

ISCOMS: A Hub for Global Collaboration and Innovation in Biomedical Science

Since its founding in 1993, the International Student Congress Of (bio)Medical Sciences (ISCOMS) has become a defining event for young biomedical professionals from across the globe. The congress, hosted at the University Medical Center Groningen (UMCG), has evolved into one of the world's most influential platforms for scientific exchange, innovation, and international collaboration.

The roots of ISCOMS trace back to 1993 when a group of ambitious students at the University of Groningen (RUG) and the UMCG, inspired by a similar conference in Tenerife, set out to create a platform to showcase medical student research. The inaugural "Studenten Congres Geneeskunde" in 1994 marked the beginning of what would grow into a significant event for both medical students and emerging scientists worldwide.

In 1996, ISCOMS became an official part of the medical curriculum, and by 2003, the congress adopted its international form and English-language format, officially changing its name to the International Student Congress Of (bio)Medical Sciences. Today, ISCOMS is recognised as the largest and most prominent biomedical student congress in the world, with participants from over 60 countries.

Each year, ISCOMS attracts more than 650 participants from a global network of medical universities, creating an unparalleled opportunity for students and professionals to engage with cutting-edge research, exchange ideas, and build valuable international connections.

The international reach of ISCOMS plays a crucial role in the global positioning of both the RUG and the UMCG. The congress is a pivotal event in the RUG's internationalisation strategy, offering medical students and alumni a chance to network and present their research on a global stage. For the UMCG, the congress fosters partnerships with international institutions, enhancing its visibility as a leader in medical research and education.

The congress also offers tangible career benefits. Through initiatives like the ISCOMS Research Fellowships, students have the chance to experience research at the UMCG's state-of-the-art laboratories, often leading to PhD opportunities and academic collaborations. Moreover, the Graduate School of Medical Sciences extends its support by inviting participants to apply for internships and research opportunities.

For alumni of the University of Groningen, attending ISCOMS provides a unique opportunity to experience the vibrant, evolving landscape of biomedical research. The congress provides an exclusive chance for alumni to meet with future leaders in the field of biomedical sciences and engage in discussions that transcend the boundaries of traditional academic disciplines.

From the 1st to the 4th of June 2026, the 33rd edition of ISCOMS will take place at the University Medical Center Groningen. The theme for ISCOMS 2026 is Breaking Biomedical Boundaries, addressing the power of innovation, collaboration and pushing the boundaries within the biomedical world. This edition promises to be particularly exciting, with a series of workshops, keynote speakers, and panel discussions led by leading experts in medical innovation. For alumni of the University of Groningen, this is an excellent opportunity to witness firsthand the research and developments that are shaping the future of medicine, engage with top researchers, and contribute to the discussions that will define the next phase of scientific discovery.

The registration for ISCOMS 2026 is open now. Not only will attendees gain insight into the latest advancements in biomedical science, but they will also have the chance to network with a global community of young scientists, medical professionals, and alumni.

Register now for ISCOMS 2026! To secure your spot and find more information, visit the [official ISCOMS registration page](#).