

## Hidradenitis suppurativa Current status and developments

Combined Course (Residents + Specialists) | 2-3 February 2026 | Valletta, Malta

### Description

Hidradenitis suppurativa / acne inversa (HS) is a chronic, inflammatory, recurrent, painful, debilitating skin disease affecting terminal hair follicles that usually presents after puberty. This disease is characterized by painful, deep-seated, inflamed lesions in the apocrine gland-bearing areas of the body, most commonly in the axillary, inframammary, and perineal regions and can recur periodically in almost any body area (Dessauer definition, 2006). Although a significant amount of research has taken place in the last 20 years, its etiology remains unknown.

Up to shortly HS was an "orphan" disease with a large variant of diagnostic terms, unsystematic treatment and an uncontrolled course that frustrated the patients. In the meantime, pathogenetic concepts, definition, diagnostic criteria, patients' registry, dynamic severity score assessment and treatment guidelines have been established, especially in Europe. Due to its occurrence exclusively in the skin, HS is a dermatological disorder, and other specialties recognize in the meantime that this disease has to be treated by dermatologists. Therefore, the education of European dermatologists on the rapidly emerging developments and the conservative and surgical options of treatment is urgently required.

The disease is nowadays considered to be common; it is estimated that 1% of the general population is affected and this percentage varies by geographic region. HS has a considerable impact on the quality of life; the mean Dermatology Life Quality Index (DLQI) of sufferers is higher than of sufferers from any other skin disorder. New drugs based on molecular scientific aspects of HS etiology are developed or are under development and the increase of HS knowledge requires modern research procedures.

### Learning Objectives

Following this course, the attendee should be able to:

- ✓ Recognize the disease and apply its classification and outcome measures
- ✓ Administer therapeutic options according to the new S2k European guidelines
- ✓ Improve interpretation of modern laboratory findings and increase laboratory skills (workshop)

### Faculty

Chairs:	Christos C. Zouboulis, Michael J. Boffa
Speakers:	Gregor B.E. Jemec, Errol P. Prens, Francesca Prignano
Tutors:	Dillon Mintoff, Georgios Nikolakis, Anna Kristandt

### Programme

#### Monday, 2 February 2026

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09:00-09:15	Welcome CC Zouboulis, MJ Boffa
09:15-09:45	What do I know about hidradenitis suppurativa? (knowledge test) MJ Boffa, T Tzellos, D Mintoff, EP Prens, F Prignano, CC Zouboulis
09:45-10:15	Definition, epidemiology T Tzellos

10:15-10:45	Impact of the disease, quality of life, psychosocial burden MJ Boffa
10:45-11:15	Coffee break
11:15-11:45	Pathophysiology – Genetics D Mintoff
11:45-12:15	Pathophysiology – Immunology E Prens
12:15-12:45	Pathophysiology – Microbiology F Prignano
12:45-13:45	Lunch
13:45-14:15	Clinical picture and imaging T Tzellos
14:15-14:45	Diagnostic procedures and scoring systems CC Zouboulis
14:45-16:00	Exercise: Application of classification and scoring systems. CC Zouboulis, T Tzellos, A Dakowitz
16:00-16:30	Coffee break
16:00-18:30	Cases from the participants A Dakowitz, D Mintoff
20:00-22:00	Networking event with faculty members and participants

### **Tuesday, 3 February 2026**

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08:00-11:00 (incl. transport)	Workshop at the University of Malta: Clinician interpretation of the relevance of genomic findings in different clinical scenarios with special relevance to HS D. Mintoff, MJ. Boffa (under the kind support of N. Pace)
11:00-11:30	Coffee break
11:30-12:00	Medical treatment-I T. Zellos
12:00-12:30	Medical treatment-II F. Prignano
12:30-13:00	Surgery E. Prens
13:00-14:00	Treatment algorithm using the new S2k European guidelines CC. Zouboulis
14:00-15:00	Lunch
15:00-15:30	Involving the patient MJ Boffa
15:30-17:00	Cases from the participants A Dakowitz, D Mintoff
17:00-17:30	What do I know now about hidradenitis suppurativa / acne inversa? - Effect of this course (knowledge test) MJ Boffa, T Tzellos, D Mintoff, EP Prens, F Prignano, CC Zouboulis
17:30-18:00	Course End and Farewell CC Zouboulis, MJ Boffa

*The programme might be subject to changes.*

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