

Hybrid Conference Programme

Start (GMT)	Finish (GMT)	Time allocated	Presenter details
Wednesday 11 March 2026			
12:00	13:00	60 mins	Registration, lunch and networking
12:45			Briefing for Keynote speaker, microphone runners, chair, moderator & committee - Auditorium
13:00	13:10		Welcome
	5 mins		Wellcome Connecting Science: Nagehan Ramazanoglu Bahadir, Wellcome Connecting Science, UK
	5 mins		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
13:10	14:00	50 mins	Keynote speaker 1
			Chair: Katie Galloway, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA Moderator: TBC
	40 + 10 Q&A mins		Towards Sustainable, Bio-Sourced Polymers Kristala Prather, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA
14:00	14:40	40 mins	Refreshment break and networking
14:25			Briefing for Session 1 speakers, chair & moderator - Auditorium
14:40	16:10	90 mins	Session 1: Towards sustainability
			Chair: Sonja Billerbeck, Imperial College London, UK Moderator: TBC
14:40	15:10	25 + 5 Q&A mins	Title TBC Tobias Erb, Max Planck Institute for Terrestrial Microbiology, Germany
15:10	15:40	25 + 5 Q&A mins	Artificial biomimetic spider silk Anna Rising, Karolinska Institut, Sweden
15:40	15:55	10 + 5 Q&A mins	Short talk selected from abstracts Short talk speaker
15:55	16:10	10 + 5 Q&A mins	Short talk selected from abstracts Short talk speaker
16:10	17:50	40 mins	Poster pitch talks for odd number posters
17:50	18:05	15 mins	Sponsored talk
18:05	19:05	60 mins	Poster session 1 - odd number posters and networking
19:05			Dinner
19:05			Bar open (card payments only)

Thursday 12 March 2026				
09:15				Briefing for Session 2 speakers, chair & moderator - Auditorium
09:30	11:00	90 mins		Session 2: Approaches for cell engineering Chair: Katie Galloway, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA Moderator: TBC
09:30	10:00	25 + 5 Q&A mins		Information processing and decision making at the Xist locus Edda G Schultz, Max Planck Institute for Molecular Genetics, Germany
10:00	10:30	25 + 5 Q&A mins		Therapeutic editing of microbial genomes and metagenomes Harris Wany, Columbia University, USA
10:30	10:45	10 + 5 Q&A mins		Short talk selected from abstracts Short talk speaker
10:45	11:00	10 + 5 Q&A mins		Short talk selected from abstracts Short talk speaker
11:00	11:45	45 mins		Refreshment break and networking
11:30				Briefing for Session 3 speakers, chair & moderator - Auditorium
11:45	13:15	90 mins		Session 3: Scaling up synthetic biology Chair: Marc Güell, Pompeu Fabra University, Spain Moderator: TBC
11:45	12:15	25 + 5 Q&A mins		Title TBC Claudia Vickers, Queensland University of Technology, Australia
12:15	12:45	25 + 5 Q&A mins		Title TBC Cleo Kontoravdi, Imperial College London, UK
12:45	13:00	10 + 5 Q&A mins		Short talk selected from abstracts Short talk speaker
13:00	13:15	10 + 5 Q&A mins		Short talk selected from abstracts Short talk speaker
13:15	14:30	75 mins		Lunch and networking
14:15				Briefing for Session 4 speakers, microphone runners, chair & moderator - Auditorium
14:30	16:00	90 mins		Session 4: Computational approaches for synthetic biology Chair: Marc Güell, Pompeu Fabra University, Spain Moderator: TBC
14:30	15:00	25 + 5 Q&A mins		Synthetic phosphorylation signaling in human cells Zibo Chen, Westlake University, China
15:00	15:30	25 + 5 Q&A mins		How AI can help predict viral evolution to accelerate vaccine and therapeutic design Debora Marks, Harvard University, USA
15:30	15:45	10 + 5 Q&A mins		Short talk selected from abstracts Short talk speaker
15:45	16:00	10 + 5 Q&A mins		Short talk selected from abstracts Short talk speaker
16:00	16:40	40 mins		Refreshment break and networking
16:25				Briefing for Session 5 speakers, chair & moderator - Auditorium
16:40		90 mins		Session 5: Enhancing and engineering plants Chair: Sonja Billerbeck, Imperial College London, UK Moderator: TBC
16:40	17:15	25 + 5 Q&A mins		Title TBC Christopher Voigt, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA
17:15	17:45	25 + 5 Q&A mins		Synthetic Expansions of Plant Metabolism Nicola Patron, University of Cambridge, UK
17:45	18:00	10 + 5 Q&A mins		Short talk selected from abstracts Short talk speaker
18:00	18:15	10 + 5 Q&A mins		Short talk selected from abstracts Short talk speaker

18:15	18:55	40 mins	Poster pitch talks for even number posters
18:55	19:55	60 mins	Poster session 2 - even number posters and networking
19:55			Dinner
19:55			Bar open (card payments only)

Friday 13 March 2026			
09:15			Briefing for Session 6 speakers, chair & moderator - Auditorium
09:30	11:00	90 mins	Session 6: Engineering biology for health Chair: Barbara Di Ventura, University of Freiburg, Germany Moderator: TBC
09:30	10:00	25 + 5 Q&A mins	Next-generation protein engineering for immunotherapy Sai Reddy, ETH Zurich, Switzerland
10:00	10:30	25 + 5 Q&A mins	Engineering antigen delivery for enhanced recognition by the immune system and improved cancer immunotherapy Priscilla Briquez, University of Freiburg, Germany
10:30	10:45	10 + 5 Q&A mins	Short talk selected from abstracts Short talk speaker
10:45	11:00	10 + 5 Q&A mins	Short talk selected from abstracts Short talk speaker
11:00	11:45	45 mins	Refreshment break and networking
11:30			Briefing for Keynote, chair, moderator & committee - Auditorium
11:45	12:35	50 mins	Keynote speaker 2 Chair: Barbara Di Ventura, University of Freiburg, Germany Moderator: TBC
		40 + 10 Q&A mins	Combining protein engineering and synthetic biology to develop a therapeutic bacteria to treat lung diseases Luis Serrano, Centre for genomic Regulation, Spain
12:35	12:45	10 mins	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