

**6th International Molecular Immunology and Immunogenetics Congress  
(MIMIC-VI)**  
**28–30 April 2025 | Acibadem University, Istanbul, Türkiye**



The **6th International Molecular Immunology and Immunogenetics Congress (MIMIC-VI)** was successfully held on **28–30 April 2025** at Acibadem University in Istanbul. Building on the MIMIC legacy since 2012, this year's congress brought together an inspiring community of immunologists, molecular biologists, and clinician-scientists to explore the future of immunology research and applications.

With participation from over **320 scientists from eight countries**, including leading institutions such as **Karolinska Institutet, MD Anderson Cancer Center, BioNTech**, and prominent Turkish universities, MIMIC-VI offered an engaging and comprehensive scientific program.



## Day 1 – Opening and Cancer Immunotherapy

The congress began with an opening ceremony moderated by **Tolga Stl** and **hsan Grsel**, followed by a keynote lecture by **Prof. Federica Sallusto (ETH Zurich)**, who presented her pioneering work on human T cell differentiation and regulation.





The morning sessions focused on the **immune response to infection**, featuring invited talks by **Cevayir Çoban** on host–pathogen interactions in malaria and **Önder Ergönül** on emerging infections. Selected oral presentations highlighted innovative research, including multiplex assays for COVID-19 antibodies and novel monoclonal antibodies targeting pain pathways.





In the afternoon, a **satellite symposium** by Sartorius examined platform development in cell therapy. The subsequent **Cancer Immunology and Immunotherapy** session included lectures by **Carsten Watzl** on NK cell cytotoxicity, **Mustafa Diken** on mRNA-based cancer therapeutics, and **Defne Bayık** on cancer–neuro–immune crosstalk. Oral abstracts detailed advances in CAR-T manufacturing and tumor-infiltrating monocyte subsets.



The day concluded with the **TSI General Assembly Meeting**. At the General Assembly chaired by **Prof. Günnur Deniz**, the **2022–2025 activity report** presented by President **Prof. İhsan Gürsel**, the **2022–2025 financial report** presented by Treasurer **Prof. Güher Saruhan Direskeneli**, and the **2022–2025 audit report** presented on behalf of the Auditing Committee by **Prof. Umut Can Küçüksezer** were all unanimously approved.

The General Assembly also included the election of the new administration of TSI. According to the results of the election, the members elected to the Board of Directors and the Auditing Committee and their respective roles are listed below:

**Executive Board:**

President: Prof. Dr. L. Arzu Aral

Past President: Prof. Dr. İhsan Gürsel

President-Elect: Prof. Dr. Ayça Sayı Yazgan

Members: Prof. Dr. Güneş Esendağlı, Prof. Dr. Elif Karakoç Aydiner, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mehmet Yabaş, Dr. Salih Haldun Bal

**Auditing Committee:**

Dr. Tolga Sütü, Prof. Dr. Haluk Barbaros Oral, Prof. Dr. Güher Saruhan Direskeneli





## Day 2 – Autoimmunity, Primary Immunodeficiency, and Day of Immunology

The second day commenced with sessions on the **immune system in health and disease**, where **Bernard Malissen** and **Sidonia Fagarasan** shared insights into T cell malfunctions and lung immunity. Young scientists presented studies on germinal center B cells and tumor microenvironment analysis.

This was followed by a session on **molecular mechanisms in autoimmunity**, featuring **Andreas Radbruch** on immunological memory and tolerance. Oral presentations covered Behçet's disease, myasthenia gravis, and follicular regulatory T cells.



At midday, a **Balloon Release Ceremony** marked the **Day of Immunology** and **World Primary Immunodeficiency Week**. Each balloon symbolized a patient benefiting from early diagnosis and treatment of primary immunodeficiencies. The event included a special address by **Prof. Yıldız Camcıoğlu**, Chair of the Turkish Society of Immunology's PID Working Group.

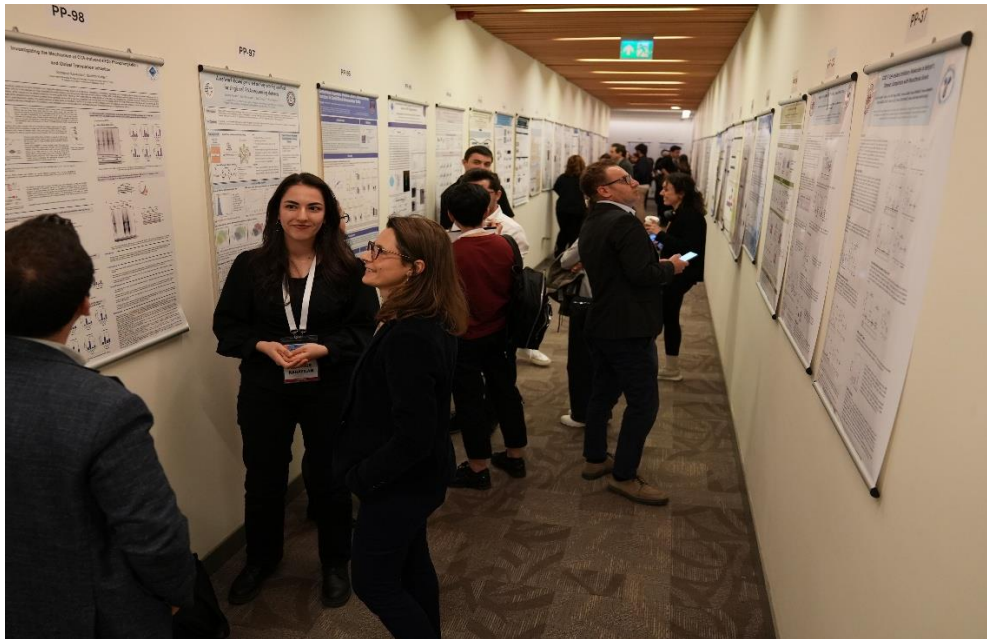


The afternoon session on **Inborn Errors of Immunity** brought contributions from **Talal Chatila**, **Elif Karakoç Aydiner**, and **Baran Erman**. The **Day of Immunology Lecture** was delivered by **Prof. Bojan Polić**, EFIS President, who discussed the immunology of sickness metabolism in viral infections.





