



NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR ALPHA-GAL SYNDROME

Agenda for Wednesday, October 28, 2026

7:15 AM – 8:00 AM

45 minutes

Registration, Breakfast & Networking

8:00 AM – 8:15 AM

15 minutes

Welcome & Opening Remarks

- Sung Poblete, PhD, RN, CEO of FARE
- Maya Jerath, MD, PhD, Washington University in St. Louis and Jeffrey Wilson, MD, PhD, University of Virginia
- Kelly Cleary, MD, MPH, FARE and Jennifer Bufford, MS, FARE

8:15 AM – 8:50 AM

35 minutes

Alpha-gal Syndrome 101: State of the Science and Patient Perspective

Description: This opening session will provide a concise overview of the current state of alpha-gal syndrome, including what is known about its underlying mechanism, clinical relevance, prevalence, public health impact, and disease burden. The session will also incorporate the patient perspective to illustrate the lived experience and day-to-day impact of AGS. The presentation will highlight emerging geographic patterns, the role of tick exposure and environmental drivers, and persistent gaps in surveillance, diagnosis, management and education. This session will establish a shared foundation for the day's discussions and frame the key scientific, clinical, patient-centered, and public health questions that remain.

Presenters:

- Maya Jerath, MD, PhD, Washington University in St. Louis
- Jeffrey Wilson, MD, PhD, University of Virginia
- Kelly Cleary, MD, MPH, FARE

8:50 AM – 10:10 AM

80 minutes

SESSION 1: From Tick Bite to Disease: The Critical Gaps in AGS Risk and Emergence

Description: This session will examine the factors that contribute to the development of alpha-gal syndrome, moving from tick exposure and immune sensitization to the environmental, geographic, and host factors that shape individual and population risk.

Three Lightning Talks

- **Where Does AGS Begin? Mapping Risk, Tick Exposure, and the Biggest Unknown**
Presenter: Yoonseong Park, PhD, Kansas State University
- **The Biology of AGS Begins Here: Critical Gaps in Our Understanding of Tick–Host Immune Interactions**
Presenter: Loren Erickson, PhD, University of Virginia
- **Who Develops AGS—and Why? Research Priorities in Individual Risk**
Presenter: Eleanor Saunders, MD, MPH, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Consensus Building Discussion

- Small Group Discussion
- Large Group Discussion

Moderator: TBD

10:10 AM – 10:25 AM

15 minutes

Break

10:25 AM – 11:55 AM

90 minutes

SESSION 2: Clinical Complexity in AGS: Why Better Evidence Needed

Description: This session will explore the broad clinical spectrum of alpha-gal syndrome, including sensitization alone, symptomatic disease, comorbidities, and medical products, medications and procedural care considerations

Four Lightning Talks

- **Defining the Clinical Spectrum: What We Still Need to Understand**
Presenter: Thomas Platts-Mills, MD, University of Virginia
- **When AGS is Not Alone: Why Associated Conditions Deserve Focus**
Presenter: Onyi Iweala, MD, PhD, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- **Medications and Procedures in AGS: Evidence Gaps with Real-World Safety Implications**
Presenter: Cosby Stone, MD, MPH, Vanderbilt University

- **From Patient Records to Predictions: How AI Could Help Close AGS Data Gaps**
Presenter: W. Grant Day, MD, Naval Medical Readiness Training Command
Portsmouth

Consensus Building Discussion

- Small Group Discussion
- Large Group Discussion

Moderator: Josh Kennedy, MD, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

11:55 AM – 1:05 PM

70 minutes

Group Photo, Lunch and Networking

1:05 PM – 2:30 PM

85 minutes

SESSION 3: Improving AGS Diagnosis and Management: Where More Research Could Lead

Description: This session will focus on clinical diagnosis and day-to-day management of alpha-gal syndrome, highlighting current evidence, areas of uncertainty, and practical needs for patient and provider guidance.

Four Lightning Talks

- **What Would Better AGS Diagnostics Make Possible?**
Presenter: Peggy Kendall, MD, Washington University in St. Louis
Presenter: Jonathan Friedlander, PhD, Atanis Biotech
- **Uncertainty in AGS Dietary Guidance: Research Priorities**
Presenter: Sarah McGill, MD, MSc, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- **Can Monoclonal IgE Transform AGS Treatment?**
Presenter: Scott Smith, MD, PhD, University of Virginia

Consensus Building Discussion

- Small Group Discussion
- Large Group Discussion

Moderator: Jonathan Hemler, MD, University of Virginia

2:30 PM – 2:45 PM

15 minutes

Break

2:45 PM – 4:15 PM

90 minutes

SESSION 4: AGS and the Food System: Gaps in Evidence, Transparency, and Consumer Protection

Description: This session will examine alpha-gal syndrome through the lens of agriculture, food science, and the broader food system, including implications for livestock producers, food manufacturing, ingredient sourcing, labeling, and consumer guidance.

Four Lightning Talks

- **AGS and Agricultural Communities: Occupational Risk, Livestock Exposure, and Rural Health Needs**
Presenter: Shaun Cross, PhD, University of Nebraska
- **Beyond Red Meat: Mammalian- and Red Algae-Derived Ingredients and AGS - Research Needs and Practical Implications**
Presenter: Joseph Baumert, PhD, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- **Labeling and Transparency: What AGS Patients Need and What Evidence Is Missing**
Presenter: Stefano Luccioli, MD, US Food and Drug Administration
- **Alpha-gal in the Food Supply: What We Need to Measure and Why**
Presenter: Parastoo Azadi, PhD, University of Georgia

Consensus Building Discussion

- Small Group Discussion
- Large Group Discussion

Moderator: Priscilla Brenes, MPH, PhD, Kansas State University

4:15 PM – 5:35 PM

80 minutes

SESSION 5: Preventing AGS at Scale: What Evidence Is Needed to Move Beyond Tick Avoidance

Description: Current approaches to AGS prevention largely focus on individual protection from tick bites. This session will look further upstream, exploring innovative ecological, environmental, and biological strategies that could reduce tick populations, disrupt tick–host interactions, and ultimately decrease the risk of alpha-gal sensitization and AGS.

Three Lightning Talks

- **Prescribed Fire and AGS Prevention: What Evidence Is Needed Before Scaling?**
Presenter: **TBD**
- **Biotechnology Approaches to AGS Prevention: Why This Frontier Deserves Consideration**
Presenter: Joanna Buchthal, PhD, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- **Reducing Lone Star Tick Populations: Why Deer-Based Strategies Merit Further Study**

Presenter: Sam Telford II, ScD, Tufts University

Consensus Building Discussion

- Small Group Discussion
- Large Group Discussion

Moderator: Lea Hamner, MPH, Martha's Vineyard Tick Program

5:35 PM – 6:35 PM

60 minutes

Defining the AGS Priorities & Investment Agenda: What Matters Most

Description: This facilitated closing session will synthesize key themes from the day and translate them into prioritized research, clinical practice, education, and collaboration priorities for alpha-gal syndrome.

Moderator(s): Lee Gimpel et al.

6:35 PM – 6:40 PM

5 minutes

Closing Remarks and Adjourn

6:40 PM – 7:00 PM

20 minutes

Afterglow or Break

Attendees are welcomed to gather in the hotel bar to continue conversations, deepen relationships, and process the day's discussions after the formal program concludes and dinner begins.

7:00 PM

Dinner (optional)