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EURO GLOBAL  
**WOMEN'S  
FORUM**

18  
19 | **MAY**

*Barcelona, Spain*



# SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

DAY 1: MAY 18, 2026

Registration Desk Opens | 08:00-09:00

Opening Ceremony & Inaugural Address | 09:00-09:30

## KEYNOTE FORUM

09:30-10:10

**Title: Learning by doing: Why leadership development must start at 13**

**Kateryna Biloruska**, Kateryna Biloruska Foundation, Cyprus

10:10-10:50

**Title: The story of us: Purpose, hope, and a call to action**

**Nor Fadilah Mohamed Nizar**, Tiffin Jeiwa Gallery, Malaysia

## REFRESHMENT & COFFEE BREAK 10:50-11:10

11:10-11:50

**Title: Spectrum of Kindness Therapy (SKT): A compassion-centered feasibility pilot for neurodiverse adults**

**Julius Melvin Jefferies**, Simply Healing LLC, USA

11:50-12:30

**Title: Allergen immunotherapy in transition (2020–2025): Mechanistic advances, clinical integration, and practical standards**

**Dylan Lee**, CuraStrategix Health, USA

Sessions : Womens Forum | Psychiatry | Personalized Medicine | Biosimilars and Biologics

**Chair:** Dylan Lee, CuraStrategix Health, USA

12:30-12:55

**Title: Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs) in cosmetics and how to walk away from it**

**Eman Ahmed Mahmoud Ahmedali**, IKA, Germany

12:55-13:20

**Title: A predictive model for assessing and monitoring depression and psychopathological risk in healthcare settings**

**Federica Vallone**, University of Naples Federico II, Italy

## 13:20-14:00 LUNCH BREAK & GROUP PHOTO

14:00-14:25

**Title: Impact of menopause on employees at universities in England**

**Hyun-Joo Lim**, Bournemouth University, UK

14:25-14:50

**Title: Interior architecture as a medium of empowerment, syrian women and the reconstruction of cultural identity**

**Rim Omar**, Arab International University, Syria

14:50-15:15

**Title: The power beneath the surface: How attitudes, assumptions, and expectations™ shape women's leadership and global impact**

**Monique Kammer**, Independent Consultant, USA

**15:15-15:40** **Title: Story as strategy: Women artisans, inclusive business models, and global market transformation**  
**Nor Fadilah Binti Mohamed Nizar**, Jeiwa Global Handicraft Sdn Bhd, Malaysia

**15:40-16:05** **Title: Controlling the immune system through nanomedicine: 45,000 patients and counting**  
**Thomas J. Webster**, Brown University, USA

**REFRESHMENT & COFFEE BREAK 16:05-16:25**

**16:25-16:50** **Title: The impact of motherhood on the careers of female academics in Spain**  
**María del Val Bolívar Oñoro**, University of Alcalá, Spain

**16:50-17:15** **Title: Exploring the support ecosystem for women entrepreneurs: Resources and gaps in the Mexican context**  
**Ana Vanesa Morones Antillon**, ITESO, Mexico

**17:15-17:40** **Title: The gray divorce: Innovation in financial mechanisms for women**  
**Nelva Paulina Rivas Briseno**, ITESO, Mexico

**17:40-18:05** **Title: Voice. Presence. Impact (Syrian women in academia)**  
**Rita Alnwisser**, Arab International University, Syria

**NETWORKING & B2B MEETING**

**END OF DAY 1**

**DAY2: MAY 19, 2026**

Opening Ceremony & Inaugural Address | 08:45-09:00

**KEYNOTE FORUM**

**09:00-09:40** **Title: The future of leadership in an AI-driven world**  
**Ivana Nikolik**, Atos, Netherlands

**09:40-10:20** **Title: From tech giant to space pioneer: A woman of colour's journey building global impact**  
**Deborah Sass**, SpaceVrse, Spain

**REFRESHMENT & COFFEE BREAK 10:20-10:40**

**10:40-11:20** **Title: The right to assisted procreation - comments on post-mortem fertilization in Polish law in the European context**  
**Maciej Rzewuski**, University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, Poland

Sessions : Womens Forum | Psychiatry | Personalized Medicine | Biosimilars and Biologics

11:20-11:45	<b>Title: Integrative molecular and translational landscape of cholangiocarcinoma: From fibroblast signalling to ribosomal regulation</b> <b>Wenbo Meng</b> , The First Hospital of Lanzhou University Country, China
11:45-12:10	<b>Title: Women who stay human in a world run by AI: The new power revolution</b> <b>Myriam Selim Ben Farhat</b> , chess.com, Spain
12:10-12:35	<b>Title: Analysis of long non-coding RNA expression in pathological anxiety</b> <b>Laura Dayanara López Rocha</b> , Autonomous University of Baja California, Mexico
12:35-13:00	<b>Title: Transforming communities for women's safety: Multi-sector approaches to lasting change</b> <b>Karen Whybro</b> , Karen Whybro Women's Safety Consultants, UK
13:00-13:25	<b>Title: An evidence-based cesarean section for standardized universal use</b> <b>Michael Stark</b> , New European Surgical Academy, Germany
<b>LUNCH BREAK 13:25-14:15</b>	
14:15-14:40	<b>Title: Depression symptoms in patients with diabetic peripheral painful neuropathy-case control study</b> <b>Ibrahim El Bayoumy</b> , Tanta Faculty of Medicine, Egypt
14:40-15:05	<b>Title: Visibility before readiness: How women build businesses differently</b> <b>Rositsa Kostadinova</b> , Fro&Co, Bulgaria
15:05-15:30	<b>Title: Men dysphagia VS odynophagia within aging humanity, its medical treatment and monitoring</b> <b>Carvern Kudakwashe Shamu</b> , CK Hospitality Solutions, South Africa
15:30-15:55	<b>Title: An analysis of openness, sexual attitudes, behaviors and expectations in consumers of mainstream and ethical pornography</b> <b>Amber Mallery</b> , University of Oporto, Portugal
15:55-16:20	<b>Title: The global cost of menstrual silence</b> <b>Sania Siddiqui</b> , Humjoli Foundation, India
<b>REFRESHMENT &amp; COFFEE BREAK 16:20 – 16:40</b>	
16:40-17:05	<b>Title: AI-driven clinical decision support systems for differentiating viral and bacterial infections: An immunological strategy to combat antibiotic overuse</b> <b>Pooja Bagdi</b> , Trinity Educational Institute, India
17:05-17:30	<b>Title: Child custody and communication in cases of domestic violence</b> <b>Andri Andronikou</b> , SPAVO, Cyprus
17:33-17:55	<b>Title: Ghrelin attenuates cecal ligation and puncture-induced sepsis by inhibiting ferroptosis through the Nrf2/HO-1 pathway</b> <b>QiLiang Hou</b> , Lanzhou University, China
<b>PANEL DISCUSSION</b>	
<b>Closing Ceremony</b>	

## BOOKMARK DATES

# 2<sup>nd</sup> EURO GLOBAL WOMEN'S FORUM

May 17-18, 2027 | Berlin, Germany



# Keynote Forum

DAY 1

## EURO-GLOBAL WOMEN'S FORUM

May 18-19, 2026 | Barcelona, Spain



## Learning by doing: Why leadership development must start at 13

**Kateryna Biloruska**

Biloruska Foundation, Cyprus

Research consistently shows that women who start their professional life without prior leadership experience are less likely to pursue leadership roles, even when equally qualified. Yet most leadership development initiatives still focus on adults already inside institutions — after patterns of self-doubt, underrepresentation, and limited aspiration have already formed.

This presentation is based on two cohorts of the unique project FEM (Future Empowered Minds) Online Programme—a structured 12-week leadership curriculum delivered by the Kateryna Biloruska Foundation to girls aged 13–18 across 12 countries, including participants from Ukraine, Cyprus, Afghanistan, Morocco, Norway, and Spain. Many participants come from single-parent or low-income families, or have refugee backgrounds. Built on a global scale, the programme has united experts from various countries to share diverse perspectives and international best practices.

Through a 'Learning by Doing' methodology, FEM participants develop real project strategies, pitch to professional juries, and practice negotiation and financial literacy in structured team environments. Using a "Learning by Doing" approach, FEM participants create real project strategies, pitch them to professional juries, and build skills in negotiation and financial literacy within structured team settings. What changes is not simply knowledge — it is the participant's internal model of what is possible for her.

Data from the first and second FEM cohorts including 80 participants from in-person camps and 165 graduates of the online programme show clear increases in self-reported confidence, sense of agency, and readiness to take on leadership roles. There are also notable shifts in how participants frame their professional futures.

Findings from cohort data reveal that participants consistently report stronger improvements in confidence, problem-solving self-efficacy, and readiness for leadership compared to those in traditional formal education settings. These effects are especially pronounced among girls from displacement or conflict-affected backgrounds, who often identify structured group challenges — rather than academic instruction — as the key driver of change.

This presentation argues that the most cost-effective intervention point for closing the gender leadership gap is not the boardroom. It is the early adolescent years, before barriers are fully encountered. Practical insights from the FEM model, including programme design, cross-cultural implementation, and measurement of non-formal learning outcomes, will be shared with direct relevance for educators, policymakers, and youth programme designers.

# Euro-Global Women's Forum



May 18-19, 2026 | Barcelona, Spain

## Biography

Kateryna Biloruska is the founder of the Kateryna Biloruska Foundation (KBF), an international charitable organization working at the intersection of youth leadership, inclusive education, sport, and psychosocial support. A recognized philanthropist and social entrepreneur, Kateryna has contributed to programs that have reached more than 82,000 children, parents, and teachers across Ukraine, Cyprus, and internationally.

In 2022, she established KBF as an independent private foundation to expand its reach and deepen its impact, attracting partners across 40 countries. She is the creator of FEM (Future Empowered Minds), a structured leadership program for teenage girls aged 13–18, which has built a community of 2,000+ girls across 12 countries, with participants from Ukraine, Afghanistan, Morocco, Norway, Spain, and beyond.

Kateryna has spoken at international forums on education, youth leadership, and EdTech, including Bett UK and EPSI EU, and has presented at the International Sports Convention. Her foundation holds a long-term memorandum of cooperation with the Cyprus National Paralympic Committee and works with partners including the Municipality of Nicosia, the Cyprus Olympic Committee, and the Cyprus Autism Association.



## The story of us: Purpose, hope, and a call to action

**Nor Fadilah Mohamed Nizar**  
Founder of Tiffin Jeiwa, Malaysia

In a world that often celebrates outcomes, this keynote invites us to look deeper into the stories and systems that create them.

Rooted in a personal journey from a diplomatic officer to a purpose-driven entrepreneur, this keynote reflects on a defining decision: to leave a structured career at the age of 35 in pursuit of something greater. What began as a question — “Is this all I am meant to build?” — evolved into a mission to create opportunities for others, particularly women whose talents, skills, and stories often remain unseen.

Through the founding of Tiffin Jeiwa, a social enterprise grounded in storytelling and craftsmanship, this keynote demonstrates how individual purpose can grow into collective impact. By transforming traditional objects into meaningful narratives and economic opportunities, women are empowered to rediscover their potential, dignity, and voice — turning stories of survival into stories of transformation.

At its heart, “The Story of Us” is about shared humanity — how one story can become many, and how lived experiences can evolve into systems that uplift others. It introduces the idea of women not only as participants in change, but as system builders — translating experience into knowledge, knowledge into action, and action into sustainable impact.

This keynote is a call to move beyond inspiration and into intention. It challenges global leaders, women, and changemakers to:

- Embrace purpose as a foundation for leadership
- Transform personal journeys into pathways for others
- Build collaborative ecosystems that create lasting impact
- Lead with courage, empathy, and responsibility

Ultimately, this is more than a story. It is a shared movement.

