

FRANCESCA FAUSTINI, MD, PHD



Current position

Rheumatologist, senior attending (överläkare, from October 1st 2025), clinical head of the SLE clinic at Karolinska University Hospital, Medical Unit Dermatology-Gastroenterology-Rheumatology, Section of Rheumatology, Stockholm, Sweden)

Post-doctoral researcher, Department of Medicine Solna, Section of Rheumatology, Research group A. Antovic (formerly Svenungsson), Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden

Previous positions

- assistant senior attending** (biträdande överläkare, from 1st of June 2019 to September 30th 2025),-
Rheumatology specialist at Karolinska University Hospital, Stockholm, Sweden (October 1st, 2015 to 31st of May 2019)
- Rheumatology Specialist** (vikarier, March 1st, 2015 to 31st August 2015) at Rheumatology Unit, Karolinska University Hospital, Stockholm, Sweden
- Scientist**, ClinTRID, Department of Medicine, Solna, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden (September 2014-February 2015)
- Scientist** at Medizinische Klinik 3. Immunologie und Rheumatologie, Universitätsklinikum, Friedrich-Alexander Universität Erlangen-Nuernberg, Erlangen, Germany (Oct 2012-July 2014)
- Attending physician in rheumatology**, Ambroise Paré University Hospital, APHP, Boulogne-Billancourt, France (October 2011-May 2012)
- Attending physician in rheumatology**, Division of Rheumatology, Institute of Internal medicine, Agostino Gemelli University Hospital, Catholic University, Rome, Italy (October 2010-July 2011)
- Specialist in Rheumatology** Division of Rheumatology, Institute of Internal medicine, Agostino Gemelli University Hospital, Catholic University, Rome, Italy (November 2009-October 2010, Scholarship Istituto Toniolo di Studi Superiori)
- **Trainee in Rheumatology** (academic years 2005-2009) Division of Rheumatology, Institute of Internal medicine, Agostino Gemelli University Hospital, Catholic University, Rome, Italy

Education

Ongoing: Clinical post-doc, Region of Stockholm (2024-2027)

PhD, November 12th, 2021

Karolinska Institutet, Department of Medicine Solna, Rheumatology.

Medical Sciences programme: allergy, inflammation and immunology

Title of the PhD thesis: Studies on biological treatment and biomarkers in systemic lupus erythematosus: long-term effects, risk factors and predictors of response.

Main supervisor: Professor Iva Gunnarsson

Co-supervisors: Professor Vivianne Malmström, Professor Ronald van Vollenhoven

Specialty in Rheumatology, November 11th 2009

At Division of Rheumatology, Institute of Internal medicine, Agostino Gemelli University Hospital, Catholic University, Rome, Italy

Medical Degree, October 27th 2004

At Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore di Milano, sede di Roma, Rome, Italy

Additional education

University Diploma in Ultrasound Imaging for Rheumatic Diseases (ECRIN)

Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Sorbonne Université, Hôpital Pitié-Salpêtrière, Paris, France (2013)

Main scientific interests

- Biology and role of B-lymphocytes in autoimmune diseases and B-cell directed therapies, including cell therapies (CAR T, NK cell based approaches), with particular focus on Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) and ANCA-associated vasculitis
- Clinical, patho-physiological and therapeutic aspects of SLE and LN with focus on biomarkers of disease activity and therapeutic response
- Clinical, patho-physiological and imaging aspects of spondylarthritides

Teaching activities

At the present time involved in practical and theoretical teaching of Systemic diseases (with focus on systemic lupus erythematosus and vasculitides) and Spondyloarthritis for medicine undergraduate students, rheumatology trainees and trainees of other specialties.

Academic activity

Main supervisor for PhD students: Charikleia Chrysostomou, Enrico Fuzzi and Aliisa Häyry (KI)

Co-supervisor for PhD students: Linnea Karlsson (KI)

Academic year 2024-2025: Visiting Professor, University of Torino, Italy (insegnamento di patologia clinica-course of clinical pathology)

Membership in scientific societies

Svensk reumatologisk förening (Swedish rheumatological association): member of the scientific group editing guidelines for the safe use of antirheumatic treatments

SLEuro, European lupus society: elected member for the executive committee 2025-2026

ERNreconnect: member, scientific group: SLE

Peer-reviewing activities

I am active as peer reviewer in the field of rheumatic diseases since 2011. I have performed peer reviews for the following scientific journals:

- Annals of Internal Medicine
- Rheumatology (Oxford)
- Arthritis Research and Therapy
- Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases
- Autoimmunity
- Clinical Rheumatology
- Journal of Autoimmunity

Other

Participation as co-investigator in clinical trials (among them IMAGE trial, sponsored by Roche, NORDSTAR study, investigator-initiated trial on the use of biological treatments in early rheumatoid arthritis,)

Participation as co-investigator in the DUO registry (digital ulcers in systemic sclerosis)

Co-investigator: SELUNE, TOPAZ trial

Principal investigator: SOBI Emerald trial, Novartis YTB323 (CAR T rapcabtagene autoleucel)

Languages

Italian (native speaker)

English (C1-2), Swedish(C1), French (C1-2), German (B2)

Sincerely,

February 2026

Francesca Faustini

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "francesca faustini".

Stockholm, February 1st 2026

Att. Professor Luís Ines,
President of SLEuro

Dear Professor Ines,

This letter is to accompany my nomination for the Executive Committee 2027-2028 of SLEuro advanced by Professor Elisabet Svenungsson.

I have been a member of the executive committee 2025-2026 and I would much appreciate the opportunity to continue for a next mandate.

As member of SLEuro executive committee, I might use my clinical and research expertise to contribute to educational activities, as well as multicenter research collaborations, and contribute to define new directions of collaborative research efforts and development of programmes of care for SLE patients. Also, I might contribute to defining the scientific contents and programmes of the next-coming conferences, advanced workshops and as host of the society exchange programmes for younger colleagues.

As known, I am a clinical rheumatologist and researcher, active at Karolinska University Hospital and Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm, Sweden and I hold a special interest in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus. At clinical level, I am currently head of the SLE clinic at my institution and I am active as post-doctoral researcher.

My focus of interest covers different aspects of SLE, including pathophysiology and treatment of lupus nephritis. On this area, I conduct clinical and translational projects exploring B-cell biology related aspects and urinary biomarkers.

I have clinical expertise in the treatment of nephritis, APS and related nephropathy and CAPS, as well as rare conditions of hyperinflammation.

I would much appreciate to be given the possibility to continue and expand my contribution to SLEuro activities and mission and I hope you will consider my candidacy.

Your sincerely

Francesca Faustini

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