

**Hybrid Conference Programme**

Start (GMT)	Finish (GMT)	Presenter details
<b>Wednesday 11 February 2026</b>		
<b>12:00</b>	<b>13:00</b>	<b>Registration, lunch and networking</b>
12:45	13:00	Briefing for KNS, Session 1 speakers, microphone runners, chair, moderator & committee - Auditorium
<b>13:00</b>	<b>13:10</b>	<b>Welcome and introductions</b>
13:00	13:05	<b>Wellcome Connecting Science:</b> <a href="#">Michelle Bishop, Wellcome Connecting Science, UK</a>
13:05	13:10	<b>Scientific programme committee:</b> <a href="#">Josie Bryant, Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK</a> <a href="#">Mike Cox, Birmingham University, UK</a> <a href="#">Ewan Harrison, Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK</a> <a href="#">Alex Kayongo, Makerere University, Uganda</a> <a href="#">Claire Smith, University College London, UK</a>
<b>13:10</b>	<b>14:00</b>	<b>Keynote 1</b>
		Chair: TBC Moderator: TBC
13:10	14:00	Title TBC <a href="#">Daniela Ferreira, University of Oxford, UK</a>
14:00	14:05	Comfort break
<b>14:05</b>	<b>15:35</b>	<b>Session 1: Human Infection Models/Cell Atlas</b>
		Chair: TBC Moderator: TBC
14:05	14:35	Probing Microbiome Mechanisms Through Human Challenge: Lessons from <i>Neisseria lactamica</i> <a href="#">Anastasia Theodosiou, University of Glasgow, UK</a>
14:35	15:05	Insights to mucosal immunity from human respiratory virus infection challenge models <a href="#">Ryan Thwaites, Imperial College London, UK</a>
15:05	15:20	A toolbox to elucidate the B cell and antibody atlases in the domestic ferret model <a href="#">Allison Seeger, University of Texas at Austin, USA</a>
15:20	15:35	Spatial modelling reveals structural patterns of non-tuberculous mycobacterial granulomas in cystic fibrosis <a href="#">Duy Pham, Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK</a>
15:35	16:15	Refreshment break and networking
16:00	16:15	Briefing for session 2 speakers, chair & moderator - Auditorium
<b>16:15</b>	<b>17:45</b>	<b>Session 2: Metagenomics, Culturomics and the functional focus of organisms</b>
		Chair: TBC Moderator: TBC
16:15	16:45	Title TBC <a href="#">Duncan Ng, Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK</a>
16:45	17:15	From Narrowband to Broadband Genomic Surveillance <a href="#">Nick Loman, University of Birmingham, UK</a>
17:15	17:30	Bacterial topology of the respiratory tract, including the site-of-disease, in people with pulmonary tuberculosis <a href="#">Tinaye Chiyaka, Stellenbosch University, South Africa</a>
17:30	17:45	A Computational Framework for Defining Optimal Shotgun Metagenomic Strategies in Low-Biomass Respiratory Samples <a href="#">Ryan Teo, University Of Birmingham, UK</a>
<b>17:45</b>	<b>18:30</b>	<b>Poster pitch talks for odd number posters</b>
<b>18:30</b>	<b>19:30</b>	<b>Poster session 1 - odd number posters</b>
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
<b>09:30</b>	<b>11:00</b>	<b>Session 3: Exacerbations and Chronic Disease</b>
		Chair: TBC Moderator: TBC
09:30	10:00	The Airway Microbiome in Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease <a href="#">Zhang Wang, South China Normal University, China</a>
10:00	10:30	Chronic Disease and Exacerbations: Microbiome Signatures in HIV-Associated COPD <a href="#">Alex Kayongo, Makerere University, Uganda</a>
10:30	10:45	Spatially resolved Pseudomonas aeruginosa niches during chronic lung infections Cecilia Kyanya, Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK
10:45	11:00	Aberrant epithelial response to lung microbiota and during infection in Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis Patpong Rongkard, Imperial College London, UK
11:00	11:30	Refreshment break and networking
11:15	11:30	Briefing for session 4 speakers, chair & moderator - Auditorium
<b>11:30</b>	<b>13:00</b>	<b>Session 4: Immunity, respiratory microbiomes and viromes across the lifespan</b>
		Chair: TBC Moderator: TBC
11:30	12:00	Title TBC <a href="#">Emma Wall, The Francis Crick Institute, UK</a>
12:00	12:30	The association between the upper airway microbiome and respiratory illness in South African children <a href="#">Mark Nicol, University Of Western Australia, Australia</a>
12:30	12:45	CHILDb: Integrating early-life environmental, clinical, and multiomics data from the CHILD Cohort Study to enable more wholistic analyses of respiratory disease Geoff Winsor, Simon Fraser University, Canada
12:45	13:00	The NLR4 inflammasome is upregulated in acute respiratory distress syndrome and dominant in human neutrophils Luke Flower, University of Cambridge, UK
13:00	14:00	Lunch and networking
13:45	14:00	Briefing for Session 5 speakers, chair & moderator - Auditorium
<b>14:00</b>	<b>15:30</b>	<b>Session 5: Co-infection and Fungi</b>
		Chair: TBC Moderator: TBC
14:00	14:30	Modelling the antifungal potency of the alveolar epithelium from cells to systems <a href="#">Margherita Bertuzzi, University Of Manchester, UK</a>
14:30	15:00	Unveiling Host-Pathogen Interactions in Time and Space at Single-Cell Resolution <a href="#">Emmanuel Saliba, Helmholtz Institute For RNA-based Infection Research, Germany</a>
15:00	15:15	Fungal pathogen evolution during chronic lung infection is driven by transposon movement Amelia Barber, Friedrich Schiller University Jena, Germany
15:15	15:30	Targeted metagenomic sequencing of respiratory infections from UK healthcare workers in the SIREN study, Winter 2023 - 2024 Marissa Knoll, Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK
15:30	16:00	Refreshment break and networking
<b>16:00</b>	<b>16:50</b>	<b>Keynote 1</b>
		Chair: TBC Moderator: TBC
16:00	16:50	Title TBC <a href="#">Miriam Moffatt, Imperial College London, UK</a>
<b>16:50</b>	<b>17:30</b>	<b>Poster pitch talks for even number posters</b>
<b>17:30</b>	<b>18:30</b>	<b>Poster session 2 - even number posters</b>
18:30	18:50	Free time
18:50		Coaches depart conference centre for offsite dinner to Fitzwilliam Museum Cambridge