The day closed with a vibrant **poster session**, where 103 posters were presented and evaluated by 45 referees.



### **Day 3 – Exosomes, Emerging Technologies, and Future Therapies**

The final day opened with sessions on **Exosomes and the Immune System**, with lectures by **Edit Buzas** and **Susanne Gabrielsson** on extracellular vesicles in immunity and cancer therapy. Oral presentations explored leishmaniasis protection and immunological profiling post-vaccination.

The **Emerging Technologies in Immunology** session showcased **Erdinç Sezgin's EMBO Young Investigator Lecture** on the physics of immune cells and **Begüm Horuluoğlu's** work on tissue-resident memory T cells. Selected abstracts presented single-cell analyses of tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes and macrophages.





The congress concluded with a forward-looking session on **Future Vaccines and Immunotherapies**, including lectures by **Ken J. Ishii** on nucleic acid switches, **Rafet Başar** on engineered NK cells in cancer, and **Dennis Watson** on metabolic crosstalk as a therapeutic target.



### Awards and Recognitions

MIMIC-VI continued its tradition of celebrating scientific excellence and supporting early-career researchers.

**Poster Awards** were presented to:

- **1st Place:** Büşra Şimşek (Boğaziçi University & Acibadem University)
- **2nd Place:** Fehim Esen (Istanbul University)
- **3rd Place:** Edanur Barutçu (Istanbul Technical University) and Ceren Esen (Bursa Uludağ University)

The **NextGen's Choice Poster Awards**, selected by young members of the Turkish Society of Immunology, were awarded to **Semanur Karayılan** (Boğaziçi University) and **Beyza Nur Uysak** (Acibadem University). The **Social Media Engagement Award** was presented to **Zülal Çelik** (Istanbul Technical University)



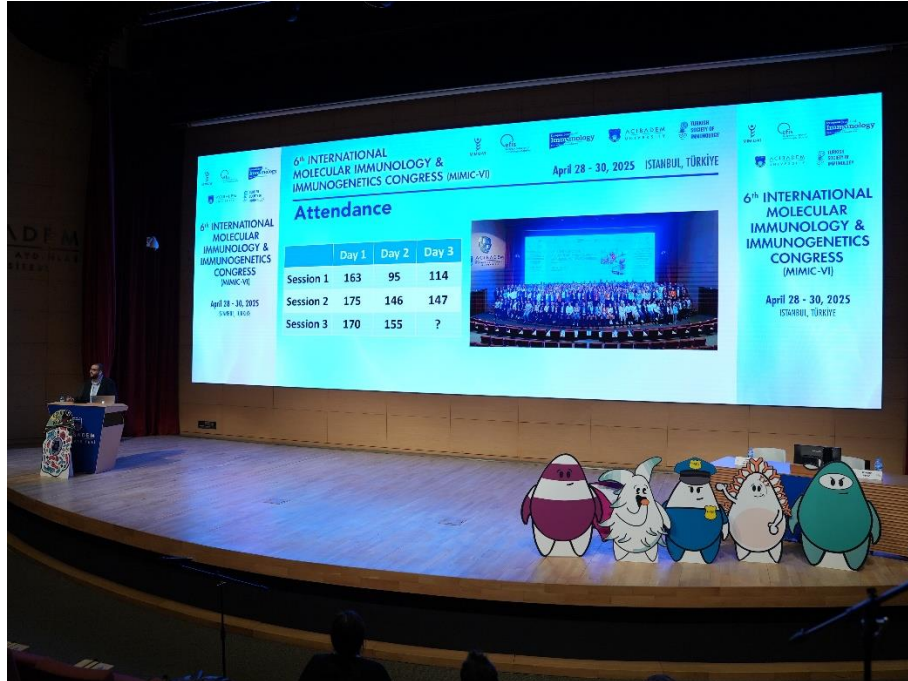
Furthermore, the prestigious **Işıl Berat Barlan Awards** recognized exceptional contributions in immunology:

- **Award for Women Scholars in Immunology:** Begüm Horuluoğlu (Karolinska Institutet)
- **Award in Primary Immunodeficiency Diseases:** Gökhan Çıldır (University of South Australia)
- **Award for Young Scientists in Immunology:** Volkan Yazar (Bilkent University)





## Conclusion



The success of MIMIC-VI was made possible through the dedication of all speakers, chairs, sponsors, and participants, as well as the generous support of **EFIS-EJI**, which provided grants enabling young scientists to attend.

With three days of stimulating discussions, over 100 poster presentations, and contributions from 20 invited speakers across eight countries, MIMIC-VI strengthened international collaboration and showcased the vibrancy of immunology research in Türkiye and beyond.



We extend our heartfelt thanks to all who joined us and look forward to welcoming you to future MIMIC congresses.

