

EAN Certificate in Clinical Research in Neurology (CCRN) 2026-2028

Advance your career in clinical research by being part of the CCRN!

Curriculum

Senior Scientific Moderator: Tony Marson

Junior Scientific Moderator: Cláudia Santos Silva

Onsite Workshops

Onsite workshops will take place one day prior to the EAN congresses – Attendance is mandatory

Geneva 2026

Friday, 26 June 2026

09:00-16:45

Kick-off Workshop 1: Introduction to the Foundations of Clinical Research in Neurology and the Course

- What is clinical research and why is it needed?
The grand challenges
- Translational research: From bedside to bench and reverse
- The importance of clinical trials, study designs explained

In this module, all participants and Scientific Moderators will get to know each other, and self-organised working groups will be created.

- **Exclusive guided tour of Campus Biotech** in Geneva, Switzerland (Monday afternoon, June 29th, 2026).

Gothenburg 2027

Friday, 11 June 2027

10:00-17:00

Workshop 2: Comprehensive Research Planning: Applied Methods & Clinical Thinking in Clinical Research

- Recap of online courses 1 & 2
- Interactive drafting of a full research protocol
- Statistics in clinical research: pitfalls
- The replication problem

This module includes a group work on statistical analysis plan development, as well as peer-review and mentor feedback on protocol components. Action steps for post WS2 hands-on session will also be provided.

Online Courses

Online courses will take place on Saturdays – Dates to be confirmed

Online Course 1

Designing and Evaluating Clinical Research: Questions, Review, and Ethics

Saturday, November 14, 2026

09:00-17:00

Faculty speakers: TBC

- Formulating research questions and hypothesis development, including systematic literature review – Principles & practice (advanced search strategies; risk of bias assessment tools; software for literature management)
- Research ethics & proposal writing, including fundamentals of good clinical practice
- Critical appraisal of research articles, fundamentals of meta-analysis

This module includes one group work and one group presentation per lecture.

Online Course 2

Methods & Statistics

Saturday, March 2027

09:00-17:00

Faculty speakers: TBC

- Study design, protocol development, data privacy and database design (database encryption and anonymization)
- Statistical methods I (descriptive & inferential statistics, sample size calculation)
- Big data analytics & AI applications (including basics of machine learning workflows)

This module includes one group work and one group presentation per lecture.

Online Course 3

Clinical Trials and Interventional Studies

Saturday, September 2027

09:00-17:00

Faculty speakers: TBC

- Clinical trial phases and designs
- Pragmatic and exploratory trials: advantages and disadvantages
- Regulatory requirements and compliance in multicentre/national trials

This module includes one group work and one group presentation per lecture.

Online Courses

Online courses will take place on Saturdays – Dates to be confirmed

Online Course 4

Translational Research

Saturday, November 2027

09:00-17:00

Faculty speakers: TBC



- Animal models to disclose the pathophysiology and to develop treatments for neurological disorders
- Brain in a dish: cerebral organoids to explore precision medicine
- CFS and blood biomarkers as biological definition of diseases and their prognosis

This module includes an introduction on what is translational research and translational research principles, as well as one group work and one group presentation per lecture.

Online Course 5

Publishing & Grants

Saturday, March/April 2028

09:00-17:00

Faculty speakers: TBC



- Journal selection, open access models, unethical publishing practices, structuring and writing scientific manuscripts
- How to acquire funding (national, EU; budget planning; review criteria)
- Post-award management, reporting

This module includes one group work and one group presentation per lecture.

Hands-on Working Group Sessions

Virtual self-organised working group sessions (4-5 participants)

Hands-on session 1

We Create our PICO

Online hands-on session dedicated to collaboratively developing a PICO (Population, Intervention, Comparator, Outcome) question. The resulting work shall be discussed during OC1.

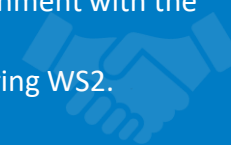


Hands-on session 2

The Best Analysis Plan for our PICO (our Study Design and Analysis Plan)

Online hands-on session focused on transforming the PICO question into a concrete study design.

Each group will outline and refine the most appropriate analysis plan, ensuring methodological rigor and alignment with the research objectives. Results shall be discussed during WS2.



Hands-on session 3

Recap and Working on our Project

Content TBD



Hands-on Working Group Sessions

Virtual self-organised working group sessions (4-5 participants)

Hands-on session 4

Our research protocol, research ethics and budget planning

Online hands-on session dedicated to final drafting of a comprehensive study protocol based on the previously developed PICO and analysis plan.

It shall focus on integrating ethical considerations in the protocol design and preparing realistic budget to support implementation.



Hands-on session 5

Interpreting and writing up our data

Online hands-on session focused on data interpretation, critical appraisal of results, and translating findings into clear scientific narratives.

Emphasis on structuring manuscripts and preparing outputs suitable for publication and presentation.



Group Presentation & Graduation

Onsite

Rotterdam 2028

Closure of the programme & diploma ceremony

Presentation of the working groups' projects at the Scientific Theatre

Awarding of the certificates

