

Hybrid Conference Programme

| Start (GMT) | Finish (GMT) | Presenter details |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| Wednesday 11 March 2026 | | |
| 12:00 | 13:00 | Registration, lunch and networking |
| 12:45 | | Briefing for Keynote speaker, microphone runners, chair, moderator & committee - Auditorium |
| 13:00 | 13:10 | Welcome |
| | | <p>Wellcome Connecting Science: Nagehan Ramazanoglu Bahadir, Wellcome Connecting Science, UK</p> <p>Scientific Programme Committee: Sonja Billerbeck, Imperial College London, UK Barbara Di Ventura, University of Freiburg, Germany Tom Ellis, Imperial College London, UK Katie Galloway, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA Marc Güell, Pompeu Fabra University, Spain </p> |
| 13:10 | 14:00 | Keynote speaker 1 |
| | | <p>Chair: Katie Galloway, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA Moderator: Alistair Dunham, Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK</p> <p>Towards sustainable, bio-sourced polymers Kristala Prather, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA </p> |
| 14:00 | 14:40 | Refreshment break and networking |
| 14:25 | | Briefing for Session 1 speakers, chair & moderator - Auditorium |
| 14:40 | 16:10 | Session 1: Towards sustainability |
| | | <p>Chair: Sonja Billerbeck, Imperial College London, UK Moderator: Alistair Dunham, Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK</p> |
| 14:40 | 15:10 | Re-programming natural carbon capture with synthetic biology Tobias Erb, Max Planck Institute for Terrestrial Microbiology, Germany |
| 15:10 | 15:40 | Artificial biomimetic spider silk Anna Rising, Karolinska Institutet, Sweden |
| 15:40 | 15:55 | A synthetic bacterium utilizes poly(ethylene terephthalate) as the sole carbon source Dekel Freund, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel |
| 15:55 | 16:10 | TPAsense: a real-time terephthalate biosensor accelerating enzyme discovery for plastic recycling and microplastic detection Marc Scherer, University of Bayreuth, Germany |
| 16:10 | 16:40 | Poster pitch talks for odd number posters |
| 16:40 | 17:40 | Poster session 1 - odd number posters and networking |
| 17:40 | | Dinner |
| 17:40 | | Bar open (card payments only) |

Thursday 12 March 2026

09:15 Briefing for Session 2 speakers, chair & moderator - Auditorium

09:30 11:00 Session 2: Approaches for cell engineering

Chair: Katie Galloway, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA

Moderator: Nomthandazo Twala, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, South Africa

09:30 10:00 When dose matters: Dissecting the principles of chromosome counting at the onset of X-chromosome inactivation
[Edda G Schultz, Max Planck Institute for Molecular Genetics, Germany](#)

10:00 10:30 Therapeutic editing of microbial genomes and metagenomes
[Harris Wang, Columbia University, USA](#)

10:30 10:45 Engineering robust bistable gene circuits to program multiple fates in mammalian cells
[Emma Peterman, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA](#)

10:45 11:00 Engineering Zinc Finger Dimers for Precise and Tunable Gene Regulation
[Lorena Postiglione, The Telethon Institute of Genetics and Medicine \(TIGEM\), Italy](#)

11:00 11:45 Refreshment break and networking

11:30 Briefing for Session 3 speakers, chair & moderator - Auditorium

11:45 13:15 Session 3: Scaling up synthetic biology

Chair: Marc Güell, Pompeu Fabra University, Spain

Moderator: Kasey Love, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA

11:45 12:15 Synthetic biology in the Anthropocene: how can we meaningfully influence climate change?
[Claudia Vickers, Queensland University of Technology/ BioBuilt Solutions, Australia](#)

12:15 12:45 Sustainable by Design
[Cleo Kontoravdi, Imperial College London, UK](#)

12:45 13:00 Multiplexed recording of protein-protein interactions via deamination and sequencing in human cells
[Dimitrie Ivancic, Harvard Medical School, USA](#)

