

AL-S PHARMA

AL-S Pharma's ENCALS 2026 Industry Symposium

Beyond "Sporadic" ALS: Genetics, Biomarkers, and the Misfolded SOD1 Pathway

Date/Time: Tuesday, June 23, 2026; 2:00–4:30 pm

Location: Buenos Aires–Havana–Mexico Room

Format: Three 20-25-minute talks with 5-10-minute Q&A for each, followed by panel discussion and Q&A (45 minutes)

Symposium Description

This symposium will bring together internationally recognized leaders in ALS research to examine how advances in disease biology are reshaping clinical investigation and therapeutic development. Designed for neurologists, physician-scientists, clinical trialists, and industry professionals in drug development, the session will connect emerging insights in genetic architecture, biomarker interpretation, and protein misfolding biology to the practical realities of ALS diagnosis, stratification, and trial design. The symposium will open with a contemporary reappraisal of so-called sporadic ALS, challenging the traditional familial/sporadic divide and highlighting a more nuanced view of genetic contribution and disease architecture; it will then turn to neurofilament biomarkers in ALS clinical trials, focusing on what these markers have taught us over time, where they are most useful today, and how they should be interpreted in the context of therapeutic studies; and it will conclude with a deep dive into the misfolded SOD1 pathway, addressing its biologic significance, mechanistic implications, and relevance for biomarkers and targeted therapies.

Featured Speakers and Talk Titles

1. Prof. Ammar Al-Chalabi, PhD, FRCP, FMedSci

Beyond "Sporadic" ALS: Rethinking Genetic Architecture and Disease Classification

- Reassessing the limitations of the traditional familial/sporadic divide in ALS
- Exploring how rare variants, polygenic risk, penetrance, and gene–environment interplay may shape sporadic disease and future precision trial design

2. Prof. Dame Pamela Shaw, DBE, MBBS, MD, FRCP, FAAN, FANA, FAAAS

Neurofilament Biomarkers in ALS Clinical Trials: Then, Now, and How to Interpret Them

- Tracing the evolution of neurofilament biomarkers from research tools to established components of ALS clinical development
- Examining their current utility and the key challenges in interpretation across prognosis, stratification, pharmacodynamic assessment, and trial design

3. Prof. Philip Van Damme, MD, PhD

The Role of SOD1 in ALS

- Reviewing the lessons learned from SOD1-ALS
- Discussing how misfolded SOD1 could play a role in the absence of SOD1 mutations

Panel Discussion: *Translating ALS Biology into Better Trials*

Moderator: Angela Genge, MD, FRCP(C), eMBA, chief medical officer, AL-S Pharma AG

Panelists: Prof. Leonard van den Berg, PhD, Prof. Andrea Malaspina, MD, PhD, Prof. Julian Grosskreutz, MD

A moderated panel discussion will follow the presentations, bringing together the speakers and invited experts to discuss how emerging insights in ALS genetics, biomarker interpretation, and misfolded protein biology can be translated into better trial design, patient stratification, and therapeutic development.