A movement built on purpose. Sustained by hope. And driven by action.

Because when we build together, we do not just change our own lives we create space for others to rise.

# Euro-Global Women's Forum



May 18-19, 2026 | Barcelona, Spain

## Biography

Nor Fadilah Mohamed Nizar is a purpose-driven entrepreneur, social impact leader, and founder of Tiffin Jeiwa—a Malaysian social enterprise that transforms traditional craftsmanship into global stories of empowerment, dignity, and economic opportunity.

A former administrative and diplomatic officer with the government of Malaysia, she made a defining decision at the age of 35 to transition from public service into entrepreneurship, guided by a deeper calling to create opportunities for others. What began as a personal journey has evolved into a movement that empowers women and artisans through storytelling, skill development, and inclusive business models.

Through Tiffin Jeiwa, Nor Fadilah has built a system where art becomes income, stories become identity, and products become platforms for change. Her work has been featured on international stages, including Expo 2025 Osaka and ASEAN-level engagements, positioning Malaysian heritage craftsmanship within the global luxury and cultural narrative.

She is also the founder and president of the Johor Empowerment of Intellectual Women Association (JEIWA), where she champions women's leadership, economic inclusion, and community transformation. Her leadership philosophy centers on compassion, purpose, and the belief that individual stories, when nurtured and connected, can evolve into systems that uplift entire communities.

An advocate for storytelling as strategy, Nor Fadilah speaks globally on women as system builders—transforming lived experiences into sustainable impact. Her work continues to bridge culture, creativity, and commerce, inspiring a new generation of leaders to build with purpose, lead with empathy, and create pathways for others to rise.



## Spectrum of Kindness Therapy (SKT): A compassion-centered feasibility pilot for neurodiverse adults

**Julius Melvin Jefferies**  
Simply Healing LLC, USA

**Background:** Spectrum of Kindness Therapy (SKT) is an integrative, compassion-centered therapeutic model that operationalizes intentional kindness as a structured intervention across three interrelated domains: Internal (self-kindness), Relational (kindness to others), and World (kindness in action). SKT integrates polyvagal theory, IFS-informed parts work, and compassion-focused approaches to target autonomic regulation, mitigate shame, and foster purposeful community reintegration.

**Methods:** This feasibility pilot will recruit N = 30 neurodiverse adults (ages 18–65), including autistic and ADHD-identified participants, experiencing elevated self-criticism and relational distress. Participants will engage in a 12-session SKT program delivered by clinicians trained in SKT Level 1 competencies, with daily short somatic resourcing practices. Primary feasibility outcomes include recruitment, retention, adherence to home practices, and adverse events. Secondary clinical outcomes will be assessed at baseline, mid-treatment, post-treatment, and 3-month follow-up using validated measures (SCS, DERS, WHOQOL-BREF, relational functioning indices, and session-by-session SUDS). Physiological feasibility will be explored using heart-rate variability snapshots during resourcing.

**Results & Anticipated Contributions:** Semi-structured exit interviews will capture accessibility, perceived benefit, and needed adaptations. Findings will inform SKT manual refinement, fidelity metrics, and sample-size calculations for a future randomized controlled trial. We hypothesize that SKT will be both feasible and acceptable, and will demonstrate positive preliminary signals on self-compassion and emotion regulation outcomes.

**Conclusion:** By reframing kindness as a clinical tool rather than a moral ideal, SKT emphasizes neurodiversity-affirming practices and accessibility. If supported, SKT may offer a low-cost, scalable, compassion-based therapeutic approach that promotes individual healing, relational repair, and community reintegration.

### Biography

Julius M. Jefferies is a Clinical Mental Health Therapist serving the Knox County area of Tennessee with specialties in a wide range of individual, couple, and group therapy interventions. His clinical experience in the last 25 years has focused on holistic, solution-focused therapy for both adolescents and adults who are living with autism, crisis, psychological disorder, trauma, and grief. Julius earned a Masters of Mental Health Counseling from Freed-Hardeman University followed by specialty certifications in Grief Counseling, Autism Disorder Specialist intervention, and as an End of Life Doula.

As a member of the Mental Health Active Response Team (Tn MHART) and the National Board of Certified Counselors (NCC), Julius' professional ambition is to not only walk alongside those in therapeutic environments, but also provide emergency and acute therapy intervention.



## Allergen immunotherapy in transition (2020–2025): Mechanistic advances, clinical integration, and practical standards

**Dylan Lee**  
CuraStrategix Health, USA

Between 2020 and 2025, allergen immunotherapy (AIT) has progressed from an empirical desensitization approach to a precision-guided program of immune tolerance induction. Advances in antigen engineering, omics-based immune profiling, and biologic co-modulation have redefined AIT as an active process of immunologic reprogramming rather than passive exposure. Convergent mechanistic data now describe a coherent pathway in which IL-10-secreting regulatory T cells orchestrate downstream class-switching from IgE to IgG4, suppress effector-cell degranulation, and restore epithelial-barrier signaling. These coordinated events translate into measurable and durable clinical benefit that can be prospectively monitored through composite biomarkers integrating sIgE/sIgG4 ratios, basophil activation thresholds, and early cytokine kinetics.

Recombinant, peptide, and allergoid formulations have improved extract standardization and safety, while early-phase mRNA and virus-like-particle constructs achieve epitope-restricted presentation with minimal reactogenicity. Integration of component-resolved diagnostics and real-world adherence analytics enables adaptive dosing and treatment individualization across mono- and polysensitized phenotypes. The short-course use of biologic adjuncts—particularly anti-IgE and anti-IL-4R $\alpha$ —has demonstrated synergistic potential to stabilize the up-dosing phase, reduce systemic reactions, and preserve long-term tolerance markers, positioning combination strategies as transitional rather than substitutive. Implementation studies emphasize that structured cluster and rush protocols, when coupled with digital monitoring and pharmacovigilance registries, maintain safety while reducing attrition.

Collectively, these developments reposition AIT as a central platform for immune-tolerance engineering in allergic disease. The next stage requires globally harmonized product standards, validated predictive biomarkers deployable in community practice, and longitudinal follow-up frameworks linking mechanistic endpoints with sustained real-world outcomes.

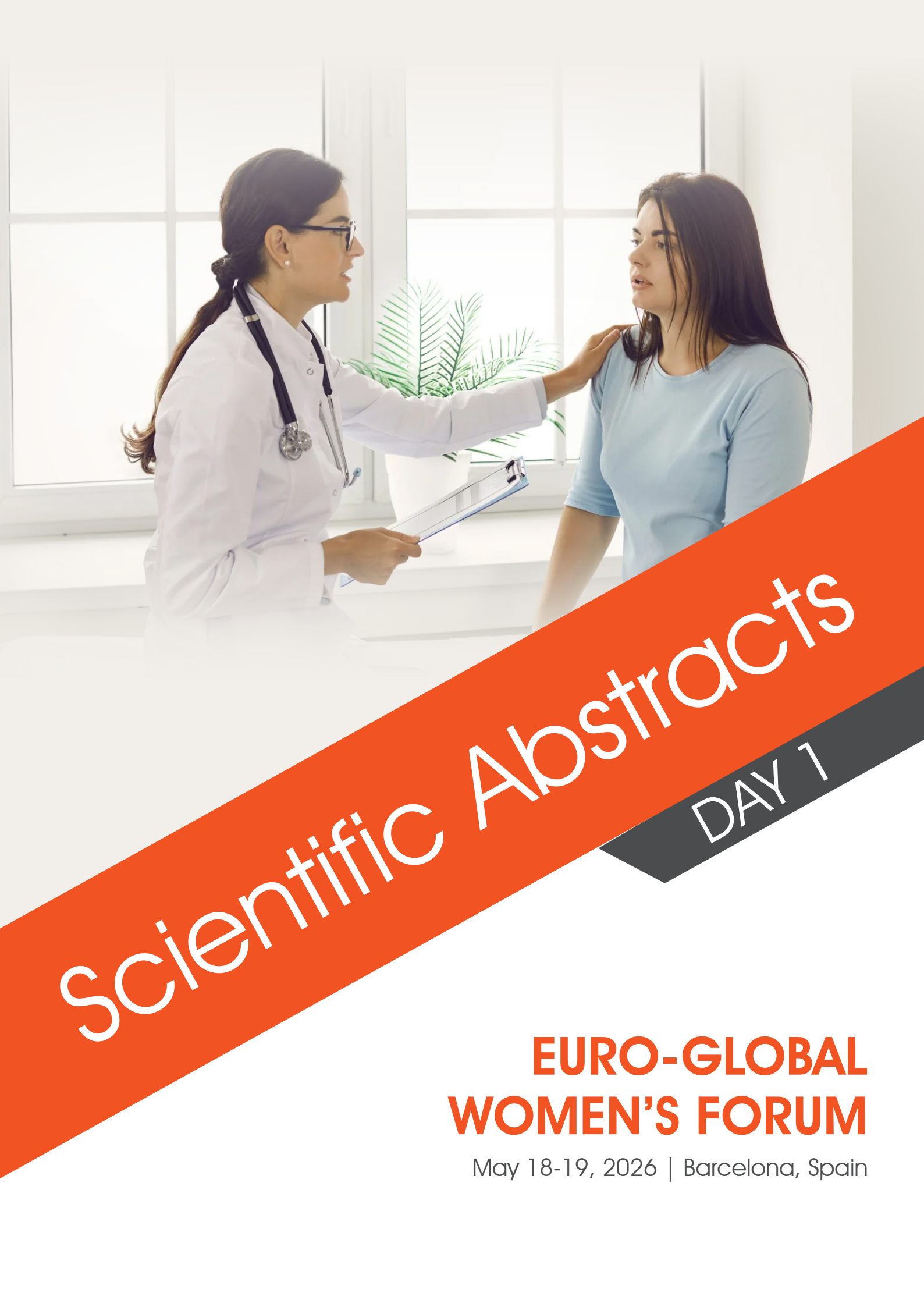
### Biography

Dr. Dylan Lee is an immunologist and physician–scientist specializing in translational and personalized medicine. His work bridges immune regulation, allergy, and oncology, integrating biomarker-driven precision strategies into clinical development. With extensive leadership experience across global biotech and pharmaceutical companies, Dr. Lee has directed IND-to-NDA programs and cross-border collaborations in immunotherapy, tolerance, and biologics. A Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine, he combines academic rigor with industrial execution to advance patient-centered innovation in immune and inflammatory diseases.

## BOOKMARK DATES

# 2<sup>nd</sup> EURO GLOBAL WOMEN'S FORUM

May 17-18, 2027 | Berlin, Germany



# Scientific Abstracts

DAY 1

## **EURO-GLOBAL WOMEN'S FORUM**

May 18-19, 2026 | Barcelona, Spain

## Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs) in cosmetics and how to walk away from it

**Eman Ahmedali**

*IKA, Germany*

You might think for a second the endocrine disruptors in cosmetic doesn't play major role, but, the truth is that the skin is the biggest organ in the body, with an average of approximately 1.5 to 2.0 square meters per human adult. Which makes it among the largest organs in the body when it comes to exposure to toxin and chemicals in daily bases. At the average woman uses about 12 to 16 cosmetic products per day and a typical cosmetic product contain 15 (simple face serum) to 50 (colour cosmetic) ingredients. Thus the Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals EDCs of cosmetic becomes inevitable.

