



# SYLLABUS

2026 ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM  
BRIDGES TO UNDERSTANDING



ALLERGY, ASTHMA & IMMUNOLOGY  
FOUNDATION OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA



# Allergy, Asthma & Immunology Foundation of Northern California

## AAIFNC 2026 Annual Symposium: BRIDGES TO UNDERSTANDING April 18, 2026 ~ Hotel Nikko, San Francisco, CA Program Summary



Jointly Provided by the American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology and the Allergy, Asthma & Immunology Foundation of Northern California

**Target Audience:** Practicing allergists and allied health care providers in the field of allergy and immunology.

The AAIFNC 2026 Bridges to Understanding program will provide continuing medical education on Mastocytosis and Mast Cell, Biologics, Food Allergy, Aspirin Sensitivity and Artificial Intelligence in Medicine.

### Learning Objectives:

At the end of this activity, participants should be able to:

#### Mastocytosis

- Recognize the clinical presentation of systemic mastocytosis and define the diagnostic criteria for systemic mastocytosis
- Analyze treatment options for patients with systemic mastocytosis and discuss targeted and symptomatic therapy for treatment of systemic mastocytosis

#### Mast Cell

- Define the role and location(s) of the mast cell in human biology
- Review diagnostic criteria for mast cell activation disorders
- Critically assess the MCAS literature
- Understand the (large) gaps in literature
- To appreciate that eosinophil targeting therapies can be effective in CRSwNPs but not because they target eosinophils
- To appreciate the underappreciated role of mast cells in nasal polyposis

#### Biologics in Asthma

- Compare data on safety and efficacy of 5 Anti-Cytokine Biologics for Asthma
- Understand the components of Grading of Recommendations, Assessment, Development, and Evaluation (GRADE)
- Evaluate data from a preliminary analysis addressing: "In patients with severe or difficult-to-treat asthma, which biologics are among the most effective and safest?"
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#### Food Allergy

- Select appropriate tests for diagnosing food allergy
- Interpret tests for diagnosing food allergy
- Discuss emerging tests

### Aspirin Sensitivity

- Identify the varying presentations of aspirin and NSAID hypersensitivity reactions
- Use an Aspirin/NSAID Hypersensitivity pathway algorithm to help guide recommendations for further evaluation or drug challenge
- Perform a standard 2-dose aspirin/NSAID challenge

### A.I. in Medicine

- Recognize the progressive trends of increasing computer capabilities to tackle traditionally human cognitive tasks, and the relative important roles for both in modern healthcare
- Describe the dangers of AI confabulation / hallucination / sycophancy, and the increasing unreliability of distinguishing real vs. fabricated computer-generated info
- Define what makes a clinician in the emerging AI era, and what it means for (re)training the healthcare workforce
- Identify broadly available AI tools that can be used to immediately support work processes

**Accreditation Statement:** This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of the American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology and the Allergy, Asthma & Immunology Foundation of Northern California. The American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

**AMA Credit Designation Statement:** The American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (ACAAI) designates this live activity for a maximum of 6.25 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

**CBRN Designation:** The American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (ACAAI) is a provider, approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing, Provider Number CEP17239, for 6.25 contact hours.

**Faculty Disclosure:** Current guidelines state that participants in continuing medical education activities should be aware of any affiliation or financial interest that could affect the speaker's presentation(s). Faculty members have completed conflict of interest declarations and those potential conflicts will be listed in the course syllabus.

**Disclosure Policy and Disclosures:** As required by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) and in accordance with the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (ACAAI) policy, all individuals in a position to control or influence the content of an activity must disclose all financial relationships with any ineligible company that have occurred within the past 24 months. Ineligible companies are those whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing health care products used by or on patients. Examples of such organizations include *advertising, marketing, or communication firms whose clients are ineligible companies; bio-medical startups that have begun a governmental regulatory approval process; compounding pharmacies that manufacture proprietary compounds; device manufacturers or distributors; diagnostic labs that sell proprietary products; growers, distributors, manufacturers or sellers of medical foods and dietary supplements; manufacturers of health-related wearable products; pharmaceutical companies or distributors; pharmacy benefit managers; reagent manufacturers or sellers.*

The ACCME does not consider providers of clinical service directly to patients to be commercial interests. For more information, visit [www.accme.org](http://www.accme.org). All identified relevant relationships must be mitigated and the educational content thoroughly vetted for fair balance, scientific objectivity, and appropriateness of patient care recommendations. It is required that disclosure of or absence of relevant financial relationships be provided to the learners prior to the start of the activity.

Learners must also be informed when off-label, experimental/investigational uses of drugs or devices are discussed in an educational activity or included in related materials.