13:00 13:15 Mapping composition-to-function design space in iPSC engineering via high-throughput synthetic biology.
[Chris Bryant, Bit.bio, UK](#)

13:15 14:30 Lunch and networking

14:15 Briefing for Session 4 speakers, microphone runners, chair & moderator - Auditorium

14:30 16:00 Session 4: Computational approaches for synthetic biology

Chair: Marc Güell, Pompeu Fabra University, Spain

Moderator: Kasey Love, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA

14:30 15:00 Synthetic phosphorylation signaling in human cells
[Zibo Chen, Westlake University, China](#)

15:00 15:30 How AI can help predict viral evolution to accelerate vaccine and therapeutic design
[Debora Marks, Harvard University, USA](#)

15:30 15:45 Dose-response engineering of metabolite biosensors with deep learning and high-throughput phenotyping
[Alperen Dalkiran, University of Edinburgh, UK](#)

15:45 16:00 Systems biology-based identification of small molecules to increase T Cell functionality
[Ida Pelosi, Italian Institute of Technology, Italy](#)

16:00 16:40 Refreshment break and **Meet the Editors**

16:25 Briefing for Session 5 speakers, chair & moderator - Auditorium

16:40 18:15 Session 5: Materials and microbes for health

Chair: Sonja Billerbeck, Imperial College London, UK

Moderator: Nomthandazo Twala, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, South Africa

16:40 17:15 Talk title tbc
[Caleb Bashor, Rice University, USA](#)

17:15 17:30 Skin Microbiome Engineering for On-Demand Microbial Thermogenesis
[Guillermo Nevot, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Spain](#)

16:40 18:15 Session 5: Materials and microbes for health continued

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| 17:30 | 17:45 | From metagenomes to mechanisms: a synthetic biology platform to discover microbiome small proteins that modulate host metabolism <i>David Riglar, Imperial College London, UK</i> |
| 17:45 | 18:15 | Engineering Regulatory Networks and Metabolism for Sustainable Agriculture <i>Nicola Patron, University of Cambridge, UK</i> |

18:15 18:45 Poster pitch talks for even number posters**18:45 19:45 Poster session 2 - even number posters and networking**

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| 19:45 | Dinner |
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| 19:45 | Bar open (card payments only) |
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Friday 13 March 2026

09:15 Briefing for Session 6 speakers, chair & moderator - Auditorium

09:30 11:00 Session 6: Engineering biology for health

Chair: Barbara Di Ventura, University of Freiburg, Germany
Moderator: David Carreno Yugueros, Imperial College London, UK

- 09:30 10:00 Predicting antibody
[Sai Reddy, ETH Zurich, Switzerland](#)
- 10:00 10:30 Engineering antigen delivery for improved cancer immunotherapy
[Priscilla Briquez, University of Freiburg, Germany](#)
- 10:30 10:45 Engineered microRNA feedback circuits enable tunable and autonomous control of synthetic receptor activity
Bryan Nathalia, Eindhoven University of Technology, Netherlands
- 10:45 11:00 Reprogramming Neuronal Cells from Blood Cells
Mitsuru Ishikawa, Fujita Health University/ Keio University, Japan

11:00 11:45 Refreshment break and networking

11:30 Briefing for Keynote, chair, moderator & committee - Auditorium

11:45 12:35 Keynote speaker 2

Chair: Barbara Di Ventura, University of Freiburg, Germany
Moderator: David Carreno Yugueros, Imperial College London, UK

Combining protein engineering and synthetic biology to develop a therapeutic bacteria to treat lung diseases
[Luis Serrano, Centre for Genomic Regulation \(CRG\), Spain](#)

12:35 12:45 Closing remarks and prize presentation

Scientific Programme Committee:
[Sonja Billerbeck, Imperial College London, UK](#)
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[Katie Galloway, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA](#)
[Marc Güell, Pompeu Fabra University, Spain](#)

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