UCB VISION REPORT 2026

IMAGINE AN HS-FREE WORLD

Inspired by **patients.**
Driven by **science.**

HS, hidradenitis suppurativa.

GL-DA-2600545 Date of preparation: May 2026

At UCB, we imagine an HS-free world.

And we're taking steps to make it a reality.

UCB Vision Report: 2026 Progress and Commitment

In 2025, we made a commitment to the HS community. A commitment to Revolutionize Science, Redefine Care, and Restore Humanity, with a promise to hold ourselves accountable within these three core pillars of need.

This 2026 report captures our momentum to date on the goals we set out, spotlighting one key initiative within each pillar that we are proud to share with you. While these spotlights represent the exciting work we've been busy on from around the world, they are only a part of our broader efforts. We invite you to follow our social media channels to discover the many other initiatives currently in motion.

We hope you enjoy the read and join us as we continue to strive for an HS-free world.

If you'd like to read our 2025 report, you can check it out below

VIEW 2025 REPORT

HS, hidradenitis suppurativa.

Our progress to date on our goals

We remain steadfast in our commitment to the goals identified for 2028:

Revolutionize Science

To advance community knowledge of HS and its pathways, triggers, and treatment, through science

GOAL 01

Explore at least 1 potential new pathway to target HS

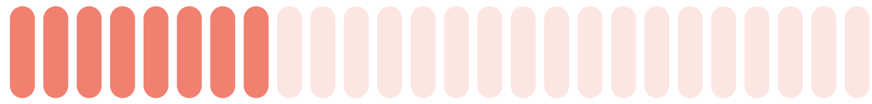
GOAL PROGRESS

We are currently looking into a new pathway to target HS and look forward to sharing more by 2028

GOAL 02

Advance use of biomarkers to identify better and more personalized treatment options with at least 2 studies

GOAL PROGRESS



One of our biomarker studies in collaboration with Stanford University has officially completed its patient recruitment phase and is now moving forward into analysis[4]

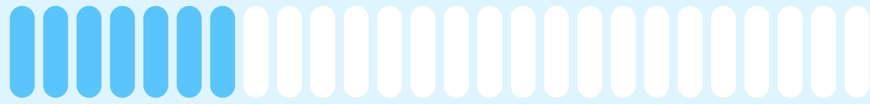
Redefine Care

To ensure earlier diagnosis and optimal treatment to reduce progression and control symptoms

GOAL 01

Reach 50,000 healthcare professionals worldwide with HS education

GOAL PROGRESS

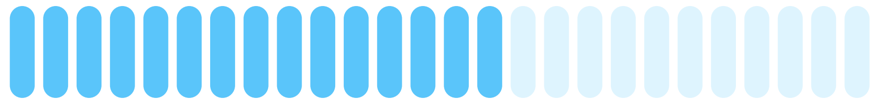


While we are quantifying the reach across our educational programs, we are excited that these programs are reaching as far as the Middle East, with training programs on surgical and imaging techniques in HS

GOAL 02

Publish at least 5 pieces of research on the impact of HS and importance of early advanced treatment

GOAL PROGRESS



Three new pieces of research have been published since the first report, including a study to validate a claims-based algorithm to identify patients with mild, moderate, or severe HS in the US[5–7]

Restore Humanity

To put an end to the shame, stigma, and inhumanity that currently surrounds HS patients and their treatment

GOAL 01

Amplify the work of at least 15 patient organizations around the world

GOAL PROGRESS

To date, we are actively collaborating with over 10 patient advocacy organizations worldwide, including HS Connect and ASENDHI in Spain, to support awareness and education initiatives for people living with HS[1–3]

GOAL 02

Elicit actions from at least 3 health authorities worldwide to address HS health disparities

GOAL PROGRESS

We are making strides in reaching the underserved populations in HS through a multi stakeholder coalition to help transform the policy and access landscape for people living with HS[8]