EDCs are any molecules comes from natural resources or man-made that disrupt the normal function of the hormones in the body. These hormones produce by several glands in the body: (1) The pituitary and Hypothalamus glands, (2) The pineal gland, (4) Thymus gland, (5) Pancreas, (6) Adrenal gland, (7) Ovary and (8) Testes all their hormonal release are subject to Endocrine disrupting chemicals. Thes EDCs interfere with the normal function of hormones in various ways, weather by mimic the natural hormones function (agonist), or blocking the hormones receptor (Antagonist), or interfere with the protein that transport the hormones in the body, or block the access to the transport protein leaving the hormones outside or inside the target cells. All which lead to creating harmful or adverse effect in the body of an organism.

In the oral presentation, I will speak about a group of must critical chemicals in cosmetics and how they interfere with the normal function of hormone and wellbeing.

### Biography

Dr. Eman A. M. Ahmedali; I am a registered pharmacist at the Italian Board of Pharmacists. I am the head of research and development for the Bellazuri cosmetic company. My R&D laboratory is in the heart of the IKA laboratory headquarters in Germany, where I have access to technology and innovation. I have spent my past 10 years working in the cosmetic field with different industries across the globe, from Italy, Australia, Germany, and Africa. Since then I dedicated research to develop as safe a product for consumers as possible, and it stands as my fingerprint and contribution to this world. I do have previous experience in the pharma side, as I have been working for pharmaceutical industries, and I have done my master's degree in pharmaceutical industries from UNICAL, Italy. But since I stepped into the cosmetic world, I understood there is much to do.

## A predictive model for assessing and monitoring depression and psychopathological risk in healthcare settings

**Federica Vallone**

*University of Naples Federico II, Italy*

Despite the continuous efforts worldwide, research still highlights the need to reduce the noteworthy psychopathological risk among healthcare professionals by providing them with adequate resources for dealing effectively with stress and psychological burden experienced in their daily work life. Responding to this need, the present study has a twofold objective: 1. To provide researchers and practitioners with a valid multidimensional predictive model that could be used to assess and monitor stress and psychopathological risk among healthcare workers, namely the Demands Resources and Individual Effects Model (DRIVE Model–Nurses Version; Vallone, Smith, Zurlo, 2020). 2. To illustrate findings of a research application of this model, employed to identify workers at higher psychopathological risk (Depression, Anxiety, Phobic-Anxiety, Obsessive–Compulsive, Somatization, Depression, Interpersonal-Sensitivity, Hostility, Psychoticism, Paranoid-Ideation) according to their coping profile. Overall, 265 nurses working in the Public Health Service completed the DRIVE-Survey, including the Ways of Coping Checklist-Revised and the Symptom-Checklist-90-Revised. Non-hierarchical k-means cluster analysis was used to derive coping patterns, whereas MANOVAs and Chi-Square analyses were used to test differences in psychopathological profiles according to the emerged patterns. Three stable patterns of coping were identified and labelled as *Dysregulated-Emotion-focused*, *Active-Solution-Oriented*, and *Passive-Disengaged*. Nurses belonging to *Dysregulated-Emotion-focused* group emerged to be at noteworthy higher psychopathological risk (e.g., 48.8% reported clinically relevant levels of Psychoticism, 41.4% of Somatization and Interpersonal-Sensitivity, 37.9% of Paranoid Ideation, 29.3% of Depression and Obsessive-Compulsive symptoms) – followed by nurses belonging to *Passive-Disengaged* group (e.g., 17.2% reported clinically relevant levels of Paranoid Ideation, 15.6% of Anxiety and Somatization, 13.9% of Depression) – in comparison with nurses belonging to *Active-Solution-Oriented* group (e.g., 9.4% reported clinically relevant levels of Paranoid Ideation, 8.2% of Depression, 7.1% of Somatization). The theoretical and practical implications will be discussed. Findings can be used to develop tailored evidence-based individual, group, and organizational interventions in the healthcare context.

### Biography

Federica Vallone, PhD, is a researcher at the University of Naples Federico II. She received her doctorate in Human Mind and Gender Studies at the University of Naples Federico II in collaboration with the Centre for Occupational and Health Psychology, Cardiff University. Her research covers the area of health psychology in a wide set of populations (students, teachers, nurses, parents, and partners of infertile couples). As a member of the Dynamic Psychology Laboratory team, she is involved in national and international research projects focused on the development and applications of models and tools for the evaluation of stress and psychopathological risk.

## Impact of menopause on employees at universities in England

**Hyun-Joo Lim**

*Bournemouth University, UK*

This paper examines the experiences of employees going through the menopause through the lens of neoliberal managerialism and sidelining of the menopause within neoliberal Higher Education (HE) in England. There has been a recent growth of public discourse around the menopause in the UK and increasing efforts to destigmatise and raise awareness of the menopause, exemplified by development of menopause policies, joining Menopause Pledge and creating menopause support networks/cafes. However, the effectiveness of these interventions in practice is unknown. To address this gap, this British Academy/Leverhulme funded project explores the (in)effectiveness of menopause policies and support in English HE institutions. The data is drawn from an online survey with 153 employees who are affected by the menopause, three focus groups with protected characteristics in English universities and the content analysis of menopause policy documents. Our findings suggest that the menopause had a negative impact on women and those who suffer from symptoms in their career development, mental wellbeing and confidence. It additionally caused a lot of anxiety and worries about job security, how they are judged, and income loss. Deeply gendered organisational culture and the marginalised status of the menopause as a non-protected condition pose serious challenges to providing sufficient support for these employees, who are mostly women. I argue that this creates a loss-loss situation for those individuals and the organisations where they work through inadequate support for affected staff and the loss of or under-utilisation of their accumulated knowledge and skills under the neoliberal managerial regime that addresses the menopause superficially as a tick-box exercise. More profound structural approaches initiated by leaders are required to bring notable changes in supporting staff and to create a win-win situation.

### Biography

Dr. Hyun-Joo Lim is Principal Academic in Sociology and Inclusivity Lead at the Faculty of Health and Social Sciences at Bournemouth University. Originally from South Korea, her research interests have been developed around gender, identity, and the experiences of East Asian migrants, as well as socially marginalized and ethnically diverse individuals and groups in the UK. Her first book, *East Asian Mothers in Britain: An Intersectional Exploration of Motherhood and Employment*, was published in 2018 by Palgrave Macmillan. Her second book, *North Korean Women and Defection: Human Rights Violations and Activism*, was published in 2023 by Bristol University Press. Dr. Lim has recently been awarded the British Academy and Leverhulme Grant for her 2-year project, 'How Effective Are Menopause Policies at Universities in England?' to examine the effectiveness of menopause policies in practice in English higher educational institutions.

## Interior architecture as a medium of empowerment, Syrian women and the reconstruction of cultural identity

**Rim Omar**

*Arab International University, Syria*

Interior architecture, as a discipline, has always been deeply rooted in the essence of femininity—care, adaptability, and creation. Historically, it was women who gave meaning to the concept of interior space, transforming shelters into homes that reflect identity, culture, and emotion. The foundations of interior architecture emerged from women's roles as nurturers and visionaries—those who designed and reshaped their domestic environments to serve the evolving needs of their families and communities. Thus, interior architecture originates not merely from construction, but from the human—and particularly the feminine—instinct to create beauty, functionality, and harmony from within.

In recent years, women have reclaimed this field as their own, transforming interior architecture into a true arena of empowerment. Across universities and professional spaces, women are increasingly dominating the discipline, surpassing their male counterparts both in numbers and influence. Their sensitivity to context and culture has redefined the profession, aligning design with environmental consciousness and social well-being.

In Syria, the evolution of interior architecture reflects a profound cultural continuity shaped by women's creativity and resilience. As guardians of tradition, Syrian women integrate crafts, textiles, and symbolic motifs rooted in faith and folklore into modern interiors, blending heritage with contemporary design. Their work embodies both aesthetic sensitivity and cultural identity, demonstrating that interior architecture is not merely about form, but about preserving memory, expressing identity, and sustaining the dialogue between past and present.

Today, women in Syria are emerging as leaders in interior architecture and design, redefining what rebuilding means. They are not just reconstructing walls; they are reconstructing identities, communities, and futures. Their vision and sensitivity place them at the heart of Syria's post-war recovery—empowering others, fostering sustainability, and inspiring a new generation to see architecture as a tool for healing and progress.

### Biography

Dr. Rim Omar is the vice dean for scientific affairs and head of the interior architecture department at the Arab International University's Faculty of Arts. She holds a PhD in interior architecture from Damascus University, where her research explored the role of senses and cognition in designing integrated interior spaces. A distinguished academic and practitioner, Dr. Omar has lectured extensively at several universities and published in reputable journals. She also serves as Senior Editor for the Journal of Praxis in Higher Education (JPHE). In addition to her academic leadership, she is the founder of Smart Design, through which she has managed diverse projects across the Middle East. Combining scholarship, leadership, and practical experience, Dr. Omar is dedicated to advancing sustainable, human-centered interior architecture.

## The power beneath the surface: How attitudes, assumptions, and expectations™ shape women's leadership and global impact

**Monique Kammer**

*Independent Consultant, USA*

Women across sectors play a critical role in driving innovation, equity, and social progress; however, many continue to encounter invisible barriers that influence how their leadership is perceived, received, and sustained. While structural inequities are widely discussed, the internal and relational dynamics that quietly shape women's voice, confidence, and influence remain underexamined.

This presentation introduces the AAE Framework—Attitude, Assumptions, and Expectations™ as a leadership lens for understanding how unspoken beliefs and emotional climates shape women's leadership experiences across education, organizations, and global contexts. Drawing from leadership theory, social psychology, and over two decades of professional practice, this session examines how these three forces function as hidden drivers of culture, decision-making, and engagement.

Attitude influences emotional environments and psychological safety; assumptions shape interpretation, bias, and meaning-making; and expectations create invisible pressure that disproportionately affects women in leadership roles. When left unexamined, these forces can silence voice, increase emotional labor, and erode trust. When addressed intentionally, they can strengthen clarity, confidence, and impact.

Through reflective analysis and applied leadership strategies, participants will gain practical tools to identify and interrupt limiting patterns within themselves and their organizations. This session aligns with the Women's Forum 2026 theme, "Voices of Change: Women Driving Global Impact," by equipping women leaders with awareness-based strategies that support authentic leadership, inclusive culture-building, and sustainable global impact.

### Biography

Dr. Moni Kay is an educational leader, People C Culture strategist, author, and transformational speaker with over twenty years of leadership experience across education, correctional programs, nonprofit organizations, and international systems. She holds a Doctorate in Social Justice C

Educational Leadership and specializes in organizational health, inclusive leadership, and culture transformation. Through her signature AAE Framework—Attitude, Assumptions, and Expectations™—she equips leaders to uncover the invisible dynamics shaping relationships, culture, and performance. Her work bridges scholarship and practice, helping women and organizations lead with clarity, emotional intelligence, and integrity in complex and diverse environments.

## Story as strategy: Women artisans, inclusive business models, and global market transformation

**Nor Fadilah Binti Mohamed Nizar**

*Jeiwa Global Handicraft Sdn Bhd, Malaysia*

Published literature identifies women-led handicrafts as a viable pathway out of poverty due to their accessibility, cultural embeddedness, and compatibility with women's social and domestic realities. Drawing on Granovetter's (1985) theory of embeddedness, markets are understood not as anonymous systems but as socially constructed networks shaped by trust, reciprocity, and repeated interaction. For women-led inclusive businesses, demand therefore emerges through long-term relationships with partners, customers, and institutions, where credibility accumulates over time rather than through immediate visibility. However, research also cautions that handicraft production alone does not guarantee poverty alleviation. Women artisans often remain confined to informal labour, low bargaining power, and unstable income unless their work is integrated into structured value chains, fair pricing mechanisms, and sustained market demand.

