

Hybrid Conference Programme

Start (BST)	Finish (BST)	Presenter details	Location
Monday 21 September 2026			
12:00	13:00	Registration, lunch and networking	
12:45		Briefing for keynote speaker, Session 1 speakers, microphone runners, chair, moderator and committee	Auditorium
13:00	13:10	Welcome and introductions	Auditorium
		Wellcome Connecting Science: Nagehan Ramazanoglu Bahadir, Wellcome Connecting Science, UK Scientific programme committee: Maria Brbić, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland Mark McCarthy, Genentech, USA David Ochoa, EMBL-European Bioinformatics Institute/Open Targets, UK Nicola Whiffin, University of Oxford, UK	
13:10	14:00	Keynote 1	Auditorium
		Chair: Mark McCarthy, Genentech, USA Moderator: Maria Brbić, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland	
13:10	14:00	Mapping the Human Body One Cell at Time Sarah Teichmann, University of Cambridge, UK	
14:00	14:05	Comfort break	
14:05	15:35	Session 1: Data generation at scale	Auditorium
		Chair: Sarah Teichmann, University of Cambridge, UK Moderator: David Ochoa, EMBL-European Bioinformatics Institute/Open Targets, UK	
14:05	14:35	Decoding the cellular building blocks and tissue niches of human skin Muzlifah Haniffa, Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK	
14:35	15:05	Translational genomics of complex disease Eleftheria Zeggini, Helmholtz Munich, Germany	
15:05	15:20	Perturbation screens reveal a spectrum of cell type-specific signal transduction responses in human organoids Nadezhda Azbukina, Eth Zürich, Switzerland	
15:20	15:35	A Scalable High-Throughput Gene Overexpression Platform for Chemotherapy Resistance Profiling Kyeong Beom Jo, McGill University, Canada	
15:35	16:05	Refreshment break and networking	Event Space

15:50	16:05	Briefing for keynote 2, chair and moderator	Auditorium
16:05	16:55	Keynote 2 <i>Chair: David Ochoa, EMBL-European Bioinformatics Institute/Open Targets, UK</i> <i>Moderator: Nicola Whiffin, University of Oxford, UK</i>	Auditorium
16:05	16:55	Orchestrating Biology for Better Medicines Daphne Koller, Insitro, USA	
16:55	17:30	Poster pitch talks for odd number posters	Auditorium
17:30	18:30	Poster session 1 (odd number posters) and networking reception	Event Space
18:30	20:30	Dinner	Hinxton Hall Restaurant
18:30		Bar open (card payments only)	Graham Cameron Bar

Tuesday 22 September 2026			
09:15	Briefing for Session 2 speakers, chair and moderator		Auditorium
09:30	11:00	Session 2: Optimising target selection	Auditorium
	Chair: Mark McCarthy, Genentech, USA		
	Moderator: Maria Brbić, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland		
09:30	10:00	Multiomic Approaches to Target Validation Brent Richards, McGill University/5 Prime Sciences, Canada	
10:00	10:30	Translating target validation to drug discovery and development Sally John, Bristol Myers Squibb, USA	
10:30	10:45	Genetically informed drug targets for lean mass preservation Victor Svenstrup, University of Copenhagen, Denmark	
10:45	11:00	The role of trans-nominated proteogenomic targets in understanding disease biology and predicting clinical success Vivaswat Shastry, Abbvie, USA	
11:00	11:45	Refreshment break and networking	Event Space
11:30	Briefing for Session 3 speakers, chair and moderator		Auditorium
11:45	13:00	Session 3: Scaling up therapeutics for rare disease	Auditorium
	Chair: Nicola Whiffin, University of Oxford, UK		
	Moderator: Mark McCarthy, Genentech, USA		
11:45	12:15	CoRE in Therapeutic Genomics and in particular the aspects of combining big data and AI into therapeutic development for rare disease Stephan Sanders, University of Oxford, UK	
12:15	12:45	Title TBC Daniel Gaffney, BioMarin Pharmaceutical, UK	
12:45	13:00	Leveraging Variant-Informed Dose-Response Analysis to Inform Target Discovery and Predict Direction of Effect Daniel Considine, Open Targets, UK	
13:00	14:30	Lunch and networking	Hinxton Hall Restaurant