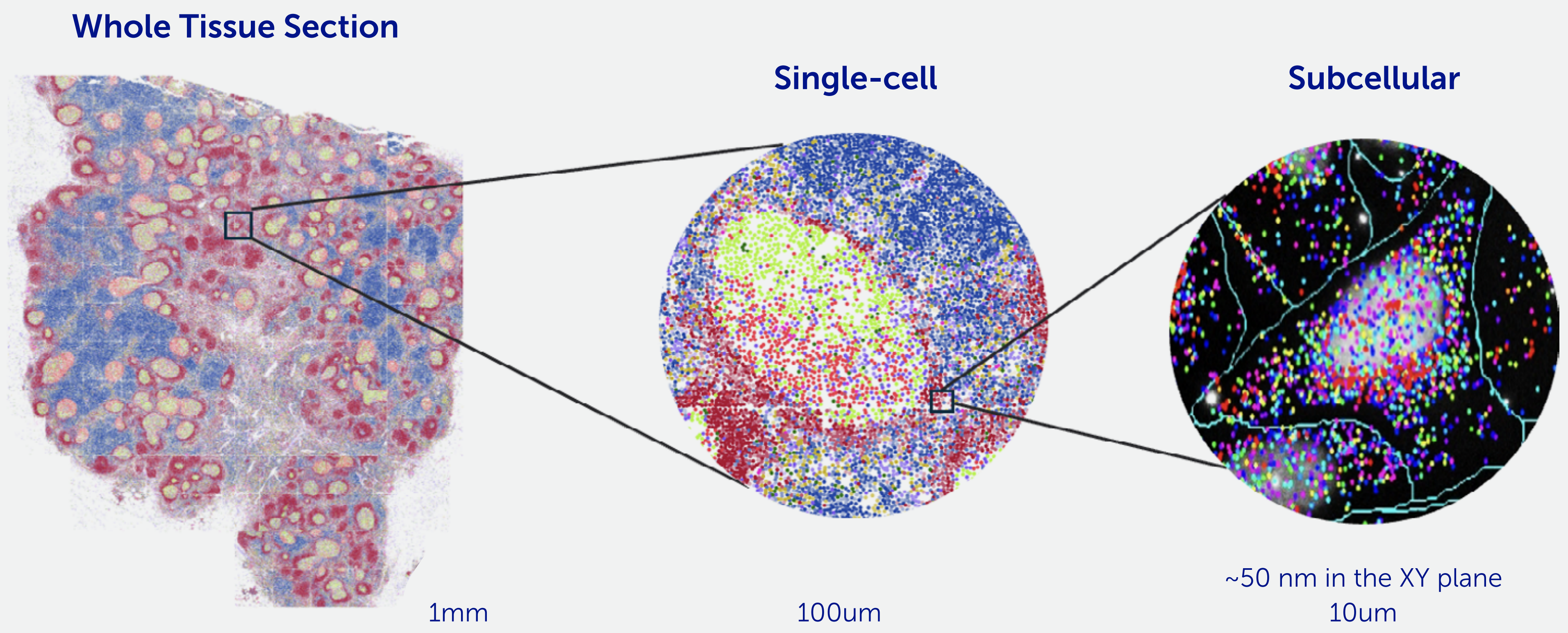
ASENDHI, Asociación de Enfermos de Hidrosadenitis; HS, hidradenitis suppurativa; US, United States.

REVOLUTIONIZE SCIENCE

> Precision medicine research has the potential to support earlier, more informed intervention by helping clinicians better identify patients at higher risk of progression and tailor care more effectively over time.
>
> **ELISA MAGGIOLI,**
> **SENIOR DIRECTOR, NEW PRODUCT PLANNING**
> **& RESEARCH LEAD, UCB**

Biomarker research may one day enable meaningful change in HS care

Highest-Plex Spatial Analysis with Subcellular Resolution



Source: Sirona Dx. Nanonstring CosMx. Available at: https://sironadx.com/cosmx/. Accessed: May 2026.

2026 spotlight: **Harnessing Biomarkers in HS**

As part of our commitment to advance the use of novel biomarkers to identify better and more personalized treatment options, we are excited to announce that one of our biomarker studies has now completed its patient recruitment phase according to timelines.[4]

This study, executed in collaboration with a leading Stanford research team that combines clinical dermatology expertise with advanced molecular and computational technologies, will be investigating skin structural and biomolecular determinants of "fast" vs. "slow" HS progressors. Moving forward, the next phase will leverage cutting-edge, tissue spatial analysis of patients' skin to uncover the biological pathways responsible for driving a more aggressive and faster progressing form of this debilitating disease.[4,9,10]

In HS, being able to identify those patients who are likely to progress more quickly could support more timely treatment decisions, reduce cumulative inflammatory and tissue damage burden, and inform more ambitious treatment goals aligned with long-term quality of life.[11,12]

We are hopeful that these types of scientific advances will then be translated into clinical awareness, education and updated standards of care. Biomarker research will one day enable us to create a bridge between "Revolutionize Science" and "Redefine Care", taking insights from the clinic to enable meaningful change in day-to-day care.

HS, hidradenitis suppurativa.

> The true prevalence of HS is likely underestimated. This study in Germany was conducted to show that there is a real burden and a real need to improve HS care that warrants greater attention from healthcare stakeholders.