Consequently, inclusive business models, rather than aid- or charity-based approaches, are increasingly recognised as essential for enabling durable economic agency for women (UNDP, 2010).

Building on this literature, this paper argues that storytelling functions as a strategic business mechanism (Fog, Budtz & Yakaboylu, 2005) through which women-led handicraft enterprises generate demand, enhance perceived value, and access global markets. When embedded into product design, branding, and partnerships, storytelling strengthens emotional connection, increases willingness to pay, and aligns products with fair trade principles, ethical consumption, and Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) priorities.

The paper presents Tiffin Jeiwa, a Malaysian women-led social enterprise that has evolved into an inclusive business, as a central case study. Tiffin Jeiwa champions artisans from vulnerable communities, including persons with disabilities, survivors of domestic violence, senior citizens, and economically marginalised individuals. Through narrative-driven branding, it has transformed the traditional tiffin carrier into a cultural artefact communicating Malaysian identity, women's resilience, and social value, while establishing over 300 partnerships with international brands and institutions and serving as Malaysia's representative merchandise on global platforms.

Beyond market outcomes, the paper examines challenges faced by story-led inclusive businesses, including dominant capitalist assumptions, limited institutional understanding, and procurement systems that prioritise price and scale over impact. This paper aims to educate procurement practitioners to better understand, support, and expand their engagement with inclusive businesses, recognising that procurement decisions directly affect community well-being. Unlike CSR funding, which is often episodic and peripheral, inclusive procurement creates direct and sustained economic impact by enabling communities to earn dignified income through market participation rather than dependency.

# Euro-Global Women's Forum



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The paper concludes that women artisans are not passive beneficiaries of development but strategic agents of systemic market transformation, using storytelling as strategy and inclusive business as economic infrastructure for sustainable, dignified, and inclusive livelihoods.

## Biography

Ina Fadilah Nizar (Nor Fadilah Mohamed Nizar) is a Malaysian social entrepreneur, inclusive business leader, and women empowerment advocate. A survivor of domestic violence, her lived experience informs her commitment to creating economic dignity and sustainable livelihoods for women from vulnerable communities. She is the founder of JEIWA, a brand and movement encompassing an NGO, a social enterprise, and a signature product that has evolved into a social movement, a conversational piece, and a national craft.

Holding a master's degree from the prestigious National University of Singapore in Southeast Asian Studies, Ina Fadilah brings academic excellence, regional insight, and noble intention to her work—positioning JEIWA on the global stage. Formerly an Administrative & Diplomatic Officer for the Government of Malaysia, she possesses strong expertise in industrial relations, negotiation, and diplomatic skills, which she applies in building cross-sector and international partnerships.

An avid speaker on women's empowerment, craft practitioner, and advocate, she aspires to inspire more professional women to become social entrepreneurs—using business as a force for inclusion, creativity, and systemic change.

## Controlling the immune system through nanomedicine: 45,000 patients and counting

**Thomas J. Webster**

*Brown University, USA*

Nanomedicine is the use of nanomaterials to improve disease prevention, detection, and treatment which has resulted in hundreds of FDA approved medical products. While nanomedicine has been around for several decades, new technological advances are pushing its boundaries. For example, this presentation will present an over 25 year journey of commercializing nanomaterials for orthopedic implants now in over 30,000 patients to date showing no signs of failure. Current orthopedic implants face a failure rate of 5 – 10% and sometimes as high as 60% for bone cancer patients. Further, this talk will present future research directions into using atomic layer deposition (ALD) to create such nanostructures on implants to reduce infection and improve bone growth. Sensors grown off of orthopedic implants using ALD will also be discussed in which cell presence on orthopedic implants can be detected and quantified. Such information can also be communicated to a handheld device to better inform surgeons on chances of implant success or failure. Such sensors can also release pharmaceutical agents and/or nanoparticles on-demand to ensure implant success. Lastly, this talk will cover how Artificial Intelligence (AI) can be combined into today's orthopedic implants to predict implant success or failure in the years that follow.

### Biography

Thomas J. Webster's (H index: 137) degrees are in chemical engineering from the University of Pittsburgh (B.S., 1995; USA) and in biomedical engineering from RPI (Ph.D., 2000; USA). He has formed over a dozen companies who have numerous FDA approved medical products currently improving human health in over 30,000 patients. He is also currently serving as a professor at Brown University, Saveetha University, Hebei University of Technology, UFPI, and others. Dr. Webster has numerous awards including: 2020, World Top 2% Scientist by Citations (PLOS); 2020, SCOPUS Highly Cited Research (Top 1% Materials Science and Mixed Fields); 2021, Clarivate Top 0.1% Most Influential Researchers (Pharmacology and Toxicology); 2022, Best Materials Science Scientist by Citations (Research.com); and is a fellow of over 8 societies. Prof. Webster is a former President of the U.S. Society for Biomaterials and has over 1,350 publications to his credit with over 55,000 citations. He was recently nominated for the Nobel Prize in Chemistry. Prof. Webster also recently formed a fund to support Nigerian student research opportunities in the U.S.

## The impact of motherhood on the careers of female academics in Spain

**María del Val Bolívar Oñoro**

*University of Alcalá, Spain*

Academics have been addressing the barriers that women encounter in employment upon becoming mothers for decades. This issue remains highly relevant, as society is constantly evolving, along with the social norms that drive legislative change. However, academic employment—particularly in the context of university research careers—presents distinctive characteristics that set it apart from other professional fields. A notable example is the entrenched “publish or perish” paradigm.

These specificities call for targeted scholarly attention. Nevertheless, existing research on this topic is limited in scope, often focusing on a small number of countries and relying on relatively small samples. To address this gap, a survey was conducted between March and April 2026 within the framework of the project entitled “Barriers to Motherhood for Female Academics in Spain,” funded by the Spanish Women’s Institute and developed at the University of Alcalá.

The survey was completed by 830 participants. Of these, 87% indicated that having children does not affect career progression in academia equally for men and women. Furthermore, 83% reported being unable to maintain the same level of academic productivity after becoming mothers. Additionally, 63% stated that they were unaware of any institutional measures aimed at facilitating motherhood, while 36% acknowledged the existence of such measures but considered them insufficient.

In light of these findings, there is a clear and pressing need to reassess the criteria by which academia is organized. Otherwise, motherhood will continue to be systematically penalized.

### Biography

Maria del Val (Marival) Bolívar Oñoro was born in 1991 in Alcalá de Henares (Madrid, Spain). Marival is a Margarita Salas Postdoctoral Fellow at NOVA School of Law. This innovative program is funded by the Spanish Government, *NextGenerationEU*, *Plan de Recuperación Transformación y Resiliencia* and the University of Alcalá.

Marival graduated in law at the University of Alcalá (Madrid, Spain) in 2014. She obtained an LLM in Torts (Rey Juan Carlos University, Madrid, Spain), in 2017, and her Dual PhD (University of Alcalá – Maynooth University, Maynooth, Ireland), in 2021, after defending her dissertation: “*The Right of People Living with HIV to Private Health Insurance in Spain*”.

## Exploring the support ecosystem for women entrepreneurs: Resources and gaps in the Mexican context

**Ana Vanesa Morones Antillón**

*ITESO, México*

Women entrepreneurs in Mexico face both growing opportunities and persistent barriers in accessing resources, networks, and institutional support. Despite the increasing recognition of women-led businesses as key drivers of economic growth and social innovation, significant challenges remain in building strategies that ensure an inclusive and supportive entrepreneurial ecosystem. This study seeks to identify and analyze the diverse actors that constitute the support ecosystem for female entrepreneurship in Mexico, examining the resources they provide and the gaps that hinder their effectiveness.

The study followed a concurrent mixed methods design to capture both depth and breadth. Qualitative insights came from interviews with women entrepreneurs and ecosystem actors, while surveys offered a wider view of emerging patterns. Documentary sources, including policies and institutional reports, were also reviewed. The integration of content analysis with statistical tools allowed for robust and complementary results.

The analysis highlights both enablers and barriers within the ecosystem. Financial institutions, incubators, universities, and government agencies provide important resources, yet access remains uneven, particularly for women in marginalized regions or emerging industries. Limited coordination among actors further restricts the effectiveness of available support. Moreover, cultural and structural barriers continue to affect visibility, access to funding, and long-term business sustainability for women entrepreneurs.

By mapping this ecosystem and identifying areas of strength and fragmentation, the research contributes to a deeper understanding of how gender intersects with entrepreneurship in middle-income contexts. The findings aim to inform policymakers, business leaders, and academic institutions seeking to design interventions that enhance coordination, increase access to resources, and promote equity. Ultimately, the study underscores the importance of strengthening entrepreneurial ecosystems that not only foster business growth but also contribute to inclusive and sustainable development.

### Biography

Ana Vanesa Morones Antillón graduated in 2019 with a degree in architecture from ITESO (Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Occidente) and is currently pursuing an MBA in the Department of Economics and Business at the same university. Her academic background bridges design and architecture with project management, with a focus on empathy and creating meaningful social impact. Her curiosity about entrepreneurship and gender equity has shaped her journey from early small-scale ventures to her current research. She is passionate about highlighting the growing presence of women entrepreneurs and examining how ecosystems can better support them.

She has engaged in leadership and community initiatives, including the Latin American Ignatian Leadership Course (2015) and UNIRED disaster brigades (2016). She was also part of a finalist team at the BID Urban Lab (2017) and contributed to its 2020 edition. Professionally, she has worked as a project manager across diverse organizational contexts.

## The gray divorce: Innovation in financial mechanisms for women

**Nelva Paulina Rivas Briseño**

*ITESO, Mexico*

This research project addresses the financial vulnerability faced by women over 50 who experience what has been termed gray divorce. Through an interdisciplinary approach combining strategic design, social innovation, and gender equity, the study proposes innovative mechanisms to enhance financial inclusion and access for this demographic.

The participation in the Young Researchers Forum represents an opportunity to share preliminary findings, receive feedback from international experts, and engage with a community of emerging scholars committed to social transformation. By presenting this work in a forum dedicated to diversity, gender equality, and female leadership, the project reaffirms its commitment to social justice and women's economic empowerment.

Specifically, the project aims to:

1. Identify and map women's financial, structural, and design barriers during gray divorce.
2. Propose innovation-driven and inclusive financial models that foster women's autonomy and sustainable well-being.
3. Promote dialogue among academic, institutional, and private-sector actors to co-design solutions that extend beyond academia and generate real social impact.

Ultimately, this research seeks to spark collective reflection on how financial systems and organizational design strategies can be reimaged to address the needs of historically marginalized populations, contributing to international networks of research and action around gender equity, financial inclusion, and social innovation.

### Biography

Nelva Paulina Rivas Briseño is an academic and researcher affiliated with ITESO, Mexico. Her work is associated with higher education and research initiatives, contributing to academic development and interdisciplinary collaboration. Through her role at ITESO, she is engaged in advancing knowledge, supporting student learning, and participating in scholarly activities within her field.

## Voice. Presence. Impact (Syrian women in academia)

**Rita Alnwisser**

*Arab International University, Syria*

This is a story of a thread—unbroken, resilient, and brilliant—woven across centuries of Syrian history. It is the story of a woman's voice finding its way from ancient Palmyra to modern lecture halls.

It begins with Queen Zenobia: a sovereign, a scholar, a strategist. Her legacy is not just one of power, but of profound intellect and influence. She was not an exception; she was a prototype. She set a precedent that the Syrian woman is a pillar of thought and a catalyst for change.

