

Final Consensus Conference on the “*New Classification Criteria for Juvenile Idiopathic ArthritidES*”

Rationale

Historically, juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) has been classified according to the International League of Associations for Rheumatology (ILAR) criteria in seven mutually exclusive clinical categories using, primarily, a consensus-based clinical approach: systemic arthritis; oligoarthritis (persistent or extended); rheumatoid factor (RF)-positive polyarthritis; RF-negative polyarthritis; enthesitis-related arthritis (ERA); psoriatic arthritis (PsA); and undifferentiated arthritis for patients fitting more than one category or none of the defined criteria. Over time, however, some criticism over the ILAR classification system was reported, including the lack of clinical phenotype and biological homogeneity in patients grouped into the same JIA category with an evidence-based approach. Furthermore, while some JIA categories only seem to be diagnosed during childhood, others closely align with their adult-onset counterpart in terms of pathogenesis, clinical features, and response to treatments.

Based on emerging scientific evidence, there appears to be a need for updated classification criteria that reflect recent research findings and are built on robust clinical, laboratory, and genetic data, while also ensuring greater harmonisation with adult arthritides classification systems to facilitate transition of care, improve consistent drug and simplify clinical trials for new treatments. This is a central objective of the Paediatric Rheumatology International Trials Organisation (PRINTO, now Fondazione PRINTO ETS) and the Pediatric Rheumatology Collaborative Study Group (PRCSG). The revision process began in 2015, with a web-based Delphi survey and a subsequent nominal group technique held in Genova, Italy, on December 4-5, 2015. This process led to the proposal of four core preliminary homogeneous JIA entities: systemic arthritis, RF-positive arthritis, and enthesitis/spondylitis-related as childhood counterparts of adult diseases, and early-onset antinuclear (ANA) positive arthritis uniquely diagnosed during childhood. All other forms, including PsA, were provisionally grouped as “other JIA”.

This provisional classification was developed as a first step towards a fully evidence-based classification system derived from a longitudinal translational study, launched in 2018 and involving more than 90 enrolling centres in over 30 countries. This study aimed to prospectively recruit at least 1,000 individuals with JIA at disease onset, with collection of samples for ANA, RF, anti-citrullinated protein antibodies (ACPAs), HLA-B27 testing performed in a central laboratory. During this final Consensus Conference, held in Milan, Italy, from September 30 to October 2, 2026, thirty leading international experts will discuss the results of the JIA classification study, and the new criteria will be formally approved.

Alberto Martini, MD
Fondazione PRINTO ETS
President

Dan Lovell, MD, MPH
PRCSG
Former Chairman

Nicola Ruperto, MD, MPH
Fondazione PRINTO ETS
Scientific Director and Vice-President

Hermine Brunner, MD, MSc, MBA
PRCSG
Chairman and Scientific Director

Final Consensus Conference on the New Classification Criteria for Juvenile Idiopathic ArthritidES

Program for day 1: Wednesday September 30th, 2026, 12.00-16.30

Location: Hotel NH Machiavelli Milano – Via Lazzaretto, 5, Milano

Time	Talk	Speaker
13.00 – 13.20	Why new Classification criteria for the group of juvenile arthritides?	Alberto Martini
13.20 – 13.35	General project methodology	Nicolino Ruperto
13.35 – 13.50	Validation methods	Brian Feldman
13.50 – 14.05	Baseline characteristics of the cohort	Saverio La Bella
14.05 – 14.50	Statistical analysis	Alessandra Alongi
14.50 – 15.05	Results of the Delphi process (other than Spondyloarthritis)	Saverio La Bella
15.05 – 15.20	<i>Coffee break</i>	
15.20 – 15.35	Results of the Delphi 4 process on Spondyloarthritis	Alessandra Alongi
15.35 – 15.50	Systems biology approach to the classification of juvenile arthritides	Rae Yeung
15.50 – 16.05	Next steps: high dimensionality and AI-driven immune stratification of juvenile arthritides	Salvatore Albani
16.05 – 16.20	Nominal Group Technique and Consensus process	Hermine Brunner
16.20 – 16.30	PRINTO online platform and voting system	Arianna Longoni
16.30 – 16.35	Housekeeping (practical) information	Gloria Narducci Jessica Santinelli Anna Tortorelli

