

Hybrid Conference Programme

Start (GMT)	Finish (GMT)	Presenter details
Monday 2 March 2026		
12:00	13:00	Registration, lunch and networking
12:45		Briefing for Session 1 speakers, microphone runners, chair, moderator & committee - Auditorium
13:00	13:10	Welcome and introductions
		<p>Wellcome Connecting Science: <i>Liã Bárbara Arruda, Wellcome Connecting Science, UK</i></p> <p>Scientific programme committee: Lindsay Hall, University of Birmingham, UK Niranjan Nagarajan, National University of Singapore, Singapore Denise Moraes da Fonseca, University of São Paulo, Brazil Alan Walker, University of Aberdeen, UK</p>
13:10	14:10	Keynote 1
		<p>Chair: Denise Moraes da Fonseca, University of São Paulo, Brazil Moderator: Niranjan Nagarajan, National University of Singapore, Singapore</p> <p>Design, manufacture, and engraftment of live microbial therapeutics for infectious and inflammatory disease Jeremiah Faith, Ichan School of Medicine at Mount Siani, USA</p>
14:10	14:15	Comfort break
14:15	15:45	Session 1: Microbiome in early life
		<p>Chair: Alan Walker, University of Aberdeen, UK Moderator: Niranjan Nagarajan, National University of Singapore, Singapore</p>
14:15	14:45	<p>Rational repair of gut microbiome assembly in infants from non-industrialized countries to improve health outcomes Trevor Lawley, Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK</p>
14:45	15:15	<p>A systems immunology approach to uncover how the gut microbiota supports optimal infant vaccine responses. David Lynn, SAHMRI, Australia</p>
15:15	15:30	<p>Impact of early life antibiotic and probiotic treatment on gut microbiome and resistome of very-low-birth-weight preterm infants Raymond Kiu, University of Birmingham, UK</p>
15:30	15:45	<p>Preferential sharing of viruses between mothers and infants in early life Evelien Adriaenssens, Quadram Institute Bioscience, UK</p>
15:45	16:30	Refreshment break and networking
16:15		briefing for session 2 speakers, chair & moderator - Auditorium
16:30	18:00	Session 2: Advances in microbiome techniques (experimental-based approaches)
		<p>Chair: Lindsay Hall, University of Birmingham, UK Moderator: Niranjan Nagarajan, National University of Singapore, Singapore</p>
16:30	17:00	<p>Towards personalised microbiome research through cultivation Thomas Clavel, RWTH Aachen University, Germany</p>
17:00	17:30	<p>Regulation of antagonism and protection in the gut Bacteroidales Laurie Comstock, University of Chicago, USA</p>
17:30	17:45	<p>Gastrointestinal Transit Time Modulates the Mouse Gut Microbiome and Metabolome in a Dietary Fiber-dependent Manner and Regulates Satiety Hormone Levels Independently of Dietary Fiber Anna Pii Hjoerne, Technical University of Denmark, Denmark</p>
17:45	18:00	<p>Culturomics-Based Discovery of Gut Commensal <i>Enterococcus xiangfangensis</i> for Alcoholic Hepatitis Treatment Chang Liu, Shandong University, China</p>
18:00	18:40	Poster pitch talks for odd number posters
18:40	19:40	Poster session 1 for odd number posters
19:40		Dinner
19:40		Bar open (card payments only)

