

Meet Marco Medici, our 2026 *European Journal of Endocrinology* Awardee



Dr Marco Medici, from Rotterdam, The Netherlands, is our 2026 *European Journal of Endocrinology* Awardee. He will deliver his Award Lecture in Prague at ECE 2026. Read on to learn more about his career in endocrinology, his advice for future endocrinologists, and what you can look forward to hearing him talk about at the Congress.

Please tell us about your current role

I am a clinician-scientist, working at the Erasmus Medical Center in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, where I am the Clinical Head of the Academic Center for Thyroid Diseases and have my own research group.

How were you inspired to work in endocrinology?

After my PhD and clinical training in endocrinology, I undertook a post-doctoral fellowship at the Harvard Institutes of Medicine in Boston, MA, USA. Then I worked for several years as a clinician-scientist at the Radboud University Medical Center, after which I moved to the Erasmus Medical Center in Rotterdam. The pleiotropic and profound effects of hormones on virtually all organ systems are the main reason why I am passionate about endocrinology.

What will you discuss in your Award Lecture at ECE 2026?

Variation (even mild) in thyroid function leads to various adverse health outcomes. Genetics is the most important determinant of this inter-individual variation.

The differences that we are already aware of in the genes for thyroid hormone regulation only explain a minor part of this variation. So, we have founded an international consortium (the ThyroidOmics Consortium) to study the genetic basis of thyroid (dys)function, including 50 cohorts with available data in >300,000 individuals.

These studies have led to the discovery of novel genes regulating thyroid hormone, and paved the way for various lines of research, in which these genetic variants are used to improve our understanding of thyroid hormone physiology, pathophysiology and the effect of these variants on clinical complications. More recently, we began to study whether these genetic markers can also be used to personalise the diagnosis and treatment of thyroid diseases.

What are you most proud of in your career, and in life in general?

In my career, I am most proud of the (inter)national consortia and collaborations which I initiated, providing a framework for genetic research and clinical trials in thyroidology. In life in general, I most proud of my wonderful family.

What is likely to be the next breakthrough in your area of interest?

This will probably be using the genetic background of an individual to personalise the diagnosis and treatment of thyroid (and other endocrine) diseases.

What are the biggest challenges in your field right now?

It is challenging to understand the exact interplay between various (common) genetic variants at an individual patient level, which is a key step towards successfully introducing genetics into daily clinical practice.

What is the most enjoyable aspect of your work?

It is always good to work with and educate young, enthusiastic scientists on inspiring research topics, with the ultimate goal of improving the quality of life of patients.

What are you most looking forward to at ECE 2026?

I will enjoy meeting new colleagues from different fields in endocrinology.

Why should people join ESE?

It is an inspiring endocrine community, providing a basis for continuous education and international networking and research opportunities.

What words of wisdom do you have for aspiring endocrinologists?

Follow your heart: passion is the fertile foundation for top research and clinical care.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

I would like to thank the ESE for awarding me the *European Journal of Endocrinology* Award!