Final Consensus Conference on the New Classification Criteria for Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis

Program for day 2: Thursday October 1st, 2026, 08.00-18.00

Location: Centro Congressi Fondazione Cariplo – Via Romagnosi, 8, Milano

Time	Session	Duration
08.00 – 08.15	RF/ACPA positive arthritis: criteria	15'
08.15 – 08.45	RF/ACPA positive arthritis: label	30'
08.45 – 09.15	<i>Plenary session (optional)</i>	30'
09.15 – 10.15	Early-onset ANA + arthritis: criteria	60'
10.15 – 10.45	Early-onset ANA + arthritis: label	30'
10.45 – 11.15	<i>Plenary session (optional)</i>	30'
11.15 – 11.30	Coffee break	
11.30 – 12.15	Juvenile-onset Still's disease: criteria	45'
12.15 – 12.45	Juvenile-onset Still's disease: label	30'
12.45 – 13.15	<i>Plenary session (optional)</i>	30'
13.15 – 14.15	Lunch	
14.15 – 15.15	Seronegative arthritis: criteria	60'
15.15 – 15.45	Seronegative arthritis: label	30'
15.45 – 16.05	<i>Plenary session (optional)</i>	20'
16.05 – 16.20	Coffee break	
16.20 – 16.30	<i>Introduction to hierarchical classification and residual category (plenary)</i>	10'
16.30 – 17.00	Hierarchical classification	30'
17.00 – 17.30	Residual category: label	30'
17.30 – 18.00	<i>Plenary session (optional)</i>	30'

Final Consensus Conference on the New Classification Criteria for Juvenile Idiopathic ArthritidES

Program for day 3: Friday October 2nd, 2026, 08.00-18.00

Location: Centro Congressi Fondazione Cariplo – Via Romagnosi, 8, Milano

Time	Session	Duration
08.00 – 08.45	Juvenile spondyloarthritis: classification criteria	45'
08.45 – 09.05	Juvenile spondyloarthritis: label	20'
09.05 – 09.25	<i>Plenary session (optional)</i>	20'
09.25 – 10.10	Axial spondyloarthritis: classification criteria	45'
10.10 – 10.40	Axial spondyloarthritis: label	30'
10.40 – 11.00	<i>Plenary session (optional)</i>	20'
11.00 – 11.15	Coffee break	
11.15 – 12.00	Peripheral spondyloarthritis: classification criteria	45'
12.00 – 12.30	Peripheral spondyloarthritis: label	30'
12.30 – 12.50	<i>Plenary session (optional)</i>	20'
12.50 – 13.50	Lunch	
13.50 – 14.35	Psoriatic arthritis: classification criteria	45'
14.35 – 15.05	Psoriatic arthritis: label	30'
15.05 – 15.25	<i>Plenary session (optional)</i>	20'
15.25 – 15.40	Coffee break	
15.40 – 16.05	Mandatory entry criteria (stem statement)	25'
16.05 – 16.30	JIA definition and nomenclature standardisation	25'
16.30 – 16.50	<i>Plenary session (optional)</i>	20'
16.50 – 17.15	Potential additional items	25'
17.15 – 17.45	<i>Plenary session (optional)</i>	20'
17.45 – 18.00	Final remarks	15'

CONSENSUS CONFERENCE PANEL

Consensus discussants

- **Albani Salvo**, Singapore - Singapore
- **Anton Jordi**, Esplugues de Llobregat - Spain
- **Ardoyn Stacy**, Durham - USA
- **Arkachaisri Tash**, Singapore - Singapore
- **Avcin Tadej**, Ljubljana - Slovenia
- **Cuttica Ruben**, Buenos Aires - Argentina
- **De Benedetti Fabrizio**, Rome - Italy
- **Demirkaya Erkan**, London, ON - Canada
- **Filocamo Giovanni**, Milan - Italy
- **Foell Dirk**, Muenster - Germany
- **Glerup Mia**, Aarhus - Denmark
- **Guzman Jaime**, Vancouver - Canada
- **Horneff Gerd**, Sankt Augustin - Germany
- **Jelusic Marija**, Zagreb - Croatia
- **Khubchandani Raju**, Mumbai - India
- **Nordal Berit Nordal**, Tromso - Norway
- **Laxer Ron**, Toronto, ON - Canada*
- **Li Caifeng**, Beijing - China
- **Lovell Dan**, Cincinnati - USA
- **Martini Alberto**, Genova - Italy
- **Miyamae Takako**, Tokyo - Japan
- **Nigrovic Peter**, Boston - USA
- **Onel Karen**, New York - USA
- **Ozen Seza**, Ankara - Turkey
- **Petty Ross**, Vancouver - Canada
- **Simonini Gabriele**, Florence - Italy
- **Swart Joost**, Utrecht - Netherlands
- **Twilt Marinka**, Calgary - Canada
- **Vojinovic Jelena**, Nis - Serbia

