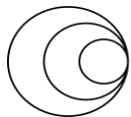
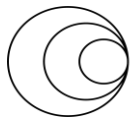


Hybrid Conference Programme

Start (BST)	Finish (BST)	Presenter details
Monday 27 October 2025		
12:00	13:00	Registration, lunch and networking
12:45		Briefing for Session 1 speakers, microphone runners, chair, moderator & committee - Auditorium
13:00	13:15	Welcome and introductions Wellcome Connecting Science: Nagehan Ramazanoglu Bahadir, Wellcome Connecting Science, UK Scientific programme committee: Mark Blaxter, Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK Molly Carter, Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK Kerstin Howe, Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK Peter Mulhair, University of Liverpool, UK
13:15	14:45	Session 1: Genome Evolution Chair: Peter Mulhair, University of Liverpool, UK (possibly swap roles) Moderator: Alex Twyford - TBC 13:15 13:45 Rediploidisation: unlocking the evolutionary potential of whole genome duplication Aoife McLysaght, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland 13:45 14:00 Biodiversity and evolution of L chromosomes using germ-line sequencing data from single wild-caught fungus gnat males Aleksandra Bliznina, Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK 14:00 14:15 Decoding the avian missing gene mystery: dot chromosomes unmask extensive gene loss and novel genetic instability Tomas Hron, Institute of Molecular Genetics, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Czech Republic 14:15 14:30 The evolution of programmed DNA elimination in free-living rhabditine nematodes Lewis Stevens, Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK 14:30 14:45 The Crocus panrepeatome: dynamics, dysploidy, and diversification Nomar Waminal, Leibniz Institute Plant Genetics And Crop Plant Research, Germany 14:45 15:00 The evolution of high-order genome architecture revealed from 1,000 species Kai Ye, Xi'an Jiaotong University, China
15:00	15:30	Refreshment break and networking



15:30	17:30	Workshop: AI and annotation
<i>Location: Sanger Institute, Room C302</i>		
Workshop Leads:		
<i>Francoise Thibaud-Nissen, National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI), USA</i>		
<i>Katharina Hoff, University of Greifswald, Germany</i>		
15:30	17:30	Workshop: Sequencing the holobiont -- how to disentangle species
<i>Location: Sanger Institute, Room F201</i>		
Workshop Lead:		
<i>Ellen Cameron, Earlham Institute, UK</i>		
15:30	17:30	Workshop: Curation of assemblies
<i>Location: Sanger Institute, Room C303</i>		
Workshop Lead:		
<i>Jo Wood, Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK</i>		
15:30	17:30	Workshop: Advances in Genomic Technologies
<i>Location: Sanger Institute, Room G301</i>		
Workshop Lead:		
<i>Ana Conesa, CSIC Valencia, Spain</i>		
15:30	17:30	Workshop: Project Psyche Showcase
<i>Location: Sanger Institute, Room G201</i>		
Workshop Leads:		
<i>Joana Meier, Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK</i>		
<i>Charlotte Wright, Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK</i>		
17:30	18:00	Poster pitch talks for poster session 1 presenters
18:00	19:30	Poster session 1
19:30	21:00	Dinner
19:30		Bar open (card payments only)



Tuesday 28 October 2025

09:15 Briefing for Session 3 speakers, chair & moderator - Auditorium

09:30 10:30 Keynote Lecture 1

Chair: Mark Blaxter, Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK

Moderator: Molly Carter, Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK

Cell type diversity and regulation in early metazoans

[Arnau Sebe Pedros, Centre for Genomic Regulation, Spain](#)

10:30 11:00 Refreshment break and networking

10:45 Briefing for session 2 speakers, chair & moderator - Auditorium

11:00 12:30 Session 2: Symbiosis Genomics

Chair: Graeme Oatley, Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK

Moderator: Elizabeth Sinclair, Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK

11:00 11:30 Sample Collection, Genome Curation and How the Data is Used – A Quick Look at the Coral Hub of the Aquatic Symbiosis Genome Project

[Mike Sweet, University of Derby, UK](#)

11:30 11:45 What Darwin Tree of Life Genomes Have Taught Us About Microsporidia: From The Origin of Tetraploidy to Fossils in Host Genomes

Amjad Khalaf, Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK

11:45 12:00 The giant barrel sponge *Xestospongia muta* whole genome sequence has implications for reef ecology

Jose Lopez, Nova Southeastern University, USA

12:00 12:15 Disentangling Lichen Holobionts

Merce Montoliu Nerin, Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK

12:15 12:30 Molecular Convergence Underground: A Comparative Genomic Exploration of the Ectomycorrhizal Lifestyle

Enikő Kiss, HUN-REN BRC Szeged, Hungary

12:30 13:30 Lunch

13:45 Briefing for session 3 speakers, chair & moderator - Auditorium

13:45 15:15 Session 3: Genomics of Speciation

Chair: Kerstin Howe, Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK

Moderator: Peter Mulhair, University of Liverpool, UK

13:45 14:15 Structural genetic diversity across the Tree of Life: how can we access evolutionary patterns and processes?

