

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, sponsored talk, 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 <i>Dekel Freund, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel</i>
15:55	16:10	TPAsense: a real-time terephthalate biosensor accelerating enzyme discovery for plastic recycling and microplastic detection <i>Marc Scherer, University of Bayreuth, Germany</i>
16:10	16:25	Sponsored talk
16:10	16:25	Next-generation benchtop platforms for high-throughput oligo synthesis <i>Linrun Feng, Founder and CEO of Linkzill</i>
16:25	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 Schulz, 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

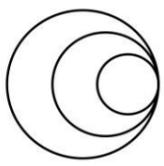
Moderator: Nomthandazo Twala, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, South Africa

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

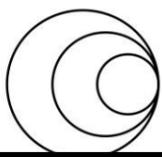
- 17:30 17:45 From metagenomes to mechansim: a synthetic biology platform to discover microbiome small proteins that modulate host metabolism
David Riglar, Imperial College London, UK
- 17:45 18:15 Engineering Regulatory Networks and Metabolism for Sustainable Agriculture
[*Nicola Patron, University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