14:15		Briefing for Session 4 speakers, chair and moderator	Auditorium
14:30	16:00	Session 4: AI for precision medicine	Auditorium
		Chair: Maria Brbić, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland Moderator: David Ochoa, EMBL-European Bioinformatics Institute/Open Targets, UK	
14:30	15:00	Title TBC Mihaela van der Schaar, University of Cambridge, UK	
15:00	15:30	Title TBC Marinka Zitnik, Harvard University, USA	
15:30	15:45	Genetic Decoding of an Electronic Health Records-derived Foundation Model for Lifetime Morbidity Wenhuan Zeng, Berlin Institute of Health at Charité, Germany	
15:45	16:00	Did the Model Forecast It, or Already Know It? Prioritising Novel Drug Targets with a Temporal Biomedical Knowledge Graph Oracle Pui Chung (Jacky) Siu, Queen Mary University Of London / Recursion, UK	
16:00	16:40	Refreshment break and networking	Event Space
16:25		Briefing for Poster pitch chair	Auditorium
16:40	17:15	Poster pitch talks for even number posters	Auditorium
		Chair: Nicola Whiffin, University of Oxford, UK	
17:15	18:15	Poster session 2 (even number posters) and networking reception	Event Space
18:15	20:30	Dinner	Hinxton Hall Restaurant
18:15		Bar open (card payments only)	Graham Cameron Bar

Wednesday 23 September 2026			
09:15	Briefing for Session 5 speakers, chair and moderator		Auditorium
09:30	11:00	Session 5: Accelerating drug discovery	Auditorium
Chair: <i>Maria Brbić, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland</i> Moderator: <i>Nicola Whiffin, University of Oxford, UK</i>			
09:30	10:00	Automating Scientific Discovery at Scale (virtual) Andrew White, FutureHouse, USA	
10:00	10:30	Title TBC <i>Invited speaker</i>	
10:30	10:45	Inference of Drug Activity from Transcriptomics Data <i>Bárbara Zita Peters Couto, Heidelberg University Hospital, Germany</i>	
10:45	11:00	scFORGE: Recovering disease gene programs from a single-cell foundation model <i>Ang Li, Uniklinik Rwth Aachen, Germany</i>	
11:00	11:30	Refreshment break and networking	Event Space
11:15	Briefing for Session 6 speakers, chair and moderator		Auditorium
11:30	13:00	Session 6: Expanding the range of discovery	Auditorium
Chair: <i>David Ochoa, EMBL-European Bioinformatics Institute/Open Targets, UK</i> Moderator: <i>Mark McCarthy, Genentech, USA</i>			
11:30	12:00	Harnessing the power of AI to enable human-centric discovery Slavé Petrovski, AstraZeneca, UK	
12:00	12:30	Somatic mutations in ageing and disease Inigo Martincorena, Sanger Institute / Quotient, UK	
12:30	12:45	Genome-wide pleiotropy for target validation: integrating causal evidence and safety across 100,526 GWAS <i>Yakov Tsepilov, Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK</i>	
12:45	13:00	Predictive validity of evidence for drug-target selection at scale - moving beyond genetics <i>Remo Monti, Pheiron, Germany</i>	
13:00	13:15	Closing remarks	Auditorium
Scientific Programme Committee: Maria Brbić, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland Mark McCarthy, Genentech, USA David Ochoa, EMBL-European Bioinformatics Institute/Open Targets, UK Nicola Whiffin, University of Oxford, UK			
13:15	14:15	Lunch	Hinxton Hall Restaurant
14:15	Coach departures for Stansted and Heathrow airports		Main entrance
14:25	Coach departures for Cambridge train station and city centre		Main entrance