

Hybrid Conference Programme

Start (BST)	Finish (BST)	Presenter details
Wednesday 16 September 2026		
12:00	13:00	Registration, lunch and networking
12:45		<i>Briefing for keynote speaker, Session 1 speakers, microphone runners, chair, moderator and committee</i>
13:00	13:10	Welcome and introductions
		Wellcome Connecting Science: Andy Mains, Wellcome Connecting Science, UK Scientific programme committee: Anders Børklum, Aarhus University, Denmark Kristen Brennand, Yale University, USA Danielle Posthuma, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands Mina Ryten, University of Cambridge, UK
13:10	14:10	Opening keynote
		Chair: Mina Ryten, University of Cambridge, UK Moderator: Yating You, University of Glasgow, UK Title TBC Matthew Hurles, Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK
14:10	14:15	Comfort break
14:15	15:45	Session 1: Genes in Context: When and Where Genetic Risk Acts
		Chair: Kristen Brennand, Yale University, USA Moderator: Yating You, University of Glasgow, UK
14:15	14:45	Combining genetics and environment to understand psychiatric disorders Laura M. Huckins, Yale University, USA
14:45	15:15	Understanding the molecular and cellular impact of stress: from cerebral organoids to postmortem brain studies Elisabeth Binder, Max Planck Institute of Psychiatry, Germany
15:15	15:30	Cell-type and tissue-specific genes affect brain and behavior when deleted or duplicated, but rarely both Kuldeep Kumar, University of Montreal, Canada
15:30	15:45	Higher internalizing symptoms are predicted by the interaction between sleep polygenic scores and hair cortisol concentrations in a Brazilian population-based birth cohort Marina Carpena, Federal University of Rio Grande, Brazil
15:45	16:15	Refreshment break and networking
16:00	16:15	<i>Briefing for Session 2 speakers, chair and moderator</i>
16:15	17:45	Session 2: The Healthy Brain: A Genomic Reference Map
		Chair: Danielle Posthuma, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands Moderator: Helen King, UK Dementia Research Institute, UK
16:15	16:45	Title TBC Jonathan Mill, University of Exeter, UK
16:45	17:15	Title TBC Henne Holstege, Amsterdam UMC, the Netherlands
17:15	17:30	Long-Read epigenetic clocks identify improved brain aging predictions Spencer Grant, National Institutes of Health, USA
17:30	17:45	Context-dependent Epigenomic Regulatory Networks Reveal cis- and trans-Regulatory Programs in Brain Diseases TingTing Fu, Karolinska Institutet, Sweden
17:45	18:25	Poster pitch talks for odd number posters
18:25	19:25	Poster session 1 (odd number posters) and networking reception
19:25	21:30	Dinner
19:25		Bar open (card payments only)

Thursday 17 September 2026		
09:15		Briefing for Session 3 speakers, chair and moderator
09:30	11:00	Session 3: From Association to Mechanism
		<i>Chair: Anders Børglum, Aarhus University, Denmark</i> <i>Moderator: Helen King, UK Dementia Research Institute, UK</i>
09:30	10:00	A neuroscientist's guide to Schizophrenia - using genetic risk as a compass Jens Hjerling-Lefler, Karolinska Institute, Sweden
10:00	10:30	Unraveling the complexity of brain disorders using genetically diverse human cellular models Ralda Nehme, Broad Institute of Harvard and MIT, USA
10:30	10:45	GWAS meta-analysis of brain volume identifies 222 loci and overlap with monogenic brain disorders <i>Federica Grosso, VU Amsterdam, Netherlands</i>
10:45	11:00	Expanded plasma profiling for brain health in UK Biobank using existing NMR data and post-NMR samples <i>Luke Jostins-Dean, Nightingale Health, Finland</i>
11:00	11:45	Refreshment break and networking
11:30		Briefing for Session 4 speakers, chair and moderator
11:45	13:15	Session 4: New Tools to Decode Brain Disorders
		<i>Chair: Danielle Posthuma, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands</i> <i>Moderator: Michelle Watts, Karolinska Institutet, Sweden</i>
11:45	12:15	Multi-Scale Spatial Mapping of Molecular and Genetic Signatures of Schizophrenia in Human Prefrontal Cortex Kristen Maynard, Johns Hopkins University, USA
12:15	12:45	From tissue to targets to treat brain diseases Inge Huitinga, Netherlands Institute for Neuroscience
12:45	13:00	Evaluation of the ability of deep-learning predictors of deleterious missense variation to identify novel schizophrenia genes <i>Sophie Chick, Cardiff University, UK</i>
13:00	13:15	Non-invasive molecular profiling of the living human brain <i>Melissa Grant-Peters, University of Cambridge, UK</i>
13:15	14:30	Lunch and networking
14:15		Briefing for Session 5 speakers, chair and moderator
14:30	16:00	Session 5: Genomics-Driven Patient Stratification
		<i>Chair: Anders Børglum, Aarhus University, Denmark</i> <i>Moderator: Michelle Watts, Karolinska Institutet, Sweden</i>
14:30	15:00	Stratifying patients with neurodegeneration Valentina Escott-Price, Cardiff University, UK
15:00	15:30	ADHD genetics and polygenic architecture of severe outcomes across psychiatric disorders Ditte Demontis, Aarhus University, Denmark
15:30	15:45	Unsupervised Machine Learning of Longitudinal Prescription Trajectories Reveals Genetically Informative Phenotypes of Antidepressant Response <i>Maria Herrero-Zazo, King's College London, UK</i>
15:45	16:00	The Huntingtin CAG repeat is a continuous modifier of brain structure and health vulnerability <i>Harriet Cullen, King's College London, UK</i>
16:00	16:40	Refreshment break and networking
16:40	17:20	Poster pitch talks for even number posters
17:35	18:35	Poster session 2 (even number posters) and networking reception
18:35	20:30	Dinner
18:35		Bar open (card payments only)

Friday 18 September 2026		
09:15		Briefing for Session 6 speakers, chair and moderator
09:30	11:00	Session 6: From Human Genetics to High-Confidence Targets
		Chair: Mina Ryten, University of Cambridge, UK Moderator: Eva Viho, Max Planck Institute of Psychiatry, Germany
09:30	10:00	Title TBC Eli Stahl, Regeneron Genetics Center, USA
10:00	10:30	Long read sequencing identifies alternative SNCA 5'UTR mRNA isoforms associated with PD risk Ben Logsdon, Cajal Therapeutics, USA
10:30	10:45	A CRISPR way to understand neurodegeneration Andrew Bassett, Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK
10:45	11:00	Whole-Exome Sequencing Reveals Novel Candidate Genes and Phenotypes in Hereditary Spastic Paraplegia Daniela Felicio, ICBAS- Abel Salazar Institute of Biomedical Sciences, Portugal
11:00	11:40	Refreshment break and networking
11:30		Briefing for keynote, chair, moderator and committee
11:40	12:40	Closing keynote
		Chair: Kristen Brennand, Yale University, USA Moderator: Eva Viho, Max Planck Institute of Psychiatry, Germany Single cell dissection of brain disorders: Circuitry, Subtypes, AI, Therapeutics Manolis Kellis, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA
12:40	12:55	Closing remarks
		Scientific Programme Committee: Anders Børglum, Aarhus University, Denmark Kristen Brennand, Yale University, USA Danielle Posthuma, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands Mina Ryten, University of Cambridge, UK
12:55	13:45	Lunch
13:45		Coach departures for Stansted and Heathrow airports
13:55		Coach departures for Cambridge train station and city centre