

2026 WDA Annual Conference: Patient and Family Agenda

Morning Program

TIME	SESSION	SPEAKER
8:00–9:00 AM	Registration and Breakfast	
9:00–9:05 AM	Welcome and Opening Remarks	
9:05–9:15 AM	Patient Perspective: Living Well With Wilson Disease	Alpana Kharkar, MD
9:15–9:25 AM	Genetics Explained: What It Means for Your Family	Lisa Kinsley, MS, CGC
9:25–9:40 AM	Your Treatment Toolkit: Today's Options and Tomorrow's Therapies	Fred Askari, MD
9:40–9:55 AM	When Treatment Bites Back – and How to Bite Back Harder: Side Effects, Safety, and Building Habits That Last	Peter Hedera, MD
9:55–10:05 AM	Fixing the Root Cause: Gene Therapy and Gene Editing for Wilson Disease	Valentina Medici, MD
10:05–10:20 AM	Networking Break	
10:20–10:50 AM	Jeopardy Gameshow	
10:50–11:00 AM	Keeping Your Liver Healthy – and What Happens if It Isn't	Amanda Cheung, MD
11:00–11:15 AM	Mood, Mind, and Medication: Mental Health in Wilson Disease	Reuben Heyman-Kantor, MD
11:15–11:30 AM	Rebuilding Strength and Skills: PT, OT, Speech, and Rehab in Wilson Disease	Michael Wilson, DO
11:30–11:45 AM	Living With Tremor, Dystonia, and Drooling: A Neurologist's Toolkit for Wilson Disease	Danny Bega, MD
11:45 AM–12:00 PM	Panel Q&A: Ask the Team	Panel

Afternoon Program

TIME	SESSION	SPEAKER
12:00–1:00 PM	Lunch Break	
1:00–1:15 PM	The Low-Copper Life: Real-World Nutrition Strategies That Actually Work	Stacey Beer, MPH, RD
1:15–1:30 PM	WD in Kids and Teens — Transition to Adult	Rima Fawaz, MD
1:30–1:40 PM	Navigating Insurance & Specialty Pharmacy	Alaina Slemptes, RN, and Abby Mullen, PharmD
1:40–1:50 PM	Caring for the Caregiver: You Matter Too	Emily Zivin, MSW, LCSW
1:50–2:10 PM	Networking Break: Peer Connections	
2:10–2:40 PM	You Are Not Alone: Finding Community and Support — What a Support Group Looks Like	Emily Zivin and Panel of Patients
2:40–2:50 PM	Patient Ambassador Program	Ginta Ginaityte and Kelsey Pusillo
2:50–3:00 PM	Advocacy & Getting Involved: Wilson Disease Community	Rhonda Rowland
3:00–3:15 PM	Panel Q&A: Ask the Team	Panel
3:15–3:30 PM	Closing Remarks and Resources to Take Home	
3:30–4:00 PM	Networking Break: Patients and Speakers, Exhibit Hall	
3:45–5:00 PM	Pharma Roundtable Meetings With Patients	

Agenda details are subject to change. Please check the WDA website for updates before the conference.