R variants and risk of late-life dementia

Ida Juul Rasmussen (Denmark)

17.15 - 17.20

Concluding remarks

Kirsten B. Holven (Norway)

18.30 – 19.00

Cocktail

19.00 –

Banquet and dancing

Saturday, March 21, 2026

08.30 – 10.00

Breakfast and departure

Safe travels and see you next year!

32nd Annual Scandinavian Atherosclerosis Conference
March 18-21, 2026 at Krogerup Højskole, Humlebæk, Denmark



2026 Posters

Thursday, March 19, 2026

Posters are displayed upstairs in “Lille Sal”. Posters should be in place before 9.00 on the board with the corresponding number, and removed after the last poster session of the day. You should be present at your poster during all poster sessions of the day.

SESSION I

INFLAMMATION AND VASCULAR BIOLOGY

- No. 01** Temporal dynamics of systemic immune responses and exploratory molecular imaging in early experimental atherosclerosis
Maria del Pilar Murillo Angarita (Norway)
- No. 02** Effect of high intensity statin medication on circulating foamy monocytes in healthy individuals
Siina Pamilo (Finland)
- No. 03** Modulation of histone-induced cellular dysfunction from NETs in atherosclerosis..
Clare L. Hawkins (Denmark)
- YIA Poster walk I**
10.00 – 10.45
- Selected abstracts (3 min presentation + 2 min discussion)**
- No. 04** New insights into apolipoprotein B-100 degradation by proteases in vivo and ex vivo
Nicoline W. Thorsen (Denmark) - YIA
- No. 05** Age-associated B-cells serve as key precursors of antibody-secreting cells in atherosclerosis
Anna Witteveen (The Netherlands) - YIA
- No. 06** Integrative analysis of single-cell transcriptomics data reveals three distinct mast cell subpopulations in human atherosclerotic lesions
Pier P. Lindenbergh (The Netherlands) - YIA
- No. 07** Halofuginone enhances collagen remodeling during diet-induced atherosclerosis regression by beneficially impacting the systemic inflammatory status
Andisyah Putri Sekar (The Netherlands) - YIA
- No. 08** Organ-specific translomic insights of vascular endothelial cells and their association to human metabolic traits
Peter Stenzel (Germany) - YIA
- No. 09** Characterisation of the protein composition and histone modification in neutrophil and eosinophil extracellular traps
Helen Hemmling (Denmark) - YIA

SESSION II

CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE

- No. 10** Platelet inhibiting effects by the novel nitric oxide-donor nitrosooxypropanol (PDNO)
Madelene Lindkvist (Sweden)
- No. 11** The AhR/P38 MAPK pathway mediates kynurenine-induced cardiomyocyte damage: the dual role of resveratrol in apoptosis and autophagy
Sara Mohiti (Denmark)
- No 12** Hypoxia drives a pro-atherogenic extracellular matrix that promotes myeloperoxidase retention and tissue damage that can be attenuated by heparin mimetics
Christine Y. Chuang (Denmark)
- No 13** Age-associated CD8+GZMK+ T-cells clonally expand and preferentially home to the atherosclerotic plaque in mice
Danxia Zhao (The Netherlands)
- No 14** Cardiometabolic impact of Ramadan fasting in adolescents with MASLD
Gabriele Mocciaro (Denmark)
- No 15** LAGOM trial (Longitudinal Approach to Generate positive cardiometabolic health Outcomes in severe Mental illness)
Hemen Najar (Sweden)
- No 16** Real-world use of bempedoic acid in patients with heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia, an Italian experience.
Chiara Iurato (Italy)

YIA Poster walk II 19.30 – 20.30

Selected abstracts (3 min presentation + 2 min discussion)

- No. 17** The anti-ischemic activity of cardioprotective 6-piperazinyl-purine analogues bearing nitrate esters is determined by the length of the carbon side chain
Marianne Haug (Sweden) - YIA
- No. 18** Role of endothelial autophagy in atherosclerotic plaque development and composition
Eline Roeyen (Belgium) - YIA
- No. 19** Activated age-associated B cells accumulate in human atherosclerotic plaques
Kauthar Parker (The Netherlands) - YIA
- No. 20** N=1-studies in statin-intolerance; objectifying nocebo effects (NISON): a protocol for a randomized controlled trial assessing the implementability of N=1-studies to promote the use of statins
Ruben J.M. Mijster (The Netherlands) - YIA
- No. 21** True statin-associated muscle symptoms that can be attributed to statin-therapy as determined by N=1 trials and cross-over randomized controlled trials: a systematic review and meta-analysis
Ruben J.M. Mijster (The Netherlands) - YIA