Disclosure in no way implies that the information presented is biased or of lesser quality. It is incumbent upon course participants to be aware of these factors in interpreting the program contents and evaluating recommendations. Moreover, expressed views do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the ACAAI. All relevant financial relationships have been mitigated.

**All identified relevant financial relationships have been mitigated.**

**Larry Borish, MD – Speaker**

Consultant: Novartis

Researcher: Adovate, Regeneron, Sanofi

**Matthew P. Giannetti, MD – Speaker**

Consultant: Blueprint, Cogent, Inmagene, Novartis, Palindrome Therapeutics, Solu Therapeutics

**Giselle Mosnaim, MD, MS – Speaker**

Advisor: Amgen, AstraZeneca, Chiesi, Eli Lilly, Genentech, GSK, Jasper, Novartis, Regeneron, Sanofi, Teva

Consultant: Incyte, Regeneron, Sanofi

Speaker: Amgen, AstraZeneca, Chiesi, Novartis, Regeneron, Sanofi

**Scott H. Sicherer, MD – Speaker**

Researcher: Pfizer, Regeneron

**Kristina H. Philpott, MD – Planner, Moderator**

Stock/stock options: Amgen, Boston Scientific, Stryker, Thermo Fisher, Eli Lilly, GSK, Merck, Zoetis

**Gregory Bensch, MD – Planner**

Advisor: Aimmune, AstraZeneca, Dermavant, Sanofi/Regeneron

Consultant: Sanofi/Regeneron

Speaker: Aimmune, AstraZeneca, Blueprint, Incyte, Sanofi/Regeneron, Teva

**The following have no relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies to disclose:**

**Jonathan H. Chen, MD, PhD – Speaker**

**Tanya M. Laidlaw, MD - Speaker**

**Dayne Voelker, MD – Speaker**

**Steve Machtinger, MD – Planner, Moderator**

**Javaid M. Khan, DO – Planner**

**Sean McGhee, MD, PhD – Planner**

**Rose Monahan, MD – Planner**

**Dai Park, MD – Planner**

**Michelle Huffaker, MD – Planner**

**Sarah Pederson, RN – Planner**

**Karol Anderson – Planner**

**CME Instructions:** In order to receive credit, participants must sign in to the ACAAI College Learning Connection (CLC) at <https://education.acaai.org>, complete the evaluation and download their certificate. Per the American Medical Association (AMA), only physicians may receive a CME Certificate. Other healthcare professionals will receive a Certificate of Attendance that they may submit to their regulatory body

**Disclaimer:** The information provided at this CME activity is for continuing education purposes only and is not meant to substitute for the independent medical judgement of a healthcare provider relative to diagnostic and treatment options of a specific patient's medical condition.



*In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, AAIFNC requests that any participant in need of accommodation send an email to: [email@aaifnc.org](mailto:email@aaifnc.org).*



## 2026 Annual Symposium Bridges to Understanding

**April 18, 2026**

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6:15AM-8:15AM

Registration ~ *Nikko Foyer*

**GENERAL SESSION ~ *Nikko Ballroom I & II***

**EXHIBITS AND COFFEE BREAKS ~ *Nikko Ballroom III***

**PROGRAM INTRODUCTION and WELCOME**

8:15AM-8:20AM

Steve Machtinger, MD and Kristina Philpott, MD

Session Moderators: Steve Machtinger, MD and Kristina Philpott, MD

8:20AM-9:05AM

**Systemic Mastocytosis: Clinical Cases and Review of the Literature**

*Dayne Voelker, MD*

9:05AM-9:50AM

**Mast Cell Activation Syndromes**

*Matthew P. Giannetti, MD*

9:50AM-10:35AM

**When an “Eosinophilic” Disease is Actually Caused by Mast Cells: Update on Pathogenic Mechanisms of Nasal Polyposis**

*Larry Borish, MD*

10:35AM-10:50AM

Panel Discussion and Q&A

10:50AM-11:20AM

Exhibits, Posters, Coffee Break

11:20AM-12:10PM

**Comparative Effects of Biologics for Severe and Difficult-to-Treat Asthma / Q & A**

*Giselle S. Mosnaim, MD, MS*

12:10PM-1:00PM

**Solving Food Allergy Diagnostic Dilemmas: Can You Crack the Case? / Q & A**

*Scott H. Sicherer, MD*

1:00PM-2:00PM

Lunch Break & Exhibits

2:00PM-2:50PM

**Practical Approaches to Aspirin & NSAID/Aspirin Hypersensitivity / Q & A**

*Tanya M. Laidlaw, MD*

2:50PM-3:40PM

**AI in Medicine: Integrated Intelligence or Illusory Imitation? / Q & A**

*Jonathan H. Chen, MD, PhD*

3:40PM-4:00PM

**Q&A**

4:00PM-4:10PM

**Acknowledgements & Wrap-Up**

Steve Machtinger, MD – AAIFNC President