

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><i>Wellcome Connecting Science:</i> <i>Nagehan Ramazanoglu Bahadir, Wellcome Connecting Science, UK</i></p> <p>Scientific Programme Committee: <i>Sonja Billerbeck, Imperial College London, UK</i> <i>Barbara Di Ventura, University of Freiburg, Germany</i> <i>Tom Ellis, Imperial College London, UK</i> <i>Katie Galloway, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA</i> <i>Marc Güell, Pompeu Fabra University, Spain</i></p>		
13:10 14:00 Keynote speaker 1		
<p><i>Chair: Katie Galloway, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA</i> <i>Moderator: Alistair Dunham, Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK</i></p> <p>Towards sustainable, bio-sourced polymers <i>Kristala Prather, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA</i></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><i>Chair: Sonja Billerbeck, Imperial College London, UK</i> <i>Moderator: Alistair Dunham, Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK</i></p> <p>14:40 15:10 Re-programming natural carbon capture with synthetic biology <i>Tobias Erb, Max Planck Institute for Terrestrial Microbiology, Germany</i></p> <p>15:10 15:40 Artificial biomimetic spider silk <i>Anna Rising, Karolinska Institutet, Sweden</i></p> <p>15:40 15:55 A synthetic bacterium utilizes poly(ethylene terephthalate) as the sole carbon source <i>Dekel Freund, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel</i></p> <p>15:55 16:10 TPAse: a real-time terephthalate biosensor accelerating enzyme discovery for plastic recycling and microplastic detection <i>Marc Scherer, University of Bayreuth, Germany</i></p>		
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
Dimitrije 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

17:30 17:45 From metagenomes to mechanisim: a synthetic biology platform to discover microbiome small proteins that modulate host metabolism
David Riglar, Imperial College London, UK

17:45 18:15 Engineering Regulatory Networks and Metabolism for Sustainable Agriculture
Nicola Patron, University of Cambridge, UK

18:15 18:45 Poster pitch talks for even number posters

18:45 19:45 Poster session 2 - even number posters and networking

19:45 Dinner

19:45 Bar open (card payments only)

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
Sal Reddy, ETH Zurich, Switzerland

10:00 10:30 Engineering antigen delivery for improved cancer immunotherapy
Priscilla Briez, 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:
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Tom Ellis, Imperial College London, UK
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