Friday, March 20, 2026

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SESSION III

LIPOPROTEINS AND LIPID TRANSPORT

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|---------------|---|
| No. 22 | Intra-individual variability in lipoprotein(a) in a large primary care dataset: predominantly analytical or biological variation?
Sigrid M. Blom (Norway) |
| No. 23 | Lack of perilipin 2 is not critical for lipid deposition in the aortic root and the aortic arch
Johanne Kristofina Mikkelsen (Norway) |
| No. 24 | A human-like bile acid composition attenuates atherogenesis in female Ldlr ^{-/-} mice by reducing cholesterol absorption
Folkert Kuipers (The Netherlands) |
| No. 25 | Atherogenic lipid profiles and the association with historical malnutrition in Tanzanian and Zambian Cohorts: a cross-sectional study.
Nicolai Sandau (Denmark) |
| No 26 | PROSS-design and synthesis of thermostable LPL for treatment of familial chylomicronemia syndrome
Louise Laursen (Denmark) |
| No 27 | The role of apolipoprotein M in intestinal lipid metabolism
Pernille M. Christensen (Denmark) |

YIA Poster walk III
10.00 – 11.00

Selected abstracts (3 min presentation + 2 min discussion)

- No. 28** Variant effect predictions identify novel functional impact of APOE based on whole genome sequencing
Lucía Sánchez Schneider (Denmark) - YIA
- No 29** Cholesterol metabolism-linked regulators of brown adipose thermogenesis: Dhcr24 and 4931406C07Rik as novel modulators of UCP1-dependent respiration
Marita Klich (Germany) - YIA
- No 30** ApoC3/non-LDL TG ratio as a potential novel predictor of reduced liver steatosis risk
Lorenzo Luciani (Italy) - YIA
- No 31** All-trans retinoic acid increases fatty acid oxidation in human myotubes in part through altered mitochondrial activity
Ulrik N. Mjaaseth (Norway) - YIA
- No 32** Overeating polyunsaturated fat increases the HDL anti-inflammatory activity compared with saturated fat
Ana Vankova (Sweden) - YIA
- No 33** From silent plaque to clinical events: mass-spectrometry-based sphingolipid profiling to link subclinical carotid atherosclerosis with overt cardiovascular disease
Lukas Cudlman (Sweden) - YIA

SESSION IV

OTHER TOPICS

No. 34 The SGLT2 inhibitor empagliflozin promotes increased fatty acid oxidation in skeletal muscle cells

Arild C. Rustan (Norway)

No. 35 Harnessing neural signals to resolve hepatic immuno-metabolic dysfunction

Osman Ahmed (Sweden)

No. 36 Impact of the rare TM6SF2 L156P variant and its interaction with E167K on liver disease and plasma lipids: a large-scale population study

Lærke Kristine Kyhl (Denmark)

No. 37 Role for the liver X receptor agonist 22-ketositosterol in preventing disease progression in an Alzheimer's disease mouse model

Monique T. Mulder (The Netherlands)

YIA Poster walk IV
14.45 – 15.45

Selected abstracts (3 min presentation + 2 min discussion)

No. 38 Using loss-of-function variation in PNPLA3 to elucidate the mechanism of PNPLA3 I148M
Tobias Vegge Andersen (Denmark) - YIA

No. 39 Eleven clinical risk factors for age-related macular degeneration identified using 600,000 individuals from two prospective cohorts

Sabina O. Beheshti (Denmark) - YIA

No. 40 MumCare: a postpartum digital health companion for women following hypertensive disorders of pregnancy or gestational diabetes mellitus: preliminary retainment rate data

Miriam K.C. Sollie-Hoel (Norway) - YIA

No 41 *Flavonifractor plautii* mediates the decrease of visceral fat during dietary interventions in metabolic syndrome through regulating bile acid metabolism

Mingqian He (The Netherlands) - YIA

No 42 Fructose-induced liver steatosis model to study the inter-organ crosstalk on the liver-heart axis.

Joanna Konieczny (Norway)- YIA