



EDITH BUSCH MEETING 2026

**Advances in scleroderma:
From immunopathogenesis
to emerging therapeutic strategies**

October 7-9, 2026

Hotel FRITZ

Freudenstadt-Lauterbad

Germany

Forwords

Prof. Dr. Thomas Krieg

Scientific Advisory Board



The foundation is dedicated to supporting research that advances the understanding of scleroderma pathogenesis and fosters the development of novel therapeutic approaches. Since 2013, it has supported many individual projects by emerging investigators as well as distinguished scientists and clinicians for their lifelong contributions.

This symposium brings together previously funded researchers to reflect on how the foundation's support has advanced scleroderma research and how it continues to progress towards innovative therapies for the benefit of patients. We firmly believe that open exchange between young and established investigators in an informal setting will inspire new ideas, strengthen collaborations and help define how the foundation can best leverage its strengths to create lasting impact in the future.

Martin Bäßler

Chairman Edith Busch Foundation



As the Board of Directors of the Edith Busch Foundation, we are very proud to welcome you all to the beautiful Black Forest and hope that the format we have chosen will provide many new and inspiring ideas for the further development of scleroderma research.

We wish you a fruitful exchange of ideas at the upcoming symposium and are already looking forward to spending time together today at the lovely "FRITZ"!!

*** PROGRAM ***

Wednesday, 7. October 2026

- 13.00 Light lunch and coffee
- 14.00 Welcome and introductions
- 14.30 **John Varga**
Scleroderma – from patients to mechanisms and therapy

15.00 Session 1 Ulf Müller-Ladner

*Clinical insights and systemic manifestations
in scleroderma*

- 15.10 - 15.35 **Pia Moinzadeh**
Lesson from the DNSS
- 15.35 - 16.00 **Elisabeth Volkmann**
Gastrointestinal challenges
- 16.00 - 16.25 **Ami Shah**
Scleroderma – autoimmunity and malignancy

COFFEE BREAK

17.00 Session 2 Marco Matucci-Cerinic

**Vascular complications and health
system perspectives**

- 17.10 - 17.35 **Michael Hughes**
Dus and their management
- 17.35 **Carol Black**
The role of foundations for the health system
- 18.30 **DINNER**

Thursday, 8. October 2026

08.00 **BREAKFAST**

09.00 Session 3 Chris Denton

**B cell biology and immune
dysregulation in scleroderma**

09.10 - 09.35 **Andreas Radbruch**
B cells and autoimmunity

09.35 - 10.00 **Yoshihide Asano**
*Dermal dendritic cells in
systemic sclerosis*

10.00 - 10.25 **Selina Keppler**
Inflammatory potential of B cells

COFFEE BREAK

11.00 Session 4 Andreas Radbruch

**Pathogenic autoantibodies and
signaling mechanisms**

11.10 - 11.35 **Armando Gabrielli**
PDGFR antibodies

11.35 - 12.00 **Gabi Riemekasten**
Activating autoantibodies

LUNCH

12.30 Session 5 Carlo Chizzolinih

**Innate and adaptive immune
targets in scleroderma**

12.40 - 13.05 **Catarina Almeida**
Plasmacytoid dendritic cells

13.05 - 13.30 **Verena Raker**
*Ferroptosis induction as
therapeutic target*

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- 17.40 - 18.00 **Jörg Distler**
Future therapeutic developments
- 18.00 - 19.00 **Advisory Board Meeting**
- 19.00 **DINNER**
Shuttle to Berghütte Lauterbad

Friday, 9. October 2026

08.00 **BREAKFAST AND FAREWELL**



MAPS



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