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 Sanger Institute: *Andy Mains, Wellcome Sanger Institute, 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 osteoarthritis *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**	*Auditorium*
		Chair: David Ochoa, EMBL-European Bioinformatics Institute/Open Targets, UK *Moderator: Nicola Whiffin, University of Oxford, UK*	
16:05	16:55	From Data to Targets: Causal AI 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	Treatment response due to polygenic rise may arise due to trial eligibility *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	Therapeutic Genomics: applying genomic data to accelerate genetic medicines *Stephan Sanders, University of Oxford, UK*	
12:15	12:45	FGFR3 saturation functional map reveals a broad spectrum of activating mutations and underdiagnosed hypochondroplasia *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	Rethinking scientific discovery in the era of AI *Mihaela van der Schaar, University of Cambridge, UK*	
15:00	15:30	Generative AI to Predict and Engineer Human Tissues and Cells *Mo Lotfollahi, Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK*	
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 chair and sponsored talk speaker*	*Auditorium*
16:40	**17:15**	**Poster pitch talks for even number posters**	*Auditorium*
		Chair: Nicola Whiffin, University of Oxford, UK	
17:15	**17:30**	**Sponsored talk**	*Auditorium*
17:15	17:30	Causal by design: genetics-first discovery combined with agentic AI as the engine of next-generation therapeutics *Alexandra Fish, Genomics Ltd*	
17:30	**18:30**	**Poster session 2 (even 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*

Wednesday 23 September 2026			
09:15		*Briefing for Session 5 speakers, chair and moderator*	*Auditorium*
09:30	**11:00**	**Session 5: Accelerating drug discovery** *Chair: David Ochoa, EMBL-European Bioinformatics Institute/Open Targets, UK* *Moderator: Nicola Whiffin, University of Oxford, UK*	*Auditorium*
09:30	10:00	Automating discovery tasks with AI agents *Andrew White, FutureHouse, USA (virtual)*	
10:00	10:30	Many Views, One Cell: Multimodal Models for Decoding Cellular Complexity. *Maria Brbić, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland*	
10:30	10:45	Inference of Drug Activity from Transcriptomics Data *Bárbara Zita Peters Couto, Heidelberg University Hospital, Germany*	
10:45	11:00	scFORGE: Recovering disease gene programs from a single-cell foundation model *Ang Li, Uniklinik Rwth Aachen, Germany*	
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** *Chair: Maria Brbić, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland* *Moderator: Mark McCarthy, Genentech, USA*	*Auditorium*
11:30	12:00	Harnessing the power of AI to enable human- centric discovery *Dimitrios Vitsios, 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 *Yakov Tsepilov, Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK*	
12:45	13:00	Predictive validity of evidence for drug-target selection at scale - moving beyond genetics *Remo Monti, Pheiron, Germany*	
13:00	**13:15**	**Closing remarks** **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*	*Auditorium*
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*