This poster traces that precedent through time to the contemporary Syrian woman in academia. Today, she is the researcher, the professor, the PhD candidate. She is writing papers, leading labs, and mentoring students—often while navigating displacement, scarcity, and unimaginable pressure.

Yet, the core truth remains unchanged: The Syrian woman continues to create knowledge. She continues to influence research and shape education. Her tools have evolved from scrolls to digital libraries, but her mission is ancestral: to think, to build, to lead, and to illuminate.

This visual narrative connects these two points—Zenobia's throne and today's academic desk—not as a distant history lesson, but as a living lineage. It shows that the strength to rule a kingdom and the strength to build a scholarly life spring from the same source. It is a quiet manifesto: the Syrian woman in academia is not emerging from nowhere. She is walking a path her ancestors cleared, carrying their legacy of strength, thought, and impact into the future, one lesson, one discovery, one student at a time.

### Biography

Rita is an assistant professor in interior architecture at the Arab International University (AIU) and is currently pursuing her master's at the University of Damascus. Her research focuses on positive isolation in workspaces, exploring how design can make environments more functional and supportive for people. Alongside teaching, she also works on freelance interior design projects, bringing practical experience into her daily work.



# Keynote Forum

DAY 2

## EURO-GLOBAL WOMEN'S FORUM

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## The future of leadership in an AI-driven world

**Ivana Nikolik**  
Atos, Netherlands

As AI systems evolve from supportive tools to autonomous, Agentic actors, leaders face a new challenge: how to integrate intelligence without losing humanity. This talk explores the role of AI in leadership through a compelling comparison between human decision-making and artificial agents, brought to life through an interactive sales-scenario game.

By comparing outcomes, behaviours, and trade-offs between human and AI agents, we will uncover key insights into trust, accountability, empathy, and performance. The session also touches on emerging developments such as humanoid AI and what they signal for the future of work.

Participants will leave with a clearer understanding of Agentic AI, practical use cases across industries, and a framework for building human-centric AI systems that enhance rather than replace- leadership.

### Biography

Ivana is a long-term board member and executive director in the IT industry, currently CGO—Business Development Data & AI—at Atos, and a Forbes Councils executive member and thought leader with over 18 years of experience leading global strategic and growth initiatives. She has been awarded 40Under40 Top Business Leader in Europe, 2025 Tech Leader of the Year, and Global Leader of the New Era. Today, she's president of STEM Women in the Netherlands and G:100 country chair for the Netherlands for IT services and innovations.

As a vocal advocate for women in technology and AI, Ivana serves as a Global Ambassador and Mentor for Women in Tech and Women in AI Benelux, on a mission to empower the next generation of leaders while driving change in industries powered by AI, automation, and digital transformation.

Ivana's strategic acumen and dynamic leadership style have solidified her reputation as a trailblazer in global business development while growing strong C-level relationships and sharing knowledge and expertise on digital transformation with a mission to drive innovation in the ever-evolving landscape of technology. She is a frequent keynote speaker, chair, panelist, or official delegate at global conferences and actively invests in continuous learning through international executive programs.



## From tech giant to space pioneer: A woman of colour's journey building global impact

**Deborah Sass**  
SpaceVrse, Spain

This keynote addresses one of the most pressing challenges facing the technology industry today: the stark under-representation of women, particularly women of colour, in leadership positions within emerging sectors. Drawing from a 25-year career trajectory that spans Amazon, iTunes, Shazam, Spotify, and culminates in founding SpaceVrse—a global space industry platform serving 150 countries—this session explores both the barriers and pathways to building transformative impact in male-dominated industries.

The presentation examines three critical dimensions of leadership in emerging technology sectors. First, it deconstructs the unique challenges faced by women of colour entering exclusive industries like space, where barriers to entry extend beyond gender to include racial bias, network access, and credibility-building from outside of traditional pathways. Second, it provides practical frameworks for leveraging “outsider” status as a competitive advantage, demonstrating how diverse perspectives drive innovation in established markets. Third, it offers concrete strategies for building global platforms that democratise access to opportunities historically controlled by elite institutions.

Through the lens of SpaceVrse's growth from concept to over 150-country reach, attendees will gain insights into scaling international businesses, navigating the tension between bootstrapping and venture funding, and creating inclusive communities that transcend geographic and cultural boundaries. The session directly addresses the forum's core themes of women in leadership, STEM representation, entrepreneurship, and youth empowerment by providing both inspiration and actionable takeaways.

This keynote is designed for women leaders, entrepreneurs, and professionals seeking to enter or advance in non-traditional sectors, as well as organisations committed to fostering genuine diversity in innovation ecosystems.

### Biography

Deborah Sass is the CEO and founder of SpaceVrse, a global space ecosystem connecting industry leaders, innovators, and next-generation talent across 150+ countries. With over 25 years in media, entertainment, and technology—including roles at Amazon, iTunes, Shazam, Spotify, and major K and Australian media networks—she has built expertise in strategic partnerships, capital formation, and international deal structuring. She is also co-founder of AstroBridge Advisors, supporting companies and founders across space and emerging technologies. As a TEDx speaker, former World Economic Forum Global Future Council on Space member, and woman of color in aerospace, Deborah advocates for democratizing access to opportunities in male-dominated industries. Based in Spain, she serves as an advisor and board member across space, the arts, and philanthropic organizations.



## The right to assisted procreation - comments on post-mortem fertilization in Polish law in the European context

**Maciej Rzewuski**

University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, Poland

The article concerns the issue of in vitro and post-mortem fertilization in light of the Infertility Treatment Act (ITA) of 25 June 2015, effective as of 1 November 2015. Through an analysis of the legal solutions in force pre-ITA, it identifies a legal loophole that precludes those women who are neither married nor in cohabitation with a man from implanting embryos created before 1 November 2015 from their gamete cells and the gamete cells of anonymous male donors. The legal solutions make the transfer impossible if the embryo created pre-ITA comes from a partner donation and the gamete donor who died before declaring consent to the transfer. Simultaneously, they allow another woman to give birth to a child against the genetic mother's will. The ITA contains exemptions explicitly limiting the rights of individuals to self-determination in matters pertaining to procreation, demonstrates gender discrimination against women, and constitutes a clearly anachronistic solution, whose axiology remains questionable.

### Biography

Maciej Rzewuski is the Head of the Department of Civil Procedure and Legal Protection at the Faculty of Law and Administration, the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn; a judge at the Court of Appeal in Olsztyn; a lecturer in attorneys' and legal advisers' training; he authored over 250 scientific publications on civil law and civil procedure; he specializes in inheritance law, family law and private international law; by working in both capacities, i.e., as an academic teacher and a judge, he skillfully combines theory with the practical application of law; adjudicating in the Court of Appeal, he deals with problems related to the topic of the present study on a daily basis.



# Scientific Abstracts

DAY 2

## EURO-GLOBAL WOMEN'S FORUM

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## Integrative molecular and translational landscape of cholangiocarcinoma: From fibroblast signalling to ribosomal regulation

Wenbo Meng<sup>1,2</sup>, Wenkang Fu<sup>1</sup>, Mingzhen Bai<sup>1</sup>, Yanyan Lin<sup>2</sup> and Ping Yue<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Lanzhou University, China

<sup>2</sup>The First Hospital of Lanzhou University, China

**Background:** Cholangiocarcinoma (CCA) remains a lethal malignancy characterized by pronounced desmoplasia, early metastasis, and poor therapeutic response. Increasing evidence highlights that both stromal–tumor interactions and dysregulated translational machinery jointly drive tumor progression and chemoresistance.

**Methods:** Patient-derived cells, organoids, and xenografts were established from extrahepatic CCA to interrogate fibroblast–epithelial signaling, while multi-omics and functional genomics were used to identify key ribosomal and splicing regulators in intrahepatic and mixed subtypes. Immunohistochemistry, RNA-sequencing, proteomics, and pathway analysis defined convergent signaling nodes across datasets.

**Results:** Cancer-associated fibroblast–derived hepatocyte growth factor activated the c-MET/PI3K/AKT axis, promoting eCCA proliferation and gemcitabine resistance. Parallel multi-omics profiling revealed that ribosomal protein S6 (RPS6) acts beyond its canonical translational role by controlling alternative-splicing programs through SF3B1- and MCM7-associated complexes, sustaining cell-cycle progression and DNA replication. Targeting either the CAF-HGF/c-MET pathway or RPS6-dependent splicing suppressed tumor growth in patient-derived organoids and xenograft models. Integrative analysis indicated that stromal signaling and ribosomal–splicing regulation converge on proliferative and metabolic networks central to CCA aggressiveness.

**Conclusion:** CCA progression is maintained by dual stromal and intrinsic translational circuits. Disrupting CAF-activated HGF/c-MET signaling or ribosomal-splicing control represents complementary strategies to overcome chemoresistance and improve therapeutic sensitivity. These findings provide a unified molecular framework linking tumor microenvironmental cues with ribosome-associated gene regulation, offering translational targets for next-generation precision therapies in cholangiocarcinoma.

### Biography

Prof. Wenbo Meng, MD, PhD, is a hepatopancreatobiliary surgeon-scientist whose research focuses on the molecular mechanisms and translational therapeutics of cholangiocarcinoma and hepatocellular carcinoma. His work integrates clinical innovation with tumor biology, biomarker discovery, and minimally invasive interventions, aiming to advance precision diagnosis and treatment in hepatobiliary malignancies. Prof. Meng has led multiple projects funded by the National Natural Science Foundation of China and provincial key programs, with his studies revealing critical signaling pathways and identifying prognostic biomarkers in biliary and liver cancers. He has authored over 100 peer-reviewed papers in leading journals such as *The Lancet Gastroenterology & Hepatology*, *Gastroenterology*, *Endoscopy*, and *International Journal of Cancer* and contributed to several international monographs. His research bridges basic and clinical science to develop innovative diagnostic and therapeutic strategies. As associate editor of *Cancer Cell International* and editorial board member of *Journal of Translational Internal Medicine*, Prof. Meng continues to promote translational research and multidisciplinary collaboration in hepatobiliary oncology.

## Women who stay human in a world run by AI: The new power revolution

**Myriam Ben Farhat**

*Chess.com, Spain*

For decades, leadership models encouraged women to disconnect from essential parts of themselves, intuition, emotional depth, empathy, softness, and sensitivity, in order to fit into systems designed without them in mind. Men, too, were conditioned to suppress their emotional intelligence and inner clarity, rewarded instead for certainty, performance, and control. Both genders were asked to lead with only half of their humanity.

AI has now exposed a profound truth: Everything we taught humans to suppress is precisely what machines cannot replicate.

Empathy, intuitive judgment, emotional clarity, relational intelligence, presence, and creativity, once dismissed as “soft skills”, are becoming the defining leadership advantages of the next decade.

Women, after a lifetime of navigating complexity, expectations, emotional labor, and dual identities, have been unconsciously developing the very capacities the future of leadership demands. Not because they are better, but because they have lived in the tension between two worlds, and tension builds strength.

### Key Findings / Conclusions

- AI eliminates the need to mimic outdated, rigid, masculine-coded leadership models.
- Human-centered leadership, rooted in emotional intelligence, intuition, and empathy, becomes the most valuable skillset in an AI-driven world.
- Women are uniquely positioned to lead this shift due to their lived experience of integrating complexity, emotion, and resilience.
- The future is not women vs. men. It is leaders reclaiming the parts of themselves traditional systems forced them to hide.
- Leadership is no longer about outworking machines; it is about out-humaning them.

### Biography

As VP of People Experience & Inclusion at Chess.com, one of the world's largest digital platforms with a fully remote team across 65+ countries, she builds cultures where performance and humanity rise together.