Tuesday 3 March 2026

09:15		Briefing for Session 3 speakers, chair & moderator - Auditorium
09:30	11:00	Session 3: Advances in microbiome techniques (analytical approaches)
		Chair: Niranjana Nagarajan, National University of Singapore, Singapore Moderator: Denise Moraes da Fonseca, University of São Paulo, Brazil
09:30	10:00	From Precise Microbiome Genomics to Precision Medicine Ami Bhatt, Stanford Medical School, USA
10:00	10:30	Functional plasticity in microbiome-host interactions Naama Geva-Zatorsky, Technion, Israel
10:30	10:45	Large-scale skin metagenomics reveals extensive prevalence, coordination, and functional adaptation of skin microbiome dermatotypes across body sites Chengchen (Cherry) Li, Genome Institute of Singapore, National University of Singapore, Singapore
10:45	11:00	Strain sharing and persistence of microbial pathogens colonizing the skin of residents in a regional nursing home network using Shotgun Metagenomics and WGS Yaovi M. Gildas Hounmanou, University of Copenhagen, Denmark
11:00	11:45	Refreshment break and networking
11:30		Briefing for session 4 speakers, chair & moderator - Auditorium
11:45	13:15	Session 4: One health and the microbiome
		Chair: Alan Walker, University of Aberdeen, UK Moderator: Denise Moraes da Fonseca, University of São Paulo, Brazil
11:45	12:15	Plant Microbiome Engineering for Climate-Smart Agriculture Shilpi Sharma, Indian Institute Of Technology Delhi, India
12:15	12:45	Sustainable livestock production for the benefit of planetary health Sharon Huws, Queens University Belfast, UK
12:45	13:00	Exploring the Untapped Potential of Livestock Microbiota in Low- and Middle-Income Countries Laura Glendinning, University Of Edinburgh, UK
13:00	13:15	Exploring the Human Gut Microbiome Diversity in Latin America: Focus on Populations at Nutritional Risk Maria Alejandra Soto, Universidad de los Andes, Colombia
13:15	14:30	Lunch and networking
14:15		Briefing for Session 5 speakers, chair & moderator - Auditorium
14:30	16:00	Session 5: Oral microbiome
		Chair: Lindsay Hall, University of Birmingham, UK Moderator: Niranjana Nagarajan, National University of Singapore, Singapore
14:30	15:00	The role of microbial oral-gut translocation in inflammatory diseases Melanie Schirmer, Technical University of Munich, Germany
15:00	15:30	New insights on oral microbiome function and health Gary Moran, Dublin Dental University Hospital, Ireland
15:30	15:45	Gut <i>Fusobacterium animalis</i> predicts poor outcomes in biliary tract cancer patients treated with combination immune checkpoint blockade Ashray Gunjur, Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK
15:45	16:00	Models to determine functions of the oral microbiome for personal care products safety assessments Aline Metris, Unilever, UK
16:00	16:45	Refreshment break and networking
16:45	17:15	Poster pitch talks for even number posters
17:15	17:30	Sponsored talk by Alessandro Buseti, Metabolon
17:30	18:30	Poster session 2 for even number posters
19:00		Dinner
19:00		Bar open (card payments only)

Wednesday 4 March 2026

09:15		Briefing for Session 6 speakers, chair & moderator - Auditorium
09:30	11:00	Session 6: Microbiome in women's health
		<i>Chair: Denise Morais da Fonseca, University of São Paulo, Brazil</i> <i>Moderator: Lindsay Hall, University of Birmingham, UK</i>
09:30	10:00	Impact and role of the skin microbiome in menopause Thomas Dawson, Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR), Singapore
10:00	10:30	Harnessing Naturally Stable Lactobacillus crispatus Communities to Inform Live Biotherapeutic Product Development in African Women Jo-Ann Passmore, University of CapeTown, South Africa
10:30	10:45	Cardiometabolic disease, not menopause, drives gut microbiome variation in African women <i>Luicer Anne Ingasia Olubayo, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa</i>
10:45	11:00	Maternal Factors Affect Maternal–Fetal Communication Through Microbiota-Derived Extracellular Vesicles <i>Jenni Turunen, University Of Oulu, Finland</i>
11:00	11:45	Refreshment break and networking
11:30		Briefing for Keynote, chair, moderator & committee - Auditorium
11:45	12:45	Keynote 2
		<i>Chair: Lindsay Hall, University of Birmingham, UK</i> <i>Moderator: Alan Walker, University of Aberdeen, UK</i>
		Microbiome and multi-omics dynamics during infant development Alexandra (Sasha) Zhernakova, University Medical Centre Groningen, The Netherlands
12:45	13:00	Closing Remarks
		Scientific Programme Committee: Lindsay Hall, University of Birmingham, UK Niranjan Nagarajan, National University of Singapore, Singapore Denise Morais da Fonseca, University of São Paulo, Brazil Alan Walker, University of Aberdeen, UK
13:00	13:50	Lunch and departures
13:50		Coach departures for Stansted and Heathrow airports
14:00		Coach departures for Cambridge train station and city centre