

Hybrid Conference Programme

Start (GMT)	Finish (GMT)	Presenter details
Wednesday 11 February 2026		
12:00	13:00	Registration, lunch and networking
12:45	13:00	Briefing for KNS, Session 1 speakers, microphone runners, chair, moderator & committee - Auditorium
13:00	13:10	Welcome and introductions
13:00	13:05	Wellcome Connecting Science: Michelle Bishop, Wellcome Connecting Science, UK
13:05	13:10	Scientific programme committee: Josie Bryant, Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK Mike Cox, Birmingham University, UK Ewan Harrison, Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK Alex Kayongo, Makerere University, Uganda Claire Smith, University College London, UK
13:10	14:00	Keynote 1
		Chair: TBC Moderator: TBC
13:10	14:00	Title TBC Daniela Ferreira, University of Oxford, UK
14:00	14:05	Comfort break
14:05	15:35	Session 1: Human Infection Models/Cell Atlas
		Chair: TBC Moderator: TBC
14:05	14:35	Probing Microbiome Mechanisms Through Human Challenge: Lessons from <i>Neisseria lactamica</i> Anastasia Theodosiou, University of Glasgow, UK
14:35	15:05	Insights to mucosal immunity from human respiratory virus infection challenge models Ryan Thwaites, Imperial College London, UK
15:05	15:20	Short talk selected from abstracts Short talk speaker
15:20	15:35	Short talk selected from abstracts Short talk speaker
15:35	16:15	Refreshment break and networking
16:00	16:15	Briefing for session 2 speakers, chair & moderator - Auditorium
16:15	17:45	Session 2: Metagenomics, Culturomics and the functional focus of organisms
		Chair: TBC Moderator: TBC
16:15	16:45	Title TBC Duncan Ng, Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK
16:45	17:15	From Narrowband to Broadband Genomic Surveillance Nick Loman, University of Birmingham, UK
17:15	17:30	Short talk selected from abstracts Short talk speaker
17:30	17:45	Short talk selected from abstracts Short talk speaker
17:45	18:30	Poster pitch talks for odd number posters
18:30	19:30	Poster session 1 - odd number posters
19:30		Bar open (card payments only)
19:30	20:30	Dinner

Thursday 12 February 2026

09:15	09:30	Briefing for Session 3 speakers, chair & moderator - Auditorium
09:30	11:00	Session 3: Exacerbations and Chronic Disease
		Chair: TBC Moderator: TBC
09:30	10:00	The Airway Microbiome in Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Zhang Wang, South China Normal University, China
10:00	10:30	Chronic Disease and Exacerbations: Microbiome Signatures in HIV-Associated COPD Alex Kayongo, Makerere University, Uganda
10:30	10:45	Short talk selected from abstracts Short talk speaker
10:45	11:00	Short talk selected from abstracts Short talk speaker
11:00	11:30	Refreshment break and networking
11:15	11:30	Briefing for session 4 speakers, chair & moderator - Auditorium
11:30	13:00	Session 4: Immunity, respiratory microbiomes and viromes across the lifespan
		Chair: TBC Moderator: TBC
11:30	12:00	Title TBC Emma Wall, The Francis Crick Institute, UK
12:00	12:30	The association between the upper airway microbiome and respiratory illness in South African children Mark Nicol, University Of Western Australia, Australia
12:30	12:45	Short talk selected from abstracts Short talk speaker
12:45	13:00	Short talk selected from abstracts Short talk speaker
13:00	14:00	Lunch and networking
13:45	14:00	Briefing for Session 5 speakers, chair & moderator - Auditorium
14:00	15:30	Session 5: Co-infection and Fungi
		Chair: TBC Moderator: TBC
14:00	14:30	Modelling the antifungal potency of the alveolar epithelium from cells to systems Margherita Bertuzzi, University Of Manchester, UK
14:30	15:00	Unveiling Host-Pathogen Interactions in Time and Space at Single-Cell Resolution Emmanuel Saliba, Helmholtz Institute For RNA-based Infection Research, Germany
15:00	15:15	Short talk selected from abstracts Short talk speaker
15:15	15:30	Short talk selected from abstracts Short talk speaker
15:30	16:00	Refreshment break and networking
16:00	16:50	Keynote 1
		Chair: TBC Moderator: TBC
16:00	16:50	Title TBC Miriam Moffatt, Imperial College London, UK
16:50	17:30	Poster pitch talks for even number posters
17:30	18:30	Poster session 2 - even number posters
18:30	18:50	Free time
18:50		Coaches depart Hinxton Hall for offsite dinner to Fitzwilliam Museum Cambridge

19:30	Dinner
22:30	Coaches depart Fitzwilliam Museum Cambridge to Wellcome Genome Campus

Friday 13 February 2026		
09:15	09:30	Briefing for Session 6 speakers, chair & moderator - Auditorium
09:30	11:00	Session 6: In vitro models Chair: TBC Moderator: TBC 09:30 10:00 Studying host-microbiome interactions in chronic airway disease using physiologically relevant models Aurélie Crabbé, Ghent University, Belgium 10:00 10:30 In Vitro and Ex Vivo Models Scott Randell, University of North Carolina, USA 10:30 10:45 Short talk selected from abstracts Short talk speaker 10:45 11:00 Short talk selected from abstracts Short talk speaker 11:00 11:30 Refreshment break and networking 11:15 11:30 Briefing for panel speakers, moderator & committee - Auditorium
11:30	12:45	Panel discussion Chair: Karl Staples, British Association for Lung Research, UK Moderator: TBC Future-Proofing Respiratory Science: Talent, Priorities, and Funding Samantha Walker, Asthma + Lung UK, UK Panelist TBC Panelist TBC Panelist TBC
12:45	13:00	Closing Remarks Scientific Programme Committee: Josie Bryant, Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK Mike Cox, Birmingham University, UK Ewan Harrison, Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK Alex Kayongo, Makerere University, Uganda Claire Smith, University College London, UK
13:00	13:50	Lunch and departures
13:50		Coach departures for Stansted and Heathrow airports
14:00		Coach departures for Cambridge train station and city centre