

GENERAL INFORMATION

Registration & Fees

Register online at <https://cartilage.org/focus-meeting-chicago/registration>

	Early Bird until May 31	Normal Fee Jun 1 – Aug 23	Late Fee from Aug 24
Junior Members, Residents, Students & Physician Assistants, Physiotherapists*	€ 500*	€ 575*	€ 650*
ICRS Members	€ 650	€ 750	€ 850
Non-ICRS Members	€ 750	€ 850	€ 950
Industry Associates	€ 850	€ 950	€ 1050

All attendees must register online through the website. Students, residents, physiotherapists, nurses and PAs must provide proof of their training /residency or professional status to receive our highly reduced registration rates.

The registration fees include: access to all lectures & exhibition, Chicago-style welcome reception, breakfast, lunch, coffee breaks, course registration material and certificate of attendance.

Payment

Fees are in Euro and are accepted as follows: Bank Transfer, VISA, AMEX, Mastercard.

Course Cancellations

Please note the following refund policy for paid registrations:

- 50% refund for cancellations before May 31, 2026.
- No refunds thereafter

Written notification is required for all registration cancellations and changes. Requests should be sent to the Cartilage Executive Office office@cartilage.org.

Cancellation of the Congress by the Organizer Congress fees will be reimbursed if the Congress is cancelled for reasons other than war, warlike events, natural disasters, acts of terrorism, or sickness epidemics. In the latter circumstances, only a proportion of the congress fee would be refundable.

Name Changes

Name changes of registrations will be charged with an administrative fee of € 100.

ICRS Membership Benefits

Attendees who apply for ICRS membership right before registration will immediately benefit from reduced registration fees. Membership applications should be done online before course registration. Please note that ICRS Members who are not in good standing with their membership dues 2026 will automatically be charged with the non-member fee.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Accommodation

The ICRS has secured a block of rooms at competitive rates at the iconic **Palmer House, a Hilton Hotel** (course venue). We encourage participants and industry partners to take advantage of this opportunity by booking their hotel rooms as early as possible, ideally **before July 31, 2026** (first-come, first-served).

For more information visit our [website](#).

Course Language

English, no simultaneous translation will be available.

CME

This is a non-CME event.

Disclaimer

ICRS and the course organizers cannot accept any liability for the acts of any suppliers to this meeting nor of the safety of any attendee while in transit to or from, or at the event. All participants are strongly advised to carry proper travel- & health insurance.

Event Cancellation

ICRS may elect to cancel the Focus Meeting due to circumstances beyond our control, such as disaster, severe weather, pandemic disease, civil commotion or government laws or regulations. In the event of such cancellation, all congress registrants will be notified by email at the address provided in the ICRS database and registration fees will be partially refunded. Other costs incurred by the registrant, such as airline or hotel penalties, are the responsibility of the registrant.

Updated Information

For updated information (topics, faculty, registration fees, etc.) please scan the QR code:



Diamond Partners



Ruby Partners



ICRS FOCUS MEETING

PATIENT-CENTERED & EVIDENCE-BASED CARTILAGE TREATMENT OF THE KNEE

REAL-WORLD APPROACHES TO THE PATHOLOGY SPECTRUM

CHICAGO, USA
SEPTEMBER 24-25, 2026

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

WWW.CARTILAGE.ORG

WELCOME

We are delighted to announce the upcoming non-CME ICRS Focus Meeting in Chicago on September 24-25, 2026. This 1.5-day meeting will address the rapidly evolving landscape of knee cartilage treatment in the US, with multiple new non-operative and operative solutions recently introduced and approved.

The program emphasizes knee joint preservation and supports clinical decision-making through a practical, evidence-based framework featuring case-based presentations, re-live surgical videos, and expert-led discussions that follow realistic patient scenarios and reflect both clinical experience and current literature.

We look forward to welcoming you to the historic Palmer House, a Hilton Hotel, in the heart of downtown Chicago. Alongside high-level scientific exchange on evidence-based cartilage treatment of the knee, participants will enjoy the full Chicago experience: iconic architecture, renowned Chicago-style cuisine, and the city's vibrant energy.

