

Short Clinical Exchange Programme

List of CRECs

Greece

Attikon University Hospital

City: Athens

Description:

The HIV Clinic of Attikon University Hospital (Head: Professor A. Papadopoulos) is one of the fastest-growing clinics in Greece and currently provides care for approximately 1,450 people living with HIV. We conduct multiple observational studies and clinical trials and actively participate in national and international HIV research networks. Our research interests primarily focus on sexually transmitted infection (STI) prevention and treatment, comorbidity management, and improving long-term health outcomes for people living with HIV (e.g., metabolic, neurocognitive, cardiovascular, sexual health, bone health), and co-infections. Since May 2025, the clinic has also been providing PrEP services, expanding our role in HIV prevention and community health.

Fields of expertise:

- STIs / HPV / MPOX
- Migrants' health
- IVDUs
- HCV coinfection
- PrEP
- Late presentation

Language requirement: English

Contact person: Dr Konstantinos Protopapas

Italy

San Raffaele Hospital

City: Milan

Description:

More than 5000 people living with HIV are followed at San Raffaele Hospital.

Fields of expertise:

- Management of HIV
- Antiretroviral drugs
- HIV prevention
- Co-morbidities
- Co-infections, including viral hepatitis and STI

Language requirement: English

Contact person: Prof. Antonella Castagna

University of Modena and Reggio Emilia

City: Modena

Description:

- 1900 patients with HIV, metabolic clinic, immunology laboratory

Fields of expertise:

- Co-morbidities
- Antiretroviral treatment
- Immunological changes in different populations including transplant patients with HIV
- Antimicrobial stewardship
- Infection control

Language requirement: English

Contact person: Prof. Cristina Mussini

Spain

Hospital Clínic of Barcelona

City: Barcelona

Description:

6000 people with HIV
2000 people without HIV in PrEP
1 laboratory of HIV (director: Dr Jose Alcamí)

Fields of expertise:

- PrEP
- STIs
- Prevention of anal cancer
- ART clinical trials

Language requirement: Spanish/ English

Contact person: Dr Esteban Martinez

Bellvitge University Hospital

City: Barcelona

Description:

The Bellvitge University Hospital is a teaching and tertiary public hospital located in the south of the metropolitan area of Barcelona. The hospital is associated with the University of Barcelona and the Bellvitge Biomedical Research Institute.

In the HIV and STI Unit we have currently 1900 HIV patients in care who are attended in the outpatient clinic 5 days/week (from Monday to Friday). In addition, about 500 individuals are included in a PrEP programme. We also offer medical care to people with STI.

All the members of our team are involved in clinical research. We are currently participating in more than 20 clinical trials and research projects focused on:

- Antiretroviral therapy: phase 2 and phase 3 clinical trials with new ARV
- PK of ARV drugs in CSF, genital tract and rectum
- HIV-related complications
- STIs (including specific studies on HPV).

We also collaborate in multi-centric cohort studies (PISCIS cohort; CoRIS cohort)

Fields of expertise:

- Antiretroviral therapy:
 - Pharmacology, especially PK in anatomic sanctuaries (CNS, genital tract, rectal tissue) and drug-drug interactions
 - Multi-drug resistance
- Opportunistic diseases
- Metabolic disorders (including MAFLD) and cardiovascular risk
- Neurocognitive impairment
- Sexually transmitted infections
- HPV and HPV-related anal cancer

- HCV co-infection

Language requirement: English / Spanish

Contact person: Dr Imaz Arkaitz

University Hospital Vall d'Hebron

City: Barcelona

Description:

The Vall d'Hebron Hospital HIV / STI Unit develops its activity in 4 areas of care:

- 1) Outpatient Consultations and Day Hospital. This unit currently manages approximately 2,300 patients living with HIV.
- 2) Unit of Sexually Transmitted Diseases Vall d'Hebron-Drassanes. In 2024, this unit handled nearly 5000 visits for sexually transmitted diseases. We also have a PrEP Unit which currently controls 2100 people on PrEP.
- 3) Anal dysplasia screening unit (UCDA). In this Unit, we perform high resolution anoscopy and treatment of high-grade dysplasia lesions. We visit about 800 patients annually, with about 80-100 new patients yearly.
- 4) Hospitalisation of patients with opportunistic infections.

