

**Hybrid Conference Programme**

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

[Kiarash Jamali, Ellison Institute of Technology, UK](#)

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*

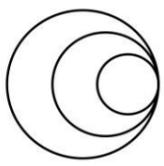
*Moderator: Nomthandazo Twala, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, South Africa*

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**

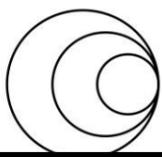
- 17:30 17:45 From metagenomes to mechansim: a synthetic biology platform to discover microbiome small proteins that modulate host metabolism  
*David Riglar, Imperial College London, UK*
- 17:45 18:15 Engineering Regulatory Networks and Metabolism for Sustainable Agriculture  
[\*Nicola Patron, University of Cambridge, UK\*](#)

**18:15 18:30 Poster pitch talks for even number posters**

**18:30 19:30 Poster session 2 - even number posters and networking**

19:30 Dinner

19:30 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

[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](#)

[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](#)

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