LUIS MÖCKEL,
REAL-WORLD EVIDENCE TEAM LEAD, UCB

On average, deceased HS patients lost **20.5 to 25.9 years** of their lives[7]

REDEFINE CARE

Roughly one-quarter of a patient's quality-adjusted **life is lost every single year due to HS[7]**

Received: 27 August 2025 | Revised: 27 November 2025 | Accepted: 15 December 2025

DOI: 10.1111/ddg.70103

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Burden of hidradenitis suppurativa in Germany: a retrospective claims data analysis and comparison with non-HS patients

Falk G. Bechara[1] | Sima Melnik[2] | Tobias Möllers[3] | Hans Derk Pannen[3] | Romy Bley[3] | Jonas Krampe[2] | Luis Möckel[3]

2026 spotlight:
The human cost of HS

A deeper understanding of the true burden of HS is a powerful tool in the struggle for earlier diagnosis and treatment. When all healthcare stakeholders recognize the impact HS has on people's lives, it can lead to key steps forward in HS care.[7,11,12]

Driven by this need, we conducted a real-world study in Germany, analyzing health insurance claims from 4.1 million individuals, and performed a comparative analysis between the HS population and a matched healthy population to highlight the stark impact of HS on long-term outcomes. The study concluded that:[7]

- On average, deceased HS patients lost 20.5 to 25.9 years of their lives
- Roughly one-quarter of a patient's quality-adjusted life is lost every single year due to HS
- HS patients face a significantly higher prevalence of comorbidities, including depression, diabetes and obesity, and incur significantly higher healthcare costs (inpatient, outpatient and medication costs) compared to non-HS patients

Given the significant findings of this study, we are now exploring follow-up studies and developing new research questions to further generate evidence to show that an earlier diagnosis and optimal treatment are both a clinical and an economic necessity.

READ THE FULL PAPER HERE

HS, hidradenitis suppurativa.

RESTORE HUMANITY

Connection
–
Knowledge exchange
–
Co-creation

20 HS advocates
17 advocacy groups
from 14 countries

> I leave the summit feeling empowered, heard and deeply motivated to continue our collaborative work. Thank you for creating a space where the patient's voice truly matters.
>
> **PARTICIPANT AT THE 2026 HS PATIENT PARTNERSHIP SUMMIT, HS ADVOCATE**

2026 spotlight:
The power of collective voices

At UCB, we understand that amplifying patient voices and building stronger community support must be an ongoing commitment to address the stigma, isolation and disparities in HS.

Now in its third year, the 2026 HS Patient Partnership Summit brought together 20 HS advocates from 14 different countries across the US, Canada, and Europe (including the UK, Italy, Greece and more), and 17 patient advocacy groups. Across 2 inspiring days, every session and interaction was anchored in:[13]

- **Connection:** Building and strengthening relationships between communities across the globe
- **Knowledge exchange:** Enabling sharing of insights, experiences and best practices
- **Co-creation to drive action:** Collaboratively exploring ideas to address unmet needs, identifying common priorities and future opportunities for global collaboration

With the mantra of 'by patients, for patients', the Summit was more than an event; it was a call to action and a demonstration of what can be achieved through the power of global connection in patient advocacy.[13]

HS, hidradenitis suppurativa. UK, United Kingdom; US, United States.

Other key highlights

Shared HS disease awareness and educational materials at EWMA-DEWU, a conference on wound care in Germany[14]

Launch of a new scholarship program for HS patients and the caregivers

Seeing below the surface of HS lesions through medical ultrasound presentations

Under the Skin podcasts with specialized clinical content on earlier intervention and more[15]

Sponsored the Inflamed Sisters Thriving webinar via the **UCB HS Advocate Community Program**

2nd annual HS Summit in Atlanta, with over 100 patients, caregivers, advocacy leaders and HCPs[16]

Supported HS Connect on their "Find Us" **patient activation at Times Square**[3]

A four-part video series on navigating HS and motherhood developed with medical experts and HS patients[17]

Real-world study published on the **economic burden of HS in Spain**[5]

Study published on a claims-based algorithm to identify HS severity[6]

EWMA-DEWU, European Wound Management Association-Deutscher Wundkongress; HCP, healthcare professional; HS, hidradenitis suppurativa.

Exciting developments within the HS space

New HS clinical guidelines are in development by the American Academy of Dermatology in collaboration with the HS foundation[18]

HISTORIC is now moving into the implementation and validation phase of its Core Measures Set (i.e., HSIGA, HiSQoL mini)[19]

Growing scientific innovation with new molecules to target HS in clinical development[20]

A new national HS multidisciplinary team is being established by the HS UK and Ireland Network (H-SKIN)[21]

HiSQoL, Hidradenitis Suppurativa Quality of Life; HISTORIC, Hidradenitis Suppurativa Core Outcomes Set International Collaboration; HS, hidradenitis suppurativa; HSIGA, Hidradenitis Suppurativa Investigator Global Assessment; H-SKIN, HS UK and Ireland Network; UK, United Kingdom.

Inspired by **patients.**
Driven by **science.**

Thank you

Revolutionize Science.
Redefine Care.
Restore Humanity.

Our work in HS is driven by a belief that people deserve better – better science, better care, and better understanding. With that belief at the center, we will continue to push forward and create change that truly matters for the HS community. Thank you to all our partners in these efforts and **we look forward to sharing the next chapter of our progress in our 2027 Vision Report.**

To find out more about our exciting initiatives, follow us on:

Instagram

LinkedIn

If you'd like any more information about anything included within this report, then please contact:

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HS, hidradenitis suppurativa.

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