From the point of view of research, a Basic Research Laboratory focused on reservoir research and functional HIV care.

We have a Clinical Research Unit for conducting clinical trials in phases I, II and III.

From a teaching point of view, the Unit organises an annual update course on HIV infection and another on STIs.

Fields of expertise:

- Acute HIV infection
- Research on the viral reservoirs of HIV and new strategies aimed at its functional cure
- Clinical trials regarding antiretroviral therapy
- PrEP
- Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs)
- Screening and treatment unit for anal dysplasia caused by the human papilloma virus

Language requirement: English is sufficient to interact with the members of the group but to understand the patients it is necessary to know a little Spanish.

Contact person: Dr Vicenç Falcó

Hospital Universitario La Paz-Carlos III

City: Madrid

Description:

The Hospital La Paz-Carlos III is a university community hospital with almost 4000 people with HIV under routine clinical care in the HIV outpatient clinic. We have an inpatient ward for acute HIV-related complications, and an outpatient clinic dedicated to STI and PrEP users. We are participating in more than 20 clinical trials with novel and marketed drugs and have our own academic research proposals in the following areas: ART simplification strategies, co-morbidities in people with HIV (metabolic and cardiac complications, NAFLD/NASH, ageing, and novel biomarkers of ageing). We are also involved in translational research in partnership with the AIDS and Infectious disease research group in IdiPAZ led by Professor Jose R Arribas. We also have close collaboration with the non-HIV infectious diseases section, tropical medicine and travel health and dermatology department (HPV and anal cancer screening programme).

Fields of expertise:

- Antiretroviral treatment. Simplification strategies in ART. Clinical trials of new HIV drugs
- Viral hepatitis
- Co-morbidities in people living with HIV (cardiovascular, metabolic clinic, viral hepatitis, NAFLD/NASH)
- Novel biomarkers of ageing in people with HIV (Telomere length, Epigenetic clocks, DNA methylation)
- Neurocognitive impairment and mental health in people with HIV.

Language requirement: English will be sufficient although an intermediate level of Spanish would be recommended to get a full experience in the clinic.

Contact person: Dr José Bernardino

Türkiye

Ege University School of Medicine

City: Izmir

Description:

The clinic hosts an HIV cohort of around 1200 adult patients. There are three academic staff members interested in HIV. We usually see 40-50 follow-up patients and 2-4 newly diagnosed patients each week. We are also running an STI clinic on several days of the week. The microbiology department in our

hospital runs HIV screening and confirmation tests as well as STI PCR panels. Our ongoing and developing studies and projects are:

- * Real-world data on DTG+3TC use among treatment-experienced people living with HIV in Türkiye
- * Scaling-up HIV testing among inpatients: How to raise awareness and change behavior?
- * HIV screening for indicator conditions at the emergency department
- * Early HIV diagnosis with anonymous testing among key populations (at the development stage)
- * Changes in sexual behavior and lifestyle among people living with HIV after HIV diagnosis: A qualitative and quantitative study (at the development stage)
- * Trends in the epidemiology of STIs in Europe (at the development stage)

Fields of expertise:

- HIV testing and early diagnosis
- Antiretroviral treatment
- HIV follow-up
- Epidemiology

Language requirement: English

Contact person: Prof. Deniz Gökengin

Marmara University Pendik Training and Research Hospital

City: Istanbul

Description:

Our center currently provides care for approximately 1,600 people living with HIV. We actively conduct both completed and ongoing research projects focused on HIV. These include studies on cardiovascular co-morbidities, quality of life, liver injury, diabetes mellitus, and osteoporosis. Our research programme aims to better understand the burden, mechanisms, and clinical outcomes of these conditions in people living with HIV, with the goal of improving long-term management strategies and overall patient well-being.

Fields of expertise:

- Echocardiographic findings
- Cardiac risk score evaluation
- Neurocognitive findings
- Dual ART outcomes
- Bone disease

Language requirement: English

Contact person: Prof. Elif Tükenmez Tigen