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** ***Wellcome Connecting Science:*** *Nagehan Ramazanoglu Bahadir, Wellcome Connecting Science, UK* ***Scientific Programme Committee:*** *Sonja Billerbeck, Imperial College London, UK* *Barbara Di Ventura, Universty of Freiburg, Germany* *Tom Ellis, Imperial College London ,UK* *Katie Galloway, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA* *Marc Güell, Pompeu Fabra University, Spain*
13:10	**14:00**	**Keynote speaker 1** *Chair: Katie Galloway, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA* *Moderator: Alistair Dunham, Wellcome Sanger Institite, UK* Towards sustainable, bio-sourced polymers *Kristala Prather, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA*
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** *Chair: Sonja Billerbeck, Imperial College London, UK* *Moderator: Alistair Dunham, Wellcome Sanger Institite, UK*
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	**16:25**	**Sponsored talk**
16:10	16:25	Next-generation benchtop platforms for high-throughput ologo synthesis *Linrun Feng, Founder and CEO of Linkzill*
16:25	**16:55**	**Poster pitch talks for odd number posters**
16:55	**17:55**	**Poster session 1 - odd number posters and networking**
17:55		Dinner
17:55		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	Toward AI-driven genetic circuit design *Caleb Bashor, Rice 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	**13:00**	**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: A quantative framework for assessing sustainability potential *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	Enhancing high-throughput genome wide BE and PE screening with single cell DNA sequencing *Alistair Dunham, Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK*
13:00	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** Poonam Bheda, EMBO Molecular Systems Biology, Germany Anahita Bishop, Nature Biotechnology, UK Joanna Clarke, PLOS Biology, UK Kyle Legate, Cell Reports, Cell Press, UK Alex Munro-Clark, Trends in Biotechnology, Cell Press, UK
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	Therapeutic editing of microbial genomes and metagenomes *Harris Wang, Columbia 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 mechansim: 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, Universty 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, Universty 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* *Barbara Di Ventura, Universty of Freiburg, Germany* *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