19:30	Dinner
22:30	Return coaches depart Fitzwilliam Museum Cambridge to conference centre

Friday 13 February 2026		
09:15	09:30	Briefing for Session 6 speakers, chair & moderator - Auditorium
09:30	11:00	<b>Session 6: In vitro models</b> Chair: TBC Moderator: TBC  09:30 10:00 Studying host-microbiome interactions in chronic airway disease using physiologically relevant models <a href="#">Aurélië Crabbé, Ghent University, Belgium</a>  10:00 10:30 In Vitro and Ex Vivo Models <a href="#">Scott Randell, University of North Carolina, USA</a>  10:30 10:45 Emerging Avian Influenza H5N1 Variants Replicate Efficiently and Show Broad Tropism in Human Airway Cells Independent of Age Tereza Masonou, University College London, UK  10:45 11:00 Antibiotic lethality is a heritable bacterial trait driving infection outcomes Lucas Boeck, University Of Basel, Switzerland  11:00 11:30 Refreshment break and networking  11:15 11:30 Briefing for panel speakers, moderator & committee - Auditorium
11:30	12:45	<b>Panel discussion</b> Chair: Karl Staples, British Association for Lung Research, UK Moderator: TBC  <b>Future-Proofing Respiratory Science: Talent, Priorities, and Funding</b> Samantha Walker, Asthma + Lung UK, UK Alex Pym, Wellcome, UK Paula Sommer, Cystic Fibrosis Trust, UK
12:45	13:00	<b>Closing Remarks</b> <b>Scientific Programme Committee:</b> <a href="#">Josie Bryant, Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK</a> <a href="#">Mike Cox, Birmingham University, UK</a> <a href="#">Ewan Harrison, Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK</a> <a href="#">Alex Kayongo, Makerere University, Uganda</a> <a href="#">Claire Smith, University College London, UK</a>
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