- **Weiss Pam**, Philadelphia - USA
- **Yeung Rae**, Toronto - Canada

* Participated in the 5 Delphi rounds prior to the consensus meeting in Milan

Moderators

- **Brunner Hermine**, Cincinnati, OH - USA
- **Feldman Brian**, Toronto, ON - Canada
- **Ruperto Nicola**, Milano - Italy

Co-moderators

- **Alongi Alessandra**, Milano - Italy
- **La Bella Saverio**, Milano - Italy
- **Marino Achille**, Milano - Italy
- **Minoia Francesca**, Milano - Italy

F-PRINTO team

- **Lombardi Chiara**, Milano - Italy
- **Longoni Arianna**, Milano - Italy
- **Narducci Gloria**, Milano - Italy
- **Santinelli Jessica**, Milano - Italy
- **Tortorelli Anna**, Milano - Italy

F-PRINTO IT team

- **Collura Emanuele**, Genova - Italy
- **Della Rupe Alessandro**, Genova - Italy
- **Mugnai Andrea**, Genova - Italy

Observers

- **Avrusin Ilia**, Saint-Petersburg - Russian Federation
- **Barba Aguilar María Axel Viridiana**, México City - Mexico
- **Bhattarai Dharmagat**, Kirtipur - Nepal
- **Boteon Della Coletta Mateus**, Botucatu - Brazil
- **Calvo Penades Inmaculada**, Valencia - Spain
- **Cattalini Marco**, Brescia - Italy
- **Fingerhutova Sarka**, Praha - Czechia
- **Gervasoni Annalisa**, Bergamo - Italy
- **Gutierrez Suarez Raul**, Toluca - Mexico
- **Hadef Djohra**, Batna - Algeria
- **Hurin Iryna Petrivna**, Lutsk - Ukraine
- **Januškevičiūtė Giedre**, Stockholm - Sweden
- **Jiron Mendiola Karla Vanessa**, Managua - Nicaragua
- **Lazaruk Mariana**, Lutsk - Ukraine
- **Li Shipeng**, Beijing - China
- **Lishan Kassa Hanna**, Addis Ababa - Ethiopia
- **Lopez Corbeto Mireia**, Barcelona - Spain
- **Maccora Ilaria**, Firenze - Italy
- **Maldar Naziya Perveen**, Mumbai - India
- **Margaryan Ani**, Yerevan - Armenia
- **Nobrega Machado Ricardo**, Sao Paulo - Brazil
- **Pagava Karaman**, Tbilisi - Georgia
- **Patel Pooja**, Chicago - USA
- **Pimpale Pallavi**, Mumbai - India
- **Piskin David**, London - Canada
- **Poddighe Dimitri**, Hanoi - Viet Nam
- **Romano Micol**, London, ON - Canada
- **Shashaani Niloofar**, Teheran - Iran
- **Tsinti Maria**, Athens - Greece
- **Tsitsami Elena**, Athens - Greece
- **Uziel Yosef**, Kfar Saba - Israel
- **Wedderburn Lucy**, London - United Kingdom

