

UNDIAGNOSED DISEASES NETWORK INTERNATIONAL (UDNI) 14th UDNI CONFERENCE - FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

DATE

October 28-31, 2025

VENUE

Hotel Windsor Marapendi, Barra da Tijuca, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

ORGANIZED BY

Genetics for All Institute, Casa dos Raros, and Vicky Simon Consulting & Events

WEBSITE

Under construction

IMPORTANT DATES (tentative)

- Website launch: February 28 (Rare Disease Day)
- Registration opens: March 28
- Hotel reservation opens: March 28
- Abstract submission opens: April 28
- Early Bird Registration ends: July 28
- Early Bird Hotel Reservation ends: July 28
- Abstract Submission ends: August 28
- Registration ends: September 28
- Hotel reservation ends: September 28
- On-site registration opens: October 28

ABOUT THE UDNI

The International Network for Undiagnosed Diseases (UDNI) was established in 2014 as a collaborative initiative spanning multiple countries. Its primary mission is to improve diagnostic rates for individuals living with undiagnosed conditions. Inspired by and modeled after the Undiagnosed Diseases Program of the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH), the UDNI brings together clinical and research centers renowned for their expertise in rare diseases. This global network fosters interdisciplinary collaboration, facilitates knowledge sharing, and accelerates the translation of research findings into clinical practice to improve patient care. The UDNI's governance structure includes a Board of Directors composed of distinguished experts from diverse countries and regions, ensuring a comprehensive and inclusive approach to its mission. Central to its success is the active involvement of supportive organizations, which play a critical role in advancing its goals. Since its inception, the UDNI has already organized 13 successful conferences, serving as a platform for sharing breakthroughs and fostering collaboration. The most recent conference took place in Seoul, South Korea, in September 2024, further solidifying the network's global presence and impact.



VENUE

For the first time, the UDNI Conference will take place in the Southern Hemisphere, hosted in Latin America's dynamic and safe Barra da Tijuca neighborhood in Rio de Janeiro. This vibrant area is known for its stunning beaches, modern amenities, and welcoming atmosphere, making it an ideal setting for the conference. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil's former capital, is internationally celebrated for its breathtaking natural beauty, iconic landmarks, and rich cultural heritage. The venue offers convenient access (10 min taxi ride) to the city's metro system, providing quick and easy connections to famous destinations such as Ipanema, Copacabana, Corcovado (home to the Christ the Redeemer statue), and Sugarloaf Mountain.

HOTEL FACILITIES

The Windsor Marapendi Hotel offers beachfront views and top-tier amenities. The conference will take place in the main convention area, featuring spacious rooms for plenary sessions, parallel sessions, satellite symposia, committee discussions, commercial exhibits, and poster presentations.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- **October 28 (Tuesday):** Check-in and evening welcome cocktail
- **October 29–30 (Wednesday & Thursday):** Full-day scientific sessions
- **October 30 (Thursday):** Evening networking event
- **October 31 (Friday):** Morning/early afternoon: UDNI committee meetings

The Scientific Committee, in concert with the UDNI Board of Directors, will deliver a dynamic program featuring cutting-edge research and clinical advancements in undiagnosed diseases.

FREE COMMUNICATIONS

Participants are encouraged to submit abstracts for oral and/or poster presentations. Posters will be displayed throughout the entire conference.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Organizations and companies in the rare diseases field are invited to sponsor the event. Various sponsorship packages are available, including satellite symposia and exhibition spaces.

REGISTRATION & ACCOMMODATION PACKAGES

- **Accommodation package:** Includes 3 nights (Oct. 28–31) with breakfast.
- **Registration package:** Covers access to all scientific sessions, welcome cocktail, lunch boxes, food and beverage at coffee breaks, and the networking event.
- **Special registration rates** available for participants from low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), undergraduate and graduate students, and early-career professionals.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Visa-free or e-visa entry is available for many countries.

In addition to having non-stop flights to a number of Brazilian cities, Rio's international airport offers direct flights to/from major destinations (with most intercontinental flights arriving in the morning and departing in the evening):

- **North America** (Atlanta, Dallas, Houston, Miami, New York)
- **Europe** (Amsterdam, Frankfurt, Lisbon, London, Madrid, Oporto, Paris, Rome)
- **Middle East** (Dubai)
- **Latin America** (Buenos Aires, Bogota, Lima, Mendoza, Montevideo, Panama, Santiago)

Hostesses will assist attendees at the airport on October 28 and 31, and optional transfer service to and from the hotel (40-minute journey) will be available.

SIGHTSEEING & EXCURSIONS

As the conference adjourns on Thursday evening, with just a few business activities planned for Friday morning, the attendees can take advantage of the weekend in the charming city of Rio de Janeiro and vicinities. The organizers will indicate an agent to provide guidance on sightseeing tours in Rio, short excursions to neighboring areas (Buzios, Paraty, Petropolis and others) and to many other Brazilian destinations.

LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Coordinator:

- Roberto Giugliani

Advisors:

- Bibiana Oliveira
- Dafne Horovitz
- Filippo Vairo
- Thereza Cavalcanti

Operational Team:

- Fabrizio Barbosa
- Glória Souza
- Izabel Souza
- Vicky Simon

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE:

To be announced

THE WEBSITE udni2025.org.br WILL BE LAUNCHED IN THE RARE DISEASE DAY (FEB 28)

(until then, please contact roberto.giugliani@cdr.org.br by email, if needed)