Your Course Directors



Brian J. Cole, MD, MBA



Adam B. Yanke, MD, PhD

Expert Faculty (tentative)

William **Bugbee** (US)
Jorge **Chahla** (US)
Camila **Cohen-Kaleka** (BR)
Brian **Cole** (US)

Aaron **Krych** (US)
Christian **Lettermann** (US)
Seth **Sherman** (US)
Adam **Yanke** (US)

Course Directors

Brian **Cole**, MD MBA – Rush Medical College, Chicago, USA
Adam **Yanke** MD PhD – Rush Medical College, Chicago, USA

Course Organising Office

Cartilage Executive Office (CEO) GmbH, Spitalstrasse 190A,
CH-8623 Wetzikon, Switzerland
Email: office@cartilage.org | www.cartilage.org

Course Venue & Official Hotel

The Palmer House, a Hilton Hotel
Adams / Monroe, 6th Floor
17 East Monroe Street, Chicago, IL, 60603, US

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2026

15:00 – 16:15 SESSION 1A

CREATING THE FOUNDATION FOR KNEE JOINT PRESERVATION

Natural History

- Focal Chondral Defects
- The Meniscectomized Knee (Medial/Lateral/Root/Bucket Excision)

Orthobiologics for the Knee: Techniques, Indications and Outcomes

- Non Operative Use for Early Knee Osteoarthritis
- Intra and Post Operative Use Around Cartilage Transplantation or Osteotomy

Bracing: Techniques, Indications and Outcomes

- Non-Operative Applications
- Operative Adjunctive Applications

Optimize the Environment

- What Should a Clinician Know About PTOA
- DMOAD: Fact or Fiction
- Serum and Synovial Biomarkers

OCD: Young and Old...Managing it at Any Stage

- Natural History if Left Alone
- Surgical and Non-Surgical Management

Q&A

16:15 – 17:00 COFFEE BREAK & EXHIBITION

17:00 – 18:30 SESSION 1B

CREATING THE FOUNDATION FOR KNEE JOINT PRESERVATION

The Subchondral Bone: Where are we Today?

- Evidence that it's a Pain Generator
- Relevance to Surface-based or Reconstructive Cartilage Transplantation
- Treatment Options

Modern Osteotomy: Patient Specific Instrumentation and Advances in Technology

- Perioperative planning
- Overview of Available Systems
- 3D Printing
- Unmet Need: TTO Planning

The Biomechanical Role of the Meniscus

- Radials/Roots Medial/Lateral Effect on Contact Pressures and Stability
- Evidence of Restoration of Natural State *in vivo* or *in vitro*

The Treatment Algorithm: A view from the top

- Review of Most Commonly Available Cartilage Treatments with their Strengths/Weaknesses

Are we Ready for Metal in the Young Patient?

- What is Actual Survivorship of TKA/UKA/PFA in a 30 to 40-Year-Old
- Do our Prior Preservation Surgeries Hinder Outcome?
- Detailed Outcomes: Does a Revision-Free Patient Equal a Happy Patient

Q&A

18:30-20:30 WELCOME & NETWORKING RECEPTION

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2026

08:00 – 09:30 SESSION 2

THE PATELLOFEMORAL JOINT: CASE PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION

Case 1: Patellofemoral Pain with Chondromalacia and No Bone Loss)

Case 2: Patellofemoral Chondral Damage in the 1st Time Dislocator with Fragment

Case 3: Uni-polar Trochlear Defect (no PFI)

Case 4: Bipolar PF Cartilage Loss in the 30-Year-Old Q&A

09:30-10:00 COFFEE BREAK & EXHIBITION

10:00-12:00 SESSION 3

THE MEDIAL KNEE: CASE PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION

Case 1: Management of the 2.5 cm² MFC Cartilage Defect in a 20 Year Old

Case 2: MFC OCD Lesion: Take it Out

Case 3: MFC Lesion with 4.5 Degrees of Varus

Case 4: Medial Knee Pain with Chondral Heterogeneity and Bone Marrow Signal

Case 5: Management of the Lateral Tibial Plateau

Case 6: KL 3 Changes in the Active 40-Year-Old

Q&A

12:00-13:00 LUNCH – INDUSTRY SYMPOSIA

13:00-14:15 SESSION 4

THE MENISCAL DEFICIENT KNEE: CASES AND DISCUSSION

Case 1: Post Meniscectomy Knee with Pain

Case 2: ACL patient with Acute Bucket Medial Meniscus (irreparable)

Case 3: MAT in the Revision ACL

Q&A

14:15-14:45 COFFEE BREAK & EXHIBITION

14:45-16:00 SESSION 5

COMPLEX AND COMBINED TREATMENT WITH LIGAMENT DEFICIENCY: CASES AND DISCUSSION

Case 1: MPFL/PF Cartilage/TTO

Case 2: ACL/Osteotomy/Cartilage Transplant

Case 3: Salvage PF OA – Shell Graft

Case 4: TBD

Q&A

16:15-17:30 SESSION 6

COMPLICATIONS AND MANAGEMENT

17:30 ADJOURN