A certified executive coach and internationally recognized voice on human-centered leadership, Myriam blends strategy, emotional intelligence, and lived transformation. After rebuilding her life from zero, she now teaches leaders how to operate with clarity, courage, and the kind of emotional mastery AI can't replicate.

Her work sits at the intersection of culture, psychology, technology, and the feminine, a space where intuition becomes intelligence, empathy becomes strategy, and authenticity becomes a catalyst for high performance.

## Analysis of long non-coding RNA expression in pathological anxiety

**Laura Dayanara López-Rocha<sup>1,4</sup>, Armando Ruiz-Hernández<sup>1</sup>, Gustavo Martínez-Coronilla<sup>1</sup>, Ana Gabriela Leija-Montoya<sup>1</sup>, Estefanía Osuna-Hernández<sup>1</sup>, Fausto Sánchez-Muñoz<sup>2</sup>, Ulises Rieke-Campoy<sup>3</sup> and Javier González-Ramírez<sup>3,4</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Universidad Autónoma de Baja California (UABC), México

<sup>2</sup>Instituto Nacional de Cardiología, México

<sup>3</sup>Facultad de Enfermería, México

<sup>4</sup>Centro de Ciencias de la Salud, México

Anxiety is a fear response that triggers a stress reaction with the purpose of survival against dangerous situations, until it becomes excessive and persistent, becoming an actual burden for a person, paving the way for the development of anxiety disorders (ADs). ADs are multifactorial, studies have shown that psychosocial and environmental factors play a major role in the development of these disorders. This study evaluates the prevalence of anxiety symptoms in medical students, as evidence has shown that one in every three of them has anxiety. Long non-coding RNAs (lncRNAs), are defined as transcripts longer than 200 nucleotides, these molecules lead epigenetic mechanisms that help coordinate various cellular functions, such as synaptic plasticity, neurotransmission and microglial activation. Medical students are exposed to chronic stress, which can lead to the dysregulation of the body stress response and neuroinflammation, there is a strong connection between inflammation and anxiety-related-disorders (López-Rocha et al., 2025; Quek et al., 2019).

An observational, longitudinal and mixed-method study is currently conducted with a sample of 33 participants aged 18-23 in their first year of medical education at the Health Science Center of the UABC. During August and September, participants data and blood samples were collected to extract total RNA with the TRIZOL methodology, also to measure other biochemical parameters; anxiety symptoms were evaluated with two scales: Hamilton anxiety scale (HAM-A) and the anxious distress specifier interview from the DSM-5 (DADSI). The follow-up evaluation with both scales and blood samples collection will be conducted during November and December. The lncRNAs GOMAFU and mitochondrial 7S will be measured, as their dysregulation has been linked to anxiety in mouse models and human patients, respectively. Also an array of lncRNAs associated to inflammation, IL-1, IL-6 and TNF-alfa will be measured with real time q-PCR (Teng et al., 2023; Wang et al., 2024).

### Biography

Dr. Laura Dayanara López Rocha is a medical doctor and an adjunct professor at the Histology Department at the Faculty of Medicine, Autonomous University of Baja California (UABC). Currently pursuing a master's degree in biomedical sciences at UABC, focusing on the study of long non-coding RNAs and their role in anxiety disorders. Her main interests lie in medical education, molecular neurobiology, and the integration of translational research into clinical practice.

## Transforming communities for women's safety: Multi-sector approaches to lasting change

**Karen Whybro**

*Karen Whybro Women's Safety Consultants, UK*

Women's safety in public spaces remains a persistent global concern that shapes how women move, work and participate in public life. Despite increased awareness, responses are often reactive and focus on individual behaviours rather than addressing the structural, social and design factors that produce feelings of unsafety. Personal 'safety work' is an additional form of labour, carried and managed by women that marginalises them physically, mentally and financially.

Ensuring the safety of women and girls in public requires transformative action that goes beyond awareness-raising to embed lasting cultural, structural, and behavioural change. This workshop showcases a multi-partner approach that brings together local government, businesses and community organisations to design safer, inclusive environments through a gendered lens.

Drawing on extensive consultancy and field experience, the session explores a model implemented across the United Kingdom through Women's Safety Charters. These initiatives have engaged hundreds of organisations, including police services, public transport providers, educational institutions, and commercial enterprises, creating coordinated interventions that tackle both immediate risks and systemic barriers to women's safety through community intervention. By integrating policy, cultural, and environmental design strategies, the approach transforms public spaces and organisational cultures while fostering sustained behavioural change.

Participants will engage in interactive exercises and case studies, exploring how multi-sector collaboration can amplify impact. The workshop will provide practical guidance on designing and implementing frameworks through partnership development and embedding best practices within organisations. Attendees will learn how to foster collaboration between public and private partners, leverage resources effectively, and develop strategies that create measurable improvements in safety.

Praised by UK Parliament for its role in preventing violence against women and girls, this work demonstrates the power of coordinated, evidence-based interventions to catalyse lasting social change. Participants will leave equipped with strategies, tools, and insights to replicate transformative outcomes in their own communities and organisations.

### Biography

Karen Whybro is a women's safety consultant who specialises in creating safe communities, organisations and environments for women and girls. Her work encompasses consultancy, community interventions and training for a multitude of professionals across policy, culture and design, including women's safety charters to improve public safety in seven districts in England which embed both systematic and behaviour change working with local government, businesses and organisations. This work has engaged hundreds of organisations, including police services, public transport providers, educational settings and public spaces. Outside of community interventions, Karen has trained around 1000 police staff and officers, school leaders, teachers and public servants on reducing misogyny and preventing violence against women and girls.

Karen's work has recently been praised in UK Parliament for its innovative approach to women's safety in public.

## An evidence-based cesarean section for standardized universal use-the stark (Misgav Ladach) cesaraen section

**Michael Stark**

*New European Surgical Academy, Germany*

Cesarean section remains the only abdominal procedure without an endoscopic alternative, in contrast to most other abdominal surgeries. Consequently, it is essential to critically assess each operative step, determining its necessity and, when justified, identifying the most effective evidence-based technique. This approach enables the establishment of a standardized, scientifically validated method.

The modified Joel-Cohen technique has demonstrated clear advantages over the traditional Pfannenstiel approach, including reduced incision-to-delivery time and lower rates of febrile morbidity. Opening the peritoneum by repeated bi-digital stretching, rather than sharp dissection, has been shown to be safer. The uterine incision should be placed in the lower uterine segment, where fibrous tissue predominates over muscle tissue. Exteriorization of the uterus facilitates suturing and allows for bimanual uterine compression, thereby minimizing intraoperative blood loss.

Suturing the uterus in a single layer with a large-caliber needle produces strong scar formation and reduces postoperative pain, attributable to a diminished foreign-body reaction. Peritoneal layers regenerate spontaneously within 24–48 hours; leaving them unsutured has been associated with fewer adhesions and decreased analgesic requirements. Closure is limited to the fascia, which is sutured continuously, while the subcutaneous tissue and skin are approximated with minimal Donati stitches, removed after five days.

The Stark (Misgav Ladach) method has been extensively evaluated in numerous peer-reviewed studies. Consistently, the evidence has demonstrated significant benefits: reduced operative time, decreased intraoperative blood loss, shortened hospital stay, earlier mobilization, lower febrile morbidity, reduced analgesic requirements, and overall cost savings, and is used these days in over 70 countries

Accordingly, this technique is recommended as a universal approach to cesarean delivery. Its adoption across institutions and surgical teams would enhance consistency, improve patient outcomes, and serve as a model for the evidence-based standardization of other surgical procedures.

### Biography

Prof. Dr. Michael Stark is specialized in Obstetrics and Gynecology. His main interest is gynecological oncology. He is the President of the New European Surgical Academy (NESAs), an international interdisciplinary surgical academy. Prof. Stark was the scientific advisor of the European novel Tele-surgical system, scientific and medical advisor of the ELSAN, a 120 hospital group in France, and is a guest scientist at the Charite's University hospital in Berlin.

In 2011, Prof. Stark was nominated as the Medico Del Anno (Doctor of the Year) in Italy and is an Honorary Member of the French, Polish, Russian, and Italian Gynecological Associations. In the years 1983-2000, he was the director of the Ob/Gyn department of the Misgav Ladach Hospital in Jerusalem and between 2001 and 2009 the chairman of Gynecology at the HELIOS, European Hospital Group. He was visiting Professor at the Universities of Toronto, Moscow, Beijing, Milan, Adana, Uppsala, and New York.

## Depression symptoms in patients with diabetic peripheral painful neuropathy-case control study

**Ibrahim El Bayoumy**

*Tanta Faculty of Medicine, Egypt*

**Aim:** The study aimed to investigate the possible relationship between diabetic peripheral neuropathy (DPN) and the development of depressive symptoms in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2D).

**Methods:** A comparative non experimental study was conducted. 200 with type 2 diabetes. The sample was divided into two groups: 105 participants with T2D and without DPN and 95 participants with T2D and diabetic painful neuropathy. The Patient Health Questionnaire 9 (PHQ-9) was used to collect information about low mood and depression symptoms in the subjects recruited.

**Results:** Participants with DPN recorded higher scores on PHQ-9 than those with T2D only. The mean PHQ-9 score for the DPN group (7.8) was significantly higher than that for the T2D only group (2.30) ( $p < 0.001$ ). Participants with DPN were more likely to have mild to moderate or moderately severe low mood and depression symptoms than T2D only participants who exhibited minimal to no low mood and depressive symptoms.

**Conclusions:** The association between DPN and depression is confirmed by this study, with significant depressive symptoms found in patients with neuropathy when compared to diabetes patients with no neurological complications. It is therefore important that discomfort and emotional problems caused by DPN should be taken seriously and addressed closely in the management of DPN in order to prevent depression. Also, a change in screening practices to identify patients with diabetes and depressive symptoms is required.

### Biography

Dr Ibrahim El-Bayoumy holds bachelor of medicine and surgery (Tanta faculty of medicine-Egypt, 1989), then he earned his master degree in public health, preventive and social medicine (Tanta faculty of medicine-Egypt 1996), and MD, PhD in public health, preventive and social medicine 2003 from the Tanta Faculty of Medicine (Egypt) and the McGill Faculty of Medicine (Montreal, Canada) in the division of clinical epidemiology at the Royal Victoria Hospital through a double-channel system as a scholarship from the Ministry of Education (Egypt). He has been a full professor of public health and community medicine at the Tanta Faculty of Medicine, Egypt, since November 2016.

Now I am working in the Ministry of Health in Kuwait as a consultant of public health and preventive medicine.

I have been a lecturer of public health for the postgraduate diploma and master's degree in public health at the University of South Wales-UK since March 2021.

I am also an adjunct professor of public health in the School of Public Health at Texila American University, Guyana, South America, and I have supervised 24 PhD projects since 2018.

Dr. El Bayoumy has published many research works in international journals. He is interested in research in the epidemiology of infectious diseases like HIV, tuberculosis, brucellosis, and infectious hepatitis. He is interested in the epidemiology of chronic diseases like diabetes mellitus and its health economics, obesity,

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and cancer and pharmacoepidemiology. He is a reviewer of many national and international journals.

He obtained a postgraduate master's degree in diabetes care and education from the Dundee Faculty of Medicine, Scotland, UK, in October 2015.

He was an invited speaker at many international conferences in China, South Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Dubai, Kuwait, and the USA. And Paris, France, and London

## Visibility before readiness: How women build businesses differently

**Rositsa Kostadinova**

*Fro&Co, Bulgaria*

Every single day you wake up thinking about that one business idea - the one that won't just change your world, but will help hundreds of people just like you. And yet, you're stuck in fear mode. Completely frozen.