[Claire Mérot, University of Rennes, France](#)

14:15 14:30 Advancing Evolutionary and Conservation Understanding of Sloth Lineages

Camila Mazzoni, Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research, Germany

14:30 14:45 Pangenomics of the black soldier fly (*Hermetia illucens*)

Callum Thomas, University of Cambridge, UK

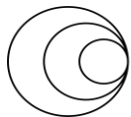
14:45 15:00 Exploring genome structure evolution in the rapid radiation of large white-headed gulls

Elisa Ramos, Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK

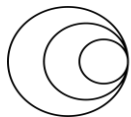
15:00 15:15 Diving into benthic genomes: optimizing sequencing and assembly workflows for a subgroup of colonial ascidians

Simona Buonanno, University of Bari, Italy

15:15 15:45 Refreshment break and networking



15:45	17:45	Workshop: Bat1K showcase
Location: Sanger Institute, Room E201		
Workshop Leads:		
Michael Hiller, LOEWE Centre for Translational Biodiversity Genomics, Germany		
Emma Teeling, University College Dublin, Ireland		
Sonja Vernes, University of St Andrews		
15:45	17:45	Workshop: Aquatic symbiosis genomics
Location: Sanger Institute, Room G301		
Workshop Leads:		
Jose Lopez, Nova Southeastern University, USA		
15:45	17:45	Workshop: Let's be FAIR: using pipelines in genomics research
Location: Sanger Institute, Room C303		
Workshop Leads:		
Chris Wyatt, University College London, UK		
15:45	17:45	Workshop: Population genomics and conservation
Location: Sanger Institute, Room C302		
Workshop Leads:		
Ilik Saccheri, University of Liverpool, UK		
Niklas Wahlberg, Lund University, Sweden		
17:45	18:15	Poster pitch talks for poster session 2 presenters
18:15	19:30	Poster session 2
19:30	19:45	Performace of Eyenigma Variations: Fantasia on Codes, string quartet inspired by Ch. 6 Origin of Species by a string quartet led by Paul Warburton.
19:45	21:00	Dinner
19:45		Bar open (card payments only)



Wednesday 29 October 2025

09:15 Briefing for Session 4 speakers, chair & moderator - Auditorium

09:30 11:00 Session 4: Ecological Genomics

Chair: Mark Blaxter, Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK
Moderator: Molly Carter, Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK

- 09:30 10:00 Understanding diversification in the genomic age: Noctuidae moths as an example
[Niklas Wahlberg, Lund University, Sweden](#)
- 10:00 10:15 The genetic diversity and population genomics of sharks, rays, and other vertebrates
[Amanda Gardiner, University of Cambridge, UK](#)
- 10:15 10:30 Genomic adaptations to a fossorial lifestyle: Insights from the limbless Layard's snake skink (*Nessia layardi*) genome
[Ashwini Venkatanarayana Mohan, Switzerland](#)
- 10:30 10:45 Evolution of the Chemical Defensome in Marine Mammals
[Bram Danneels, University Of Bergen, Norway](#)
- 10:45 11:00 Identifying genes under positive selection in saline tolerant tilapia species
[Samuel Speak, Earlham Institute, UK](#)

11:00 11:30 Refreshment break and networking

11:15 Briefing for Keynote, chair, moderator & committee - Auditorium

11:30 12:30 Keynote 2

Chair: Kerstin Howe, Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK
Moderator: Jim Downie, Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK
Deciphering the genomic basis of sponge symbioses
[Ute Hentschel Humeida, GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research, Germany](#)

12:30 12:45 Closing Remarks

Scientific Programme Committee:
[Mark Blaxter, Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK](#)
[Molly Carter, Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK](#)
[Kerstin Howe, Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK](#)
[Peter Mulhair, University of Liverpool, UK](#)

12:45 13:45 Lunch and departures

13:45 Coach departures for Stansted and Heathrow airports

13:55 Coach departures for Cambridge train station and city centre