



EDITORIAL

Highlights from the 18th International Congress of Immunology, Cape Town, 2023

The picturesque city of Cape Town, South Africa, served as the vibrant backdrop for the 18th International Congress of Immunology, a pivotal event that unfolded from November 27th to December 2nd, 2023. This congress, widely acclaimed as the premier global gathering in the realm of immunology, drew together a diverse community of 3000 immunologists hailing from universities, healthcare institutions, independent research organisations, and industry. Spanning basic, translational, and clinical immunology, the conference featured an extensive programme encompassing 145 scientific sessions, 2000 abstracts, 500 oral presentations, and 1000 posters. The theme, "Turn Discoveries into Treatments," resonated throughout the event.

The IUIS President's eloquent address during the opening ceremony captivated an audience representing over 100 countries. Stressing the significance of collaboration, the President underscored the imperative of addressing real global threats, with a particular emphasis on emerging pathogens. Drawing inspiration from the legacy of Nelson Mandela, the president also called for a united effort to end conflicts. The presence of Nobel Prize winner Emmanuel Charpentier on stage added a distinguished touch to the proceedings as he greeted a large audience of fellow immunologists.

Scientific presentations at the congress achieved unparalleled heights, ranging from thought-provoking keynote presentations to concise yet informative sessions. Encompassing the entire spectrum of immunology, topics spanned fundamental research, cutting-edge developments in immunotherapy, and round-table discussions envisioning the future of science and global immunology partnerships. The exceptional quality of these presentations, coupled with robust levels of engagement, underscored the remarkable momentum within our field—a momentum that demands collective action to amplify immunology's impact on both science and medicine.

As a significant announcement during the congress, it was revealed that the upcoming ALACI congress is slated to take place in Buenos Aires, Argentina from 4th to 8th November 2024. Looking ahead, the next IUIS congress is scheduled for 2025 and will convene in Austria. The anticipation for these future gatherings adds an extra layer of excitement, fostering a sense of continuity and shared commitment within the global immunology community. The 18th International Congress of Immunology in Cape Town not only marked a milestone event but also served as a catalyst for the ongoing advancement of immunological science worldwide.

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