

Virus Genomics, Evolution and Bioinformatics

11-13 November 2026

Hybrid Conference Programme

Start (GMT)	Finish (GMT)	Presenter details	Location
Wednesday, 11 November 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 Wellcome Sanger Institute Liã Bárbara Arruda, Wellcome Sanger Institute, United Kingdom Scientific programme committee: Deogratius Ssemwanga, LSHTM and MRC-UVRI, Uganda Kate Grabowski, Johns Hopkins University, United States of America Nick Loman, University of Birmingham, United Kingdom	Auditorium
13:10	14:00	Opening keynote Chair: Nick Loman Moderator: Kate Grabowski	Auditorium
13:10	14:00	Title TBC Marion Koopmans, Erasmus University Medical Centre, Netherlands	
14:00	14:10	Comfort break	
14:10	15:55	Session 1: Animals and zoonoses Chair: Deogratius Ssemwanga Moderator: Nick Loman	Auditorium
14:10	14:40	Ecology and evolution of North American H5Nx viruses Louise Moncla, University of Pennsylvania, United States of America	
14:40	15:10	Sequencing at the Source: Moving Viral Detection into the Field Erik Karlsson, Institut Pasteur du Cambodge, Cambodia	
15:10	15:25	From Regional Epicentre to Global Panzootic: Spatiotemporal Reassortment Patterns of H5 HPAI Across Flyways at the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau James Baxter, Roslin Institute, The University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom	
15:25	15:40	Cryptic invasion and transmission dynamics of peste des petits ruminants virus across Europe Claire Guinat, INRAE, France	
15:40	15:55	Reconstructing the hidden evolutionary history of Andes virus from patchy genomic surveillance Mahan Ghafari, University Of Oxford, United Kingdom	
15:55	16:40	Refreshment break and networking	Event Space
16:25	16:40	Briefing for Session 2 speakers, chair and moderator	Auditorium
16:40	17:40	Session 2: Epidemics and outbreaks Chair: Kate Grabowski Moderator: Deogratius Ssemwanga	Auditorium
16:40	17:10	Title TBC Christophe Fraser, University of Oxford, United Kingdom	
17:10	17:25	Phylogenetic comparison of cocirculating Clade I mpox lineages in Kinshasa suggests similar transmissibility and virulence Kieran Chopra, Imperial College London, United Kingdom	
17:25	17:40	Phylogenetic reconstruction of Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever virus characterizes ecological and anthropogenic drivers across multiple centuries Ellie Bourgikos, University of Oxford, United Kingdom	
17:40	18:30	Poster pitch talks for odd number posters	Auditorium
18:30	19:30	Poster session 1 (odd number posters) and networking reception	Event Space
19:30	21:30	Dinner Bar open (card payments only)	Hinxton Hall Restaurant Graham Cameron Bar

Thursday 12 November 2026

9:15		Briefing for Session 3 speakers, chair and moderator	Auditorium
9:30	11:00	Session 3: Vaccines and treatment Chair: Deogratius Ssemwanga Moderator: Nick Loman	Auditorium
9:30	10:00	Longitudinal studies of changing susceptibility to emerging and re-emerging viruses Emily Toth Martin, University of Michigan, USA	
10:00	10:30	Understanding HIV diversity and evolution for contemporary immunogen design Thumbi Ndung'u, University of Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa	
10:30	10:45	Quantifying uncertainty in HIV-1 transmission risk from persons with low-level viremia Michael Martin, Johns Hopkins University, United States of America	
10:45	11:00	Predicting the antigenic evolution of seasonal influenza viruses by measuring phylogenetic convergence Samuel Turner, University Of Cambridge, United Kingdom	
11:00	11:45	Refreshment break and networking	Event Space
11:30		Briefing for Session 4 speakers, chair and moderator	Auditorium
11:45	13:15	Session 4: Viral metagenomics and microbiome Chair: Nick Loman Moderator: Deogratius Ssemwanga	Auditorium
11:45	12:15	Title TBC Joshua Quick, University of Birmingham, United Kingdom	
12:15	12:45	The richness of the human virome Evelien Adriaenssens, Quadram Institute Bioscience, United Kingdom	
12:45	13:00	Beyond Mpox: Metagenomic Identification of Concurrent Viral Detections in Children with Clade Ib Mpox in Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo Ashuza Shamamba Guillaume, Université Catholique De Bukavu, Congo (the Democratic Republic of the)	
13:00	13:15	Expanding the diversity and host range of the Sarthroviridae Kate Van Brussel, University Of Sydney, Australia	
13:15	14:30	Lunch and networking	Hinxton Hall Restaurant
14:15		Briefing for Session 5 speakers, chair and moderator	Auditorium
14:30	16:15	Session 5: Adaptation and evolution: virus dynamics within and between hosts Chair: Kate Grabowski Moderator: Nick Loman	Auditorium
14:30	15:00	The antigenic and genetic evolution of dengue virus Henrik Salje, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom	
15:00	15:15	Revealing the deep evolutionary history of orthohepaciviruses Jonathon Mifsud, KU Leuven, Belgium	
15:15	15:30	SARS-CoV-2 saltational events are recurrent and trace to persistent human infections Cécile Tran Kiem, Imperial College London, United Kingdom	
15:30	15:45	Beyond variant calling: phylogenetic models reveal evolutionary insights from within-host diversity JT McCrone, Fred Hutch Cancer Center, United States of America	
15:45	16:00	Compositional diversity and evolutionary dynamics of accessory proteins across the family Coronaviridae Ash Porter, Dalhousie University, Canada	
16:00	16:15	One Host, Two Lineages: Population-Scale Detection of SARS-CoV-2 Coinfections Rosario Evans Pena, University Of Oxford, United Kingdom	
16:15	16:55	Refreshment break and networking	Event Space
16:45		Briefing for Session 6 speakers, chair and moderator	Auditorium
16:55	18:10	Session 6: Bioinformatics, machine learning and AI Chair: Nick Loman Moderator: Deogratius Ssemwanga	Auditorium
16:55	17:25	AI for modeling infectious disease outbreaks Moritz Kraemer, University of Oxford, United Kingdom	

17:25	17:40	Prediction of antigenic evolution from single virus sequences using an