JIA classification enrollers

Name	Surname	City	Country
Ruben	Cuttica	Buenos Aires	Argentina
Claudio	Len	Sao Paulo	Brazil
Adriana	Rodrigues Fonseca	Rio de Janeiro	Brazil
Claudia	Saad Magalhaes	Botucatu	Brazil
Flavio	Sztajnbok	Rio de Janeiro	Brazil
Boriana	Varbanova	Varna	Bulgaria
Paivi	Miettunen	Calgary	Canada
Ross	Petty	Vancouver, BC	Canada
Marija	Jelusic	Zagreb	Croatia
Mia	Glerup	Aarhus	Denmark
Charlotte	Myrup	Copenhagen	Denmark
Mari	Laan	Tallinn	Estonia
Chris	Pruunsild	Tartu	Estonia
Elisabeth	Gervais	Poitiers	France
Pierre	Quartier	Paris	France
Frank	Dressler	Hannover	Germany
Dirk	Foell	Muenster	Germany
Gerd	Horneff	Sankt Augustin	Germany
Markus	Hufnagel	Freiburg	Germany
Erato	Atsali	Athens	Greece
Maria	Trachana	Thessaloniki	Greece
Elena	Tsitsami	Athens	Greece
Olga	Vougiouka	Athens	Greece
Raju	Khubchandani	Mumbai	India
Priyankar	Pal	Kolkata	India
Yonatan	Butbul Aviel	Haifa	Israel
Ruby	Haviv	Kfar Saba	Israel
Maria	Alessio	Napoli	Italy
Patrizia	Barone	Catania	Italy
Luciana	Breda	Chieti	Italy
Luca	Cantarini	Siena	Italy
Marco	Cattalini	Brescia	Italy
Adele	Civino	Lecce	Italy
Emanuele	Cocchiara	Reggio Emilia	Italy
Alessandro	Consolaro	Genova	Italy
Rita	Consolini	Pisa	Italy
Giovanni	Conti	Messina	Italy
Fabrizio	De Benedetti	Roma	Italy
Giovanni	Filocamo	Milan	Italy
Romina	Gallizzi	Catanzaro	Italy
Franco	Garofalo	Rivoli, Torino	Italy
Francesco	La Torre	Bari	Italy
Maria Cristina	Maggio	Palermo	Italy
Federico	Marchetti	Ravenna	Italy
Achille	Marino	Milano	Italy
Angela	Miniaci	Bologna	Italy
Davide	Montin	Torino	Italy
Alma Nunzia	Olivieri	Naples	Italy
Serena	Pastore	Trieste	Italy

Name	Surname	City	Country
Gabriele	Simonini	Firenze	Italy
Francesca	Soscia	Roma	Italy
Francesco	Zulian	Padova	Italy
Masaki	Shimizu	Tokyo	Japan
Zaure	Mukusheva	Astana	Kazakhstan
Valda	Stanevicha	Riga	Latvia
Skirmante	Rusoniene	Vilnius	Lithuania
Enrique	Faugier	Mexico City	Mexico
Nadina	Rubio-Perez	Monterrey NL	Mexico
Ellen Berit	Nordal	Tromso	Norway
Marite	Rygg	Trondheim	Norway
Helga	Sanner	Oslo	Norway
Elzbieta	Smolewska	Lodz	Poland
Filipa	Oliveira-Ramos	Lisbon	Portugal
Maria-Jose	Santos	Almada	Portugal
Calin	Lazar	Cluj-Napoca	Romania
Jelena	Vojinovic	Nis	Serbia
Thaschawee	Arkachaisri	Singapore	Singapore
Tomas	Dallos	Bratislava	Slovakia
Dusana	Moravčíková	Banska Bystrica	Slovakia
Veronika	Vargova	Kosice	Slovakia
Eva	Vrtikova	Piestany	Slovakia
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Alina Lucica	Boteanu	Madrid	Spain
Inmaculada	Calvo Penades	Valencia	Spain
Agustin	Remesal	Madrid	Spain
Judith	Sánchez-Manubens	Barcelona	Spain
Sorina	Boiu	Villars-sur-Glâne	Switzerland
Seza	Ozen	Ankara	Turkiye
Oksana	Boyarchuk	Ternopil	Ukraine
Yaryna	Boyko	Lviv	Ukraine
Viktoriiia	Ivanova	Kirovograd	Ukraine
Olga	Synoverska	Ivano-Frankivsk	Ukraine
Yulia	Vyzhga	Vinnitsia	Ukraine
Khulood	Khawaja	Abu Dhabi	United Arab Emirates
Akhila	Kavirayani	Oxford	United Kingdom
Clare	Pain	Liverpool	United Kingdom
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Sampath	Prahalad	Atlanta, GA	United States
Steve	Spalding	Akron, OH	United States
Charles	Spencer	Jackson, MS	United States
Sara	Stern	Salt Lake City	United States
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