Globally, only 25% of entrepreneurs with active or successful businesses are women. On its own, this statistic doesn't necessarily sound shocking when we consider geopolitical, national and socio-demographic factors. What is striking, however, is one of the most common reasons women don't start their businesses with ease: the fear of failure.

Alongside lack of access to capital and lack of mentors and networks, fear stands out as one of the core reasons we don't see more women founding and leading businesses.

Are we a minority? God, no.

But there is something that makes us believe we're not worthy of being seen or known. That our idea matters - but does it matter *enough* to risk failing along the way?

Every incredible woman I've worked with and mentored over the years (myself included) has delayed or self-sabotaged starting her business simply because she didn't feel that inner sense of safety - the calm belief that everything would be okay.

One of the most important things we are not taught is this: the paradigm through which women build businesses is fundamentally different from the one men use.

In 95% of cases, women create and launch business ideas because they know it will help someone - often someone they once were themselves, months or years ago.

*We build businesses* because they matter. Because we want to make the world a better place.

Money comes naturally after that. As it should.

Men, on the other hand, often start from a different place: "I need / want to make more money. What can I do?" And very often, they succeed faster - and sometimes more visibly.

The goal is not to compete with men. We can absolutely *be inspired* by some of their strategies.

But what we truly need is to learn how to lead our journey and our businesses as we are - as we come.

Because if there is you and your business idea, then there is also your ideal client - and their need for your solution. Simple as that.

A brand doesn't start with a logo. It starts the moment a woman allows herself to be visible.

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## Biography

Rossi Kostadinova is a European digital brand and business mentor working at the intersection of personal development, leadership, and digital strategy. She supports women who want to build and grow businesses aligned with who they are, guiding them through the process of creating clear, sustainable personal brands and business foundations.

With a background in digital marketing, media, and brand development, she has worked across international media organizations, startups, and advisory roles, leading digital strategy, content and growth initiatives. Over the past five years, she has mentored young people and women entrepreneurs through personalized, exclusive programs tailored to each individual's vision, needs, and pace.

Her work focuses on visibility, confidence, and leadership, helping women move from self-doubt to action and build businesses that are both impactful and sustainable.

## Men dysphagia VS odynophagia within aging humanity, its medical treatment and monitoring

**Carvern Kudakwashe Shamu**

*CK Hospitality Solutions, South Africa*

**Statement of the Problem:** Commonly adults are prone to both Dysphagia and Odynophagia who have recorded a lethal dysphagia and odynophagia symptoms resulting in malnutrition, loss of life, retarded growth infants, nutritional disorders and energy deficiency. Both health diseases require early medical treatment and awareness.

### Types of Dysphagia

**Dysphagia** – according to medical experts is difficulty in swallowing (gastrointestinal disorder)

**a) Oropharyngeal dysphagia-** difficulty in moving food from the mouth to the throat resulting in coughing, choking or nasal regurgitation

**b) Esophageal Dysphagia-** food feels stuck in the chest after swallowing causing difficulty comfort, pain and irritation.

**c) Oral Dysphagia-** is difficulty or complications in triggering the process of swallowing or chewing the food in the mouth- tongue, jaws or salivary glands.

N.b-The food might be both solids or liquids- that's mechanical process against motility process.  
Causes of Oropharyngeal

1) Neurological condition-stroke, Parkinson disease (progressive brain disorder affecting movement), Multiple sclerosis (damage of nerve cells in brain and spinal cord), cerebral palsy (spastic paralysis).

2) Muscular Disorders: myasthenia gravis, muscular dystrophy and scleroderma

3) Structural issues-Zenker's diverticulum (a pouch forming at the throat and esophagus junction allowing food to be trapped, causing coughing, bad mouth smile and regurgitation), tonsillitis (inflammation at the valves located at the back of the throat due to infection), tumors, pharyngeal webs (thin membrane growth upper throat and esophagus junction), radiation damage (ionizing radiation causing tissues damage eg x-rays, gamma rays or alpha/Beta rays).

### Esophageal Dysphagia causes

#### (1)Mechanical Disorders /Structural blockages-(Solids causes)

a) Acid reflux(GERD)-chronic Acid damage

b) Tumors/Growth-cancerous growth cause physically blocking or narrowing of the esophagus  
c)Rings/Webs-

d) Foreign bodies

e) Eosinophilic Esophagitis (EoE)-Allergic condition causing white blood cells ,eosinophils to build up leading to inflammation.

f) Hiatal Hernia- stomach pushes inside Diaphragm causing swallowing problems due to narrowing of the esophagus

g) Radiation Therapy- causes scarring and narrowing of the esophagus .

## **(2) Motility Disorders-Fluids causes-**

a) Achalasia – lower esophageal sphincter muscle fails to relax ,trapping food. b) Esophageal Spasm-uncoordinated muscle construction eg diffuse esophageal spasm c) Scleroderma-connective tissue disease causing hardening, weakening the sphincter

d) Myasthenia Gravis- neuromuscular disorders causing muscle weakness or poor muscle coordination

e) Stroke /Neurological conditions-damage to nerves controlling swallowing like Parkinson`s or ALS Other Causes of Dysphagia

Medication- certain medication or drugs triggers mouth dryness or impairment of function, swallowing problems

Difficulty with both solid and fluids causes motility disorders like achalasia, spasm. Difficult with swallowing of solid food causes structural blockage eg tumor, stricture ring

Odynophagia-Painful swallowing due to mouth, throat or esophagus infection, inflammation, injury or damage.

## **Common condition**

1) Cold

2) Flu 3) Tonsillitis

4) Acid reflux (GERD)

5) Fungal infection like candida or Ulcers Serious condition

a) Esophageal cancer

b) Autoimmune disorders

c) Adverse reactions to medications or trauma Common culprits

a) Viral infections cold, flu, mononucleosis, herpes simplex (HSV-1) b) Bacterial infections- strep throat, tonsillitis

c) Fungal infections-candida(thrush)in the mouth or esophagus with weakened immunity

d) Esophagitis- inflammation of the esophagus from GERD, infection or vomiting.

## **Gastrointestinal Issues-**

1) GERD(acid reflux) stomach acid backing up into the esophagus 2) Ulcers-sores in the mouth or esophagus

3) Esophageal motility disorders-spasms or problems with muscle movement Remarkable causes

a) Cancer- esophageal cancer or tumors in the mouth/throat

b) Trauma/injury- foreign objects (sharp food) physical trauma or surgery c) Medication- certain drugs can irritate the esophagus

d) Substance use-alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs

e) Weakened immune system- higher risk for infection- HIV /aids or cancer transmission

Less common condition

1) crohn`s disease

2) scleroderma

3) Aortic issues-Aortic aneurysm dissection Aging community awareness

Prebyphagia- natural age related physiological changes in swallowing mechanics disease tongue pressure and slower oral transit times. Adults are more prone or susceptible to swallowing problems.

Dysphagia is more common in adults aged above 65, 30% are in that condition and so % to those aged 50 and below.

Medication prescribed to adults may trigger both dysphagia and odynophagia or weaken the conditions

Best diagnostic Barium swallow Upper endoscopy

Esophageal manometry PH monitoring

The purpose of this study is to discover the main culprits of both dysphagia and odynophagia and then seek the right medication and awareness programs educating the aging community of the recommended right lifestyle.

Methodology and Theoretical Orientation: Observations were conducted and data was collected from the selected community study.

group. Firstly, esophageal manometry was used to examine and record the pressure along the throat/esophagus. Results were recorded showing that 30% of the population aged above 65 years are more severely susceptible to these disorders under

investigation.

Secondly, a pH monitoring device was used to check signs of GERD due to acid stomach backing, and data was recorded indicating that acid reflux is more vulnerable in adults aged more than 65 years. A 30% record was manifested of the total study group.

Both infants and adults were very participative during the exercise, though they were faced with challenges of drug shortages and insufficient manpower to assist in the awareness campaign. There was a challenge in the language barrier since most aged individuals under the test were not eloquent in English.

**Conclusion:** Both infant and adults above 65 % need education to improve their way of living. health lifestyle. I recommend more awareness programs in this community and advise the

patient to visit their local health center regularly for check up's and treatment. I recommend more treatment centers with qualified staff to be opened.

## Publications

- Nutritional orderliness and disorderliness post Covid period in Hotel Set up- 2024 June
- Men Dysphagia VS Odynophagia within aging humanity, its medical treatment and monitoring (2026 Current publication)

## Biography

Carvern Kudakwashe Shamu has expertise in management and consulting and a great interest in improving health and living standards of the local communities. Carvern's transparent and contextual monitoring and evaluation concept/model based on responsive constructivists creates a new dimension

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for better healthcare standards. He built his concept / model after tremendous years of experience in management, administration, research, teaching, and evaluation in private hotels, public hospitals, and the hospitality industry. Carvern is an effective team builder, excellent communicator, and problem solver. He holds a master's degree in Hospitality Management from California Hill University through a standardization & equalization process and an honors diploma from Cambridge International College, UK. Apparently Carvern is studying dual postgraduate mastery diplomas in food nutrition and tourism and environmental Management - Cambridge International College, Great Britain. Carvern is pursuing a PhD in Food Nutritional Management.

## An analysis of openness, sexual attitudes, behaviors and expectations in consumers of mainstream and ethical pornography

**Amber Mallery**

*CSE Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences, University of Oporto, Portugal*

The aim of this study is to understand the meanings consumers of pornography express concerning communication around topics of sex, sexual health attitudes and sexual risk-taking behavior. Achieved through an anonymized survey in English distributed through community gatekeepers within their audience of ethical pornography consumers or mainstream pornography consumers. The survey itself includes both quantitative, close answered questions and open-ended qualitative questions focusing on the respondent's experiences and perspectives. Hypothesizing that consumers of ethical pornography have an openness towards sexual communication, positive sexual health attitudes and lower sexual risk-taking behavior. Participants responses were analyzed through a deductive thematic approach. Findings suggested a difference between equitable and mainstream pornography consumers' sexual expectations of themselves and others. Equitable consumers have a higher frequency of positive health seeking behaviors such as testing for sexually transmitted infections (STI). Additionally, equitable consumers prioritized communication and openness within their relationships as compared to mainstream consumers. Finally, both groups overwhelmingly supported the idea of pornography as education, mainstream participants supported the idea under specific frameworks while equitable consumers felt equitable pornography overall provided a positive framework as compared to mainstream pornography. However, both groups found pornography to be a source of sexual health education especially when adolescents have little to no sexual health education foundation. Concluding that pornography is often a young person's first sexual health education experience through directly seeking out pornography or indirect. Pornography itself plays a role in sexual education, which has potential positive and negative outcomes. Overall, a comprehensive sexual education foundation is necessary to provide populations with the ability to distinguish pornographic content and sex educational content.

### Biography

Amber Mallery is a PhD Researcher, TEDx Speaker and Certified Sexuality Educator & Sexologist. She is currently finishing her PhD research at the University of Oporto, Portugal. She is currently working independently as a sexuality educator, her main activities focus on destigmatizing pleasure while empowering women through sexual knowledge, confidence and support. Her research interests relate to sexuality and reproductive health, specifically targeting ethical pornography, however overarchingly working within pornography research. Seeking to break up the current echo chamber of research on pornography, as since in her Tedx Talk. Her research is some of the first to distinguish between ethical and mainstream pornography. Seeking to create an academic narrative for the recognition of the very lack of an educational foundation around sex and sexuality leading to issues surrounding sex work, sexual pleasure and pornography.

## The global cost of menstrual silence

**Sania Siddiqui**

*Humjoli Foundation, India*

Across the world, menstruation remains surrounded by silence, spoken about in whisper euphemisms, or avoided altogether. This silence comes at a high cost. When menstruation is treated as something shameful or private beyond discussion, it shapes how policies are made, how resources are allocated, and how millions of girls and women experience their own bodies.

In many high-income countries, menstrual silence is subtle. Periods are rarely discussed in homes, workplaces, or public policy spaces, creating the false belief that menstrual needs are a private matter. In low-income countries, period poverty among low-income groups, migrants, students, and homeless women remains largely invisible. Without open conversation, gaps in access, education, and support tend to be ignored.

In low- and middle-income countries, particularly across Africa and South Asia, menstrual silence is louder and more damaging. Cultural taboos and restrictions limit mobility, schooling, and participation. Girls often reach menarche without prior knowledge, experiencing fear instead of care and confidence. The lack of open dialogue also prevents communities from demanding better sanitation, affordable products, and supportive services.

The impact of menstrual silence extends beyond physical health. It affects mental well-being, reinforcing shame, anxiety, and isolation. It contributes to school absenteeism, reduced participation, and lifelong gender inequality. Silence also weakens data collection and policy-making, keeping menstrual health at the margins of global health and development agendas.

This abstract argues that breaking menstrual silence is not symbolic; it is structural. Speaking about menstruation is essential for designing inclusive policies, strengthening health care systems, and restoring dignity. Addressing the global cost of menstrual silence requires conversations, community engagement, and the recognition that menstruation is not a inconvenience, but a shared social responsibility.

### Biography

Dr. Sania Siddiqui, a noted MHM consultant, serves as the Founder and Director of the Humjoli Foundation. She is an eminent speaker and a health & wellness coach with experience and expertise in areas of clinical practice, preventive healthcare, and medical content. Dr. Siddiqui is deeply committed to advancing awareness of menstrual health and hygiene, extending her efforts beyond the female demographic to include boys and men. Through tailored sessions and workshops held in diverse settings such as organizations, schools, and colleges, she endeavors to disseminate essential knowledge surrounding menstrual health and associated concerns.

## AI-driven clinical decision support systems for differentiating viral and bacterial infections: An immunological strategy to combat antibiotic overuse

**Pooja Bagdi**

*Trinity Educational Institute, India*


**Background:** Antibiotic resistance is a growing global health crisis primarily driven by inappropriate antibiotic use. Differentiating viral from bacterial infections remains a major clinical challenge, often resulting in empirical antibiotic prescriptions. Immunological biomarkers such as C-reactive protein (CRP), procalcitonin (PCT), cytokine profiles, and leukocyte differentials provide valuable insights into host immune responses but are underutilized in routine decision-making.

**Objective:** This study explores the potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based Clinical Decision Support Systems (CDSS) integrated with immunological biomarkers to improve diagnostic accuracy and reduce unnecessary antibiotic prescriptions.

**Methods:** A conceptual AI framework was designed incorporating supervised machine learning algorithms trained on immunological and clinical parameters including CRP levels, procalcitonin, neutrophil-lymphocyte ratio, and patient symptom profiles. Pattern recognition models were evaluated for their ability to classify infections as viral or bacterial based on immune response signatures.

**Results:** AI-driven analysis demonstrates improved sensitivity and specificity in distinguishing infection types compared to conventional empirical approaches. The model highlights the predictive value of cytokine patterns and inflammatory markers in early diagnosis, supporting rational antibiotic stewardship.

**Conclusion:** Integration of AI with immunological biomarkers offers a promising strategy to enhance diagnostic precision, minimize antibiotic misuse, and combat antimicrobial resistance. Future research should focus on real-world validation and integration into hospital electronic health systems to support evidence-based prescribing.



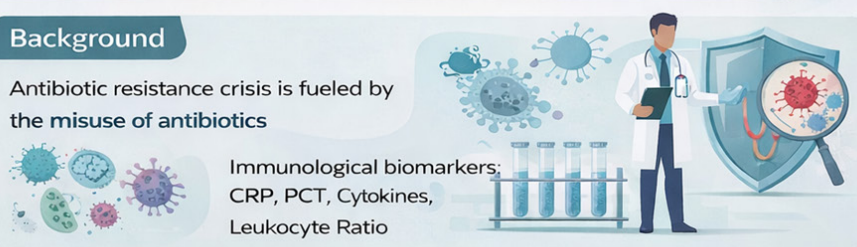
## AI-Driven Clinical Decision Support Systems for Differentiating Viral and Bacterial Infections

An Immunological Strategy to Combat Antibiotic Overuse

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### Background

Antibiotic resistance crisis is fueled by the misuse of antibiotics



Immunological biomarkers:  
CRP, PCT, Cytokines, Leukocyte Ratio


### Objective

Antibiotic resistance crisis is fueled by the misuse of antibiotics → Enhance diagnostic accuracy using an AI-based Clinical Decision Support System (CDSS) combined with immune biomarkers


### Methods

AI-model trained using:


- CRP & PCT levels
- Neutrophil:Lymphocyte ratio




CRP & PCT levels



Neutrophil:Lymphocyte ratio



Patient Symptoms

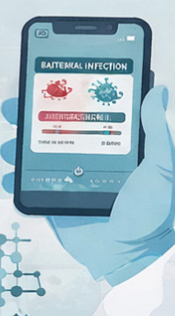


Supervised Learning

### Results

AI-driven CDSS shows:


- Improved infection differentiation
- Enhanced sensitivity & specificity of diagnosis



### Conclusion

AI-CDSS leveraging immune biomarkers offers:

- Reduced antibiotic misuse
- Better antimicrobial stewardship



**Dr. Pooja Bagdi**  
Principal, Trinity Educational Institute, Ramgarh Jharkhand, India

Artificial Intelligence · Immunology · Antibiotic Resistance, CDSS · Biomarkers

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## Biography

Dr. Pooja Bagdi, PhD, MPharm, Principal, Trinity Educational Institute, Jharkhand, India

Dr. Pooja Bagdi is a distinguished pharmacologist, academic leader, and researcher specializing in pharmacology, phytochemistry, antimicrobial stewardship, and AI in healthcare. A Gold Medalist in Pharmacy and PhD holder, she has authored 13+ peer-reviewed publications, holds an Indian patent on antidiabetic phytomedicine, and received the Global Recognition Award 2026. Her research abstracts have been accepted at prestigious international conferences across Prague, Tokyo, and London. She actively engages with global platforms including the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP), Royal Pharmaceutical Society, UK Pharmacy Leadership Board, Elsevier-ISAC, and Gulf Medical University, UAE, reflecting her sustained commitment to advancing global pharmaceutical science.

## Child custody and communication in cases of domestic violence

**Andri Andronikou**

*SPAVO, Cyprus*

This article critically examines the use of the concept of parental alienation and related notions in child custody and guardianship cases, particularly in contexts where various forms of violence against women and children occur within the family. Article 31 of the Istanbul Convention requires States to adopt all necessary legislative and other measures to ensure that, when determining child custody and visitation rights, instances of violence falling within the scope of the Convention are duly considered. Likewise, the exercise of any custody or visitation rights must not compromise the rights or protection of the victim or the child (Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, 2011).

The European Parliament Resolution of 6 October 2021 on the impact of intimate partner violence and custody rights on women and children (2019/2166(INI) (2022/C 132/03)) similarly recognizes that perpetrators often exploit judicial proceedings to extend their power and control, and to continue intimidating and instilling fear in their victims. Children and requests for joint custody are frequently instrumentalized by the violent parent as a means of maintaining access to the mother after separation. In this respect, the “dark veil” of parental alienation constitutes an extension of violence in the context of access to victims.

Moreover, the absence of a dedicated legislative framework addressing these issues further facilitates perpetrators in continuing their violent actions and exploiting legal processes to assert control over victims. Evidence indicates that intimate partner violence is fundamentally incompatible with an individualized, maximalist interpretation of the child's best interests, as well as with joint custody and care, due to its severe consequences for women and child victims. In such contexts, the child's best interests cannot, in all cases, be equated with maintaining contact with the father-perpetrator.

### Biography

Dr. Andri Andronikou holds a PhD in the field of domestic violence and postgraduate degrees in qualitative and quantitative research and gender equality and undergraduate studies in social work. She is a certified drug addiction counselor, a professional guidance counselor, and a certified professional training instructor of the National Anti-Corruption Agency. She is a trainer for the Cyprus Police Academy, Frederick University Research Center, and ANAD. She has writing and research work in international journals and conferences, published books on violence against women and children, and scientific planning and coordination for national and European projects. She has received from the president of the Hellenic Republic the first award for excellence in scientific publication of the University of the Aegean. She has worked as an academic at Frederick University and as a social worker in mental health services and social welfare services. Since 2019, she has held the position of the director of SPAVO.

## Ghrelin attenuates cecal ligation and puncture-induced sepsis by inhibiting ferroptosis through the Nrf2/HO-1 pathway

QiLiang Hou

Lanzhou University, China

Ghrelin, a stomach-derived peptide secreted primarily by X/A-like cells, has been implicated in the regulation of inflammation, metabolism, and tissue protection. Ferroptosis has recently emerged as an important mechanism contributing to intestinal barrier injury during sepsis, but whether ghrelin protects against sepsis-associated intestinal damage by suppressing ferroptosis remains unclear. In this study, sepsis was induced in C57BL/6 mice using cecal ligation and puncture, followed by treatment with ghrelin or ferrostatin-1. Intestinal injury, epithelial barrier integrity, inflammatory responses, oxidative stress, and ferroptosis-related changes were evaluated using blood agar culture, H&E staining, transmission electron microscopy, TUNEL assay, qPCR, ELISA, flow cytometry, and Western blotting. In parallel, human intestinal epithelial cells were transfected with Nrf2-targeting shRNA, stimulated with lipopolysaccharide, and treated with ghrelin to determine the involvement of the Nrf2/HO-1 pathway.

Ghrelin treatment alleviated intestinal glandular necrosis and inflammatory cell infiltration in septic mice, preserved epithelial barrier integrity, increased the expression of ZO-1, occludin, and claudin-5, and reduced serum levels of DAO and FABP2. Ghrelin also attenuated inflammatory activation, oxidative stress, mitochondrial damage, and epithelial cell death in both CLP-induced septic mice and LPS-stimulated intestinal epithelial cells. Mechanistically, ghrelin increased the expression of ferroptosis-protective proteins, including FTH1, GPX4, and SLC7A11, while reducing PTGS2, 4-HNE, ACSL4, ferritin, transferrin, and non-heme iron accumulation. Silencing Nrf2 reversed these protective effects, indicating that ghrelin-mediated ferroptosis inhibition depends, at least in part, on activation of the Nrf2/HO-1 signaling pathway. These findings suggest that ghrelin protects against CLP-induced sepsis-associated intestinal injury by suppressing ferroptosis and preserving intestinal barrier function, supporting its potential as a therapeutic candidate for sepsis-related epithelial injury.

### Biography

He hold a Master of Medicine degree and serve as a deputy chief physician in critical care medicine. He currently affiliated with the Department of Critical Care Medicine at the First Hospital of Lanzhou University. With 20 years of clinical experience in intensive care, He have managed critically ill patients across multiple disciplines, including internal medicine, surgery, and obstetrics/gynecology. My expertise encompasses complex conditions such as multiple organ dysfunction syndrome (MODS), severe acute pancreatitis, severe traumatic brain injury, polytrauma, ARDS, and obstetric emergencies. He is proficient in invasive/non-invasive mechanical ventilation, continuous renal replacement therapy (CRRT), plasma exchange, hemoperfusion, Swan-Ganz catheterization, PICCO, and ECMO. He have published several papers, including two SCI-indexed articles, and have participated in multiple research projects.

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