

IHS Visiting Professors Programme 2026 – Moldova Pain Summit

Event: Moldova Pain Summit 2026

Date: 1–3 October 2026

Location: Chişinău, Republic of Moldova

Headache Section: 2 October 2026

Host institutions: Headache and Pain Society of the Republic of Moldova and the Diomid Gherman Institute of Neurology and Neurosurgery

The participation of Dr. Francesca Puledda (United Kingdom) and Prof. Henrik Winther Schytz (Denmark) in the Moldova Pain Summit 2026 was made possible through the International Headache Society (IHS) Visiting Professors Programme 2026. This support represented a valuable opportunity for the headache community in the Republic of Moldova to benefit from the expertise of internationally recognised specialists and to strengthen professional links with the international headache community.

The dedicated Headache Section, held on 2 October 2026, was an important component of the scientific programme of the Moldova Pain Summit. It brought together current clinical knowledge, case-based learning and practical workshops addressing some of the most relevant challenges in headache medicine. Dr. Francesca Puledda delivered the presentation *“Migraine: Current Perspectives on Diagnosis and Treatment”* and led a case-based session on *“Trigeminal Autonomic Cephalalgias.”* Her contributions provided an opportunity to discuss contemporary approaches to migraine diagnosis and treatment, as well as the recognition and management of trigeminal autonomic cephalalgias.

Prof. Henrik Winther Schytz conducted a case-based session on *“Secondary Headache: Diagnosis, Differential Diagnosis and Treatment”* and workshops on *“Medication-Overuse Headache”* and *“Multidisciplinary Headache Management and Organisation of a Headache Centre.”* These sessions addressed clinically important diagnostic and therapeutic challenges, emphasising the value of careful differential diagnosis, appropriate management strategies and coordinated, multidisciplinary care. The combination of scientific presentations and interactive workshops created opportunities for clinical discussion and the exchange of experience between international experts and local healthcare professionals.

Working Visit to the Diomid Gherman Institute of Neurology and Neurosurgery

As part of their visit to the Republic of Moldova, the invited professors also visited the Diomid Gherman Institute of Neurology and Neurosurgery in Chişinău, including its Headache and Autonomic Disorders Centre. The visit provided an opportunity to introduce the organisation and activities of the Centre, discuss the challenges encountered in the diagnosis and management of patients with headache disorders, and exchange perspectives on the development of specialised headache services. Direct

professional interaction in the clinical setting was particularly valuable, allowing the discussion to extend beyond the conference programme and to focus on the realities, needs and future opportunities for headache care in Moldova. The meeting also represented an important opportunity to strengthen professional relationships and explore areas of common interest in clinical practice, education and future collaboration.

Impact and Importance for Headache Medicine in Moldova

For a country where access to specialised educational opportunities and international professional exchange remains particularly important, the IHS Visiting Professors Programme made a meaningful contribution to the development of headache medicine. The participation of Dr. Puledda and Prof. Schytz offered local professionals the opportunity to engage directly with experienced colleagues, discuss complex clinical cases and become familiar with current approaches to several major headache disorders. Equally important was the opportunity to establish personal and professional connections that can support continued exchange of knowledge and experience beyond the event itself. The scientific programme and the working visit to the Institute contributed to the broader objective of strengthening specialised headache services and promoting high-quality, evidence-based care for people living with headache disorders in the Republic of Moldova.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the International Headache Society and, in particular, its Education Committee for supporting the participation of Dr. Francesca Puledda and Prof. Henrik Winther Schytz through the IHS Visiting Professors Programme 2026. We are deeply grateful to both professors for their time, expertise, generosity in sharing their knowledge and willingness to engage with the local headache community. Their contribution went beyond delivering scientific sessions: it fostered meaningful professional exchange, encouraged further development and helped strengthen the connection between Moldovan specialists and the international headache community. We hope that this initiative will serve as a foundation for continued collaboration and further educational opportunities, ultimately contributing to better recognition, diagnosis and management of headache disorders in the Republic of Moldova.

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