

# 35<sup>TH</sup> CHALLENGE IN INFECTIOUS DISEASES

## SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME – prel. version 06.10.2025

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

10.00 – 10.40	Welcome coffee	
10.40 – 10.50	Welcome address Presentation of the program	Annelies Zinkernagel, Zurich, <b>Switzerland</b> Silvio Brugger, Zurich, <b>Switzerland</b>
10.50 – 12.35	<b>SESSION I – INFECTIONS IN THE IMMUNOCOMPROMISED HOST</b> Introduction and chairs: Davide Robbiani, Silke Stertz and Oriol Manuel	
10.50 – 11.25	<b>Future EBV Treatment</b> (talk: 25-30 minutes + 5 minutes for Q&D)	<b>Bojana Muller-Durovic</b> , University of Zurich, <b>Switzerland</b>
11.25 – 12.00	<b>Interferon autoantibodies</b> (talk: 25-30 minutes + 5 minutes for Q&D)	<b>Ben Hale</b> , University of Zurich, <b>Switzerland</b>
12.00 – 12.35	<b>Inborn immunodeficiencies and invasive infections</b> (talk: 25-30 minutes + 5 minutes for Q&D)	<b>Ellen D. Renner</b> , LMU Munich, <b>Germany</b>
12.35 – 13.35	Lunch	
13.35 – 15.20	<b>SESSION II – NEXT GENERATION THERAPIES AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASES</b> Introduction and chair: Nina Khanna and Christine Thurnheer	
13.35 – 14.10	<b>Cellular Therapies targeting ID..</b> (talk: 25-30 minutes + 5 minutes for Q&D)	<b>Lukas Jeker</b> , University of Basel, <b>Switzerland</b>
14.10 – 14.45	<b>Antibody-based Therapies for ID</b> (talk: 25-30 minutes + 5 minutes for Q&D)	<b>Suzan H.M. Rooijackers</b> , Utrecht MC, <b>Netherlands</b>
14.45 – 15.20	<b>Novel antivirals</b> (talk: 25-30 minutes + 5 for Q&D)	<b>Michael Berney</b> , University of Zurich, <b>Switzerland</b>
15.20 – 15.50	Coffee break	
15.50 – 17.10	<b>SESSION III – MODELING, PREDICTION &amp; VACCINE INNOVATION</b> Introduction and chair: Nicole Ritz and Silvio Brugger	
15.50 – 16.00	<b>Primer</b> (talk: 10 minutes)	<b>Roger Kouyos</b>
16.00 – 16.35	<b>Mathematical and Epidemiological .....</b> (talk: 25-30 minutes + 5 minutes for Q&D)	<b>Lulla Opatowski</b> , Pasteur, Paris, <b>France</b>
16.35 – 17.10	<b>Computational Vaccine Design</b> (talk: 25-30 minutes + 5 minutes for Q&D)	<b>Laurent Perez</b> , CHUV University Hospital of Lausanne, <b>Switzerland</b>
17.10 – 17.25	Bio break	
17.25 – 18.40	<b>SESSION IV – CASE PRESENTATIONS FROM THE 5 SWISS CENTRES</b> Introduction and chairs: Christine Thurnheer, Bern & Oriol Manuel, Lausanne	
17.25 – 17.40	<b>Hanta Virus</b>	<b>Michel Mongiat</b> , University Hospital Basel
17.40 – 17.55	<b>na</b>	<b>nn</b> , University Hospital of Zurich
17.55 – 18.10	<b>na</b>	<b>nn</b> , University Hospital (CHUV), Lausanne
18.10 – 18.25	<b>na</b>	<b>nn</b> , University Hospital of Bern
18.25 – 18.40	<b>na</b>	<b>nn</b> , Geneva University Hospitals
19.30	Dinner (Dress code: casual)	

# 35<sup>TH</sup> CHALLENGE IN INFECTIOUS DISEASES

## SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME - version 06.10.2025

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

<b>08.00 – 09.50</b>	<b>SESSION V – HIV: HIV PAST AND FUTURE OF ART</b> Introduction and chair: Daniel Kaufmann and Roberto Speck	
08.05 – 08.40	<b>TBA</b> (talk: 25-30 minutes + 5 minutes for Q&D)	<b>John Frater</b> , University of Oxford, <b>UK</b>
08.40 – 09.15	<b>Eliciting effective immune responses against HIV rebound</b> (talk: 25-30 minutes + 5 minutes for Q&D)	<b>Rachel Rutishauser</b> , UCSF, San Francisco, <b>USA</b>
09.15 – 09.50	<b>Multi-specificity is a common trait of HIV-1 broad neutralizing capacity</b> (talk: 25-30 minutes + 5 minutes for Q&D)	<b>Alexandra Trkola</b> , University of Zurich, <b>Switzerland</b>
09.50 – 10.20	<i>Coffee break</i>	
<b>10.20 – 12.05</b>	<b>SESSION VI – MECHANISM OF BACTERIAL IMMUNE EVASION AND CELL-CELL INTERACTIONS</b> Introduction and chair: Silvio Brugger and Markus Hilty	
10.20 – 10.55	<b>Biogenesis of extracellular vesicles in human gut bacteria</b> (TALK: 25-30 MINUTES + 5 MINUTES FOR Q&D)	<b>Mario Feldman</b> , Washington University, <b>USA</b>
10.55 – 11.30	<b>Intracellular persistence</b> (talk: 25-30 minutes + 5 minutes for Q&D)	<b>Miguel A. Valvano</b> , Queens University Belfast, <b>UK</b>
11.30 – 12.05	<b>One (or two) ways in which bacterial commensals may prevent disease</b> (talk: 25-30 minutes + 5 for Q&D)	<b>Matthew Ramsey</b> , University of Louisville, KY, <b>USA</b>
12.05 – 13.05	<i>Sandwiches buffet to go</i>	
<b>14.00 – 16.00</b>	<b>Informal Networking</b>	
<b>16.00 – 17.30</b>	<b>SESSION VII – MICROBES AND THE IMMUNE-ONCOLOGY INTERFACE</b> Introduction and chairs: Davide Robbiani and Markus Hilty	
16.05 – 16.40	<b>Microorganisms in oncogenesis and anti-cancer immune responses</b> (talk: 25-30 minutes + 5 minutes for Q&D)	<b>Andrea Alimonti</b> , Bellinzona, <b>Switzerland</b>
16.40 – 17.15	<b>Diet-mediated immunometabolic regulation promotes Klebsiella pneumoniae airway clearance</b> (talk: 25-30 minutes + 5 minutes for Q&D)	<b>Tania Wong</b> , Rutgers NJ, <b>USA</b>
17.15 – 17.25	<i>Bio Break</i>	
<b>17.30 – 18.5</b>	<b>SESSION VIII – MICROBIAL SURVEILLANCE &amp; EMERGING PATHOGENS</b> Introduction and chair: Isabella Eckerle and Nicole Ritz	
17.30 – 18.05	<b>From clinical settings to wastewater Systems</b> (talk: 25-30 minutes + 5 minutes for Q&D)	<b>Tim Julian</b> , EAWAG, <b>Switzerland</b>
18.05 – 18.40	<b>TBA</b> (talk: 25-30 minutes + 5 minutes for Q&D)	<b>Verena Schünemann</b> , University of Basel, <b>Switzerland</b>
<b>18.40 – 18.45</b>	<b>CLOSING REMARKS</b> Annelies Zinkernagel and Silvio Brugger, Zurich	
<b>19.30</b>	<i>Apéritif and Dinner (Dress code: casual)</i>	