

UEG 2026 Preview – Clinical and AI / ML



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UEG 2026



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UEG 2026 – New Trends in GI Treatment Strategy (1/3)



• IBD innovation is broadening beyond established IL-23, JAK and S1P classes

- UEG 2026 will feature a wide range of novel mechanisms in UC and Crohn's disease, including TL1A antibodies (afimkibart, duvakitug), the oral IL-23 receptor peptide icotrokinra, the oral $\alpha 4\beta 7$ integrin inhibitor envistegrast, obefazimod and RIPK2 inhibition. Dual-targeting and co-antibody approaches such as ABBV-466 and JNJ-78934804 add a further layer. The key question will be which mechanisms can address patients refractory to multiple prior therapies



• Fibrosis is emerging as a therapeutic target in IBD rather than only a complication

- The programme brings fibro-inflammation into both scientific and industry sessions, including ontunisertib (STENOVA), MBF-118 and PALI-2108 in fibrostenosing Crohn's disease, and INTERACT data on anti-fibrotic effects of filgotinib in UC. Agomab and Teva symposia frame IBD as an immuno-fibrotic disease. The competitive question will be whether objective imaging and molecular readouts can support fibrosis as a distinct development pathway





- **Treatment targets in IBD are being redefined toward deeper and more durable control**

- Late-breaking VERDICT treat-to-target data in UC and STRIDE-III updated IBD treatment targets are expected to anchor discussion on what remission should mean in practice. Takeda, Eli Lilly and AbbVie symposia emphasise early action, comprehensive disease control and durability, while PROFILE 5-year, GALAXI and U-ENDURE 144-week data extend the long-term evidence base. The key question will be whether more ambitious targets change routine monitoring



- **EoE is evolving into a multi-mechanism field with remodeling at its centre**

- UEG 2026 will bring together biologic, corticosteroid and long-acting approaches in EoE, including tezepelumab (Phase 3 CROSSING), dupilumab (REMODEL, DESTRICT), EP-104GI (RESOLVE) and budesonide orodispersible tablets (EOS-3). Two Sanofi Regeneron symposia and one AstraZeneca symposium will address treat-to-target, remodeling and epithelial biology. The competitive question will be whether fibrostenotic disease becomes a differentiating endpoint



- **Metabolic liver disease and obesity are moving into mainstream GI practice**

- MASH, MASLD and obesity feature in industry symposia from **Madrigal and Boehringer Ingelheim**, a Medscape Education Global session on IBD and obesity, and a dedicated 'Therapy update: Anti-obesity' session. **Abstracts examine non-invasive eligibility criteria for resmetirom and semaglutide**, and GLP-1 receptor agonists in early colorectal neoplasia. The key question will be how gastroenterologists position themselves in metabolic care



- **AI is moving toward practical integration across endoscopy and precision gastroenterology**

- UEG 2026 will highlight the expanding role of AI across endoscopy, IBD assessment and disease prediction, with applications expected to span lesion detection and characterisation, bowel-preparation assessment and disease severity scoring. The focus will increasingly shift toward clinical validation, clinician oversight and integration into routine workflows, while discussions around LLM and AI-associated deskilling will reinforce the need to balance technological innovation with clinical judgement





Key Sessions To Watch

Date	Session Title (short)	Type	Author / Institution	Why Watch
18 Oct 2026	SPY001, SPY002 & SPY003: UC Induction	Abstract Session	Silvio Danese, Italy	Induction data for three half-life extended antibodies in UC, relevant to the push toward less frequent dosing
18 Oct 2026	Bepirovirsen: B-WELL Phase 3	Abstract Session	Maria Buti, Spain	Phase 3 functional-cure data in chronic hepatitis B, extending late-stage pipeline coverage beyond IBD
19 Oct 2026	VERDICT: Treat-to-Target in UC	Late Breakers	Vipul Jairath, Canada	Randomised evidence on the optimal treatment target in UC; also anchors Takeda's 'Time for a VERDICT' symposium
19 Oct 2026	ABBV-466: Phase 2a TARGET-CD	Late Breakers	Remo Panaccione, Canada	Primary results and molecular profiling for a novel dual-targeting therapy in moderate-to-severe Crohn's disease
19 Oct 2026	Emvistegrast: Phase 2 SWIFT Induction	Late Breakers	Silvio Danese, Italy	Induction data for an oral $\alpha 4\beta 7$ integrin inhibitor, testing whether gut-selective integrin blockade can move to oral dosing
19 Oct 2026	Obefazimod: Phase 3 ABTECT-Maintenance	Abstract Session	Bruce E. Sands, USA	44-week Phase 3 maintenance data that will help define durability for a novel oral mechanism in UC
20 Oct 2026	Icotrokinra: ANTHEM-UC	Abstract Session	Britta Siegmund, Germany	Histologic and endoscopic outcomes for a first-in-class oral peptide that blocks the IL-23 receptor in UC
20 Oct 2026	Tezepelumab: Phase 3 CROSSING (52 Weeks)	Late Breakers	Albert J. Bredenoord, Netherlands	Long-term Phase 3 data in adults and adolescents with EoE, adding a further biologic to the EoE discussion

Industry-Sponsored Sessions & Focus Areas – UEG 2026





UEG 2026 – Competitive Landscape at a Glance (1/2)

Name	Sessions	Companies / Assets	Why It Matters
IL-23 inhibition in UC & CD	Multiple	Eli Lilly / mirikizumab; Johnson & Johnson and AbbVie IL-23 symposia; guselkumab; risankizumab; icotrokinra	UEG 2026 will test how IL-23 agents differentiate as the class matures, through long-term (GALAXI, FORTIFY), perianal (FUZION), subcutaneous induction (AFFIRM) and oral (ANTHEM-UC) data
TL1A pathway in IBD	Multiple	MSD, Roche and Teva symposia; afimkibart; duvakitug; tulisokibart; BYN-002; BBT003 (IL-23p19 x TL1A)	With three TL1A-focused industry symposia, the congress will examine whether TL1A can combine anti-inflammatory and anti-fibrotic positioning, and how later entrants differentiate
Novel oral, dual-target & extended half-life mechanisms	Multiple	Abivax / obefazimod; emvistegrast; OD-001; AC-101; mufemilast; ABBV-466; JNJ-78934804; SPY001-SPY003	The programme will show whether oral convenience, dual targeting or extended half-life can deliver differentiated efficacy, particularly after prior advanced-therapy failure
Fibrostenotic & fibro-inflammatory IBD	Multiple	Agomab and Teva symposia; ontunisertib; MBF-118; PALI-2108; filgotinib (INTERACT)	The focus will be whether fibrosis can become a treatable endpoint, supported by imaging and molecular readouts, rather than a primarily surgical problem



UEG 2026 – Competitive Landscape at a Glance (2/2)

Name	Sessions	Companies / Assets	Why It Matters
Optimising established advanced therapies	Multiple	Celltrion / subcutaneous infliximab; Pfizer / S1P receptor modulation, etrasimod; AbbVie / JAK inhibitors, upadacitinib; Takeda	Sessions on route of administration, early use and long-term persistence suggest competition is increasingly centred on positioning, not only new mechanisms
Eosinophilic oesophagitis	Multiple	Sanofi Regeneron (2 symposia); AstraZeneca; dupilumab; tezepelumab; EP-104GI; budesonide orodispersible tablets	UEG 2026 will test whether treat-to-target concepts, remodeling endpoints and AI-supported assessment change how EoE therapies are compared
MASH / MASLD & obesity	Multiple	Madrigal; Boehringer Ingelheim; Medscape Education Global; resmetirom; semaglutide; tirzepatide; orforglipron	The congress will explore whether GI practice becomes a key setting for fibrosis risk stratification and metabolic therapy selection
Hepatobiliary, pancreatic & gut-targeted therapy	Multiple	Sobi / apoC-III inhibition; Dr. Falk Pharma / PSC-IBD; ALFASIGMA / rifaximin-α; bepirovirsen; norucholic acid; obexelimab; olezarsen	Late-stage data in hepatitis B, PSC-IBD and IgG4-related disease, plus hypertriglyceridaemia-induced pancreatitis, broaden the competitive conversation beyond IBD



Key Industry-Sponsored Sessions at UEG 2026 (1/7)



- **Eli Lilly:**

- Focus Areas: Mirikizumab, UC & Crohn's Disease After First Biologic Failure
- Two symposia under the theme 'After the first biologic failure, the next choice matters' are set to position mirikizumab in UC (comprehensive disease control, durable long-term efficacy) and CD (corticosteroid-free deep remission). Discussion is expected to focus on sequencing after first biologic failure and outcomes beyond conventional targets



- **Johnson & Johnson:**

- Focus Areas: IL-23 Inhibition in UC & Crohn's Disease
- 'The IL23 Orbit' in UC and 'A Landmark Moment in Crohn's Disease' will examine why not all IL-23 inhibitors follow the same path and how personalised treatment paths can support long-term remission. The focus will be on differentiation within the IL-23 class and raising treatment ambitions in CD



Key Industry-Sponsored Sessions at UEG 2026 (2/7)



• AbbVie:

- Focus Areas: JAK Inhibitors, IL-23 Inhibition & Early Control in IBD
- AbbVie's programme spans 'Every Choice Counts' on early and sustained efficacy of JAK inhibitors, including long-term extension and real-world evidence, and 'Early and Persistent Control With IL-23 Inhibition in IBD'. Discussion is expected to centre on early action and durable control across two mechanisms



• Takeda:

- Focus Areas: Crohn's Disease Strategy, UC & Treat-to-Target
- Takeda will host 'Refining strategies for the management of Crohn's disease', covering early control of inflammation and induction therapy, and 'Time for a VERDICT' on disease clearance and modification in UC. The latter will align with the VERDICT late-breaker, making it a key forum for interpreting treat-to-target data



Key Industry-Sponsored Sessions at UEG 2026 (3/7)



- **Roche:**

- Focus Areas: Anti-TL1A Therapies, UC Progression & Disease Modification
- 'Change the Game' is set to frame UC as a progressive disease, moving from early signals and pathways to disease modification toward the clinical development of anti-TL1A therapies. The discussion is expected to position TL1A as a potential route to modifying the course of UC



- **MSD:**

- Focus Areas: TL1A, Inflammation & Fibrosis, IBD Patient Journey
- MSD's TL1A symposium moves from discovery of the TL1A-DR3 pathway to current clinical trial data in UC, linking inflammation and fibrosis. A second session, 'Closing the gaps in IBD care', will focus on the patient journey, the role of IBD nurses and early intervention



Key Industry-Sponsored Sessions at UEG 2026 (4/7)



- **Teva Pharmaceuticals:**

- Focus Areas: **TL1A Pathway & Immuno-Fibrotic IBD**
- **'Not Just Inflammation'** frames IBD as an immuno-fibrotic disease and will examine the potential of TL1A pathway intervention through an expert panel discussion. The session will suggest how fibrosis is being used as a point of differentiation within the TL1A class



- **Agomab:**

- Focus Areas: **Fibro-Inflammation & Intestinal Fibrosis in IBD**
- **'A new treatment paradigm – addressing fibro-inflammation in IBD'** will cover intestinal fibrosis and its crosstalk with inflammation, followed by an expert panel. **Attention will centre on the relationship between fibrosis and inflammation and the potential for approaches targeting this disease biology**





Key Industry-Sponsored Sessions at UEG 2026 (5/7)



- **Sanofi / Regeneron:**

- Focus Areas: EoE Treat-to-Target, Remodeling & Type 2 Comorbidities
- Two symposia are set to apply the IBD treat-to-target paradigm to EoE and to examine remodeling across atopic adolescent, uncontrolled inflammatory and fibrostenotic phenotypes. Discussion is expected to focus on earlier, more targeted intervention to change the course of EoE



- **AstraZeneca:**

- Focus Areas: EoE, Epithelial Biology & AI in the Clinic
- 'The EoE clinical recipe' will address unmet needs, the role of the epithelium and the spectrum of clinical metrics for response and remission. The symposium will cover unmet needs, epithelial biology, response and remission measures, and potential clinical applications of AI



Key Industry-Sponsored Sessions at UEG 2026 (6/7)



- **Madrigal Pharmaceuticals:**

- Focus Areas: MASH with Liver Fibrosis
- The symposium is set to cover the growing burden of MASH, fibrosis-risk stratification and referral pathways, who to treat and clinical considerations for MASH therapies. The focus will be on translating targeted treatment into identification and referral pathways within GI practice



- **Boehringer Ingelheim:**

- Focus Areas: Liver as Metabolic Hub, Obesity & MASLD/MASH
- 'The Liver as the Metabolic Hub' will connect obesity, MASLD/MASH and GI practice, including a patient case and current and emerging therapeutic approaches. The session will point to growing industry interest in the gastroenterologist's role in metabolic care



Key Industry-Sponsored Sessions at UEG 2026 (7/7)



- **Abivax:**

- Focus Areas: Novel Mechanisms & Late-Stage Investigational Therapies in UC
- 'What's the Next Chapter in Ulcerative Colitis?' will examine unmet needs and treatment targets alongside the mechanism of action and clinical data of late-stage investigational therapies



- **Sobi:**

- Focus Areas: Hypertriglyceridaemia-Induced Acute Pancreatitis & apoC-III Inhibition
- The symposium will address the pathophysiology and multidisciplinary recognition of hypertriglyceridemia-associated acute pancreatitis and apoC-III inhibition for prevention



New Entrants

Asset / Company	2026 Presence
Duvakitug	Efficacy and safety of duvakitug maintenance therapy in patients with moderately to severely active ulcerative colitis (UC): results from the Phase 2b RELIEVE UCCD long-term extension study (a parallel CD abstract is also scheduled)
Icotrokinra	Histologic and endoscopic efficacy of icotrokinra, a first-in-class targeted oral peptide that precisely blocks the IL-23 receptor, in ulcerative colitis: outcomes from the ANTHEM-UC study
ABBV-466	ABBV-466, a novel dual-targeting therapy, leads to endoscopic remission in moderate-to-severe Crohn's disease: primary results and molecular profiling from the Phase 2a TARGET-CD study
Emvistegrast (formerly GS-1427)	Efficacy and safety of emvistegrast (formerly GS-1427), an oral $\alpha 4\beta 7$ integrin inhibitor, for moderate to severe ulcerative colitis: results of the induction phase of the Phase 2 SWIFT trial
JNJ-78934804	Efficacy and safety of the first co-antibody therapy, JNJ-78934804, in patients with moderately to severely active ulcerative colitis refractory to two or more systemic therapy mechanisms
Ontunisertib	STENOVA trial update: open-label extension of ontunisertib in fibrostenosing Crohn's disease with objective imaging efficacy assessments
Tezepelumab	Long-term efficacy and safety of tezepelumab over 52 weeks in adults and adolescents with eosinophilic esophagitis: results from the Phase 3 CROSSING study
Bepirovirsen	Clinically-meaningful rates of functional cure in patients with chronic hepatitis B infection treated with bepirovirsen: B-WELL Phase 3 trials



AI/ML Trends & Strategic Watchpoints at UEG 2026





AI / Digital Health Angle at UEG 2026 (1/3)

- **AI is moving from lesion detection toward implementation in routine practice**
 - UEG 2026 will place AI in the opening plenary with 'Artificial intelligence and digital health in digestive diseases: From hype to implementation', and in dedicated postgraduate, nurse and scientific sessions. Abstracts span CAdE/CAdx in colonoscopy, Barrett's and early gastric neoplasia, capsule endoscopy and EUS, including several prospective, multicentre and randomised validation studies
- **AI-enabled precision assessment is expanding in IBD**
 - Moderated poster sessions on 'AI for IBD, diagnostics, and precision gastroenterology' and 'Mathematical modelling, decision support, and AI in IBD' cover AI-derived UC endoscopic scoring, AI-quantified histology, flare prediction and a clinical decision support tool for vedolizumab. The key question will be whether these tools can inform treatment decisions and trial endpoints rather than only automate scoring
- **Key sessions include:**
 - AI integration in my clinical practice today
 - AI in upper GI endoscopy: Where are we? Where are we going?
 - The role of AI in GI oncology: Complementing or replacing the clinician?
 - AI in endoscopy: Friend or foe?



AI / Digital Health Angle at UEG 2026 (2/3)

- Seeing beyond the human eye: AI in endoscopic detection
- Large language model use for gastroenterology: Yes, we should use it! / No, it is too early given regulation and lacking data!
- Can AI help predict the risk of neoplasia in Barrett's oesophagus?
- Endoscopic diagnosis: Advancing with imaging innovations or artificial intelligence?
- A taste of things to come: bringing AI into the clinic in EoE (AstraZeneca symposium)
- Impact of computer-aided detection assisted colonoscopy on the right-sided colon adenomas miss rate: a multicenter tandem randomized controlled trial (Late Breaker)
- Artificial intelligence-assisted detection and optical differentiation of colorectal lesions in Lynch syndrome surveillance (CADLY2): an international randomised controlled trial
- **Sessions suggest AI and digital tools are increasingly being used to improve:**
 - Colorectal adenoma detection and optical diagnosis of polyps (CAdE/CAdx)
 - Detection of Barrett's neoplasia and early gastric and oesophageal cancer
 - Lesion detection and differentiation in capsule endoscopy and EUS
 - Objective endoscopic and histologic scoring in UC and IBD
 - Risk stratification in GI bleeding, gastric varices and HCC treatment decisions
 - Procedural guidance in ERCP, ESD and POEM
 - Colonoscopy quality, including bowel preparation assessment and appropriateness triage
 - Drug-safety surveillance and evidence synthesis using large language models



AI / Digital Health Angle at UEG 2026 (3/3)

- **Generative AI and large language models are entering GI practice, with caution**
 - A postgraduate debate on whether LLMs should be used in gastroenterology sits alongside abstracts on [a gastroenterology-specific AI language model](#), [multimodal LLMs for polyp classification](#) and [a multi-agent LLM pipeline for safety surveillance of new IBD advanced therapies](#). The NAIAD study, 'AI-associated deskilling or learning?', adds a counterpoint on how AI affects clinician skills
- **Digital health beyond AI is focused on remote care and patient-reported data**
 - Separate from AI, the programme includes [digital remote monitoring in IBD \(GC-102 trial\)](#), [digital biomarkers for flare management](#), [app-delivered and smartphone-based hypnotherapy for IBS](#) and nurse-led telemedicine after endoscopic sleeve gastropasty, alongside 'Multidisciplinary clinics in liver cirrhosis: The new digital era in decompensated cirrhosis'. These sessions point to digital tools aimed at access, adherence and continuity of care rather than automated interpretation



What We're Watching for Post-UEG 2026

- Whether **TL1A antibodies differentiate** through combined anti-inflammatory and anti-fibrotic positioning as afimkibart, duvakitug and earlier-stage agents mature
- Whether **oral and multi-target mechanisms** such as icotrokinra, emvistegrast, ABBV-466 and JNJ-78934804 show efficacy in refractory populations that supports a shift beyond injectable biologics
- Whether **VERDICT and STRIDE-III reset treatment targets** in UC and IBD, and how quickly new targets translate into routine monitoring and escalation
- Whether **fibrosis becomes a measurable therapeutic endpoint** in Crohn's disease, supported by imaging and molecular readouts from STENOVA, INTERACT and early-phase programmes
- Whether **long-term IL-23 data and new formulations** (subcutaneous induction, perianal outcomes, oral delivery) sharpen differentiation within the class
- Whether **EoE care moves toward remodeling-focused, treat-to-target management** as tezepelumab, dupilumab and long-acting corticosteroid data accumulate
- Whether **GI practice becomes a central setting for MASH and obesity care**, including fibrosis risk stratification and therapy eligibility
- Whether **AI evidence progresses from diagnostic accuracy to workflow and outcome benefit**, particularly for CADe, capsule endoscopy and IBD scoring

Strategic Insights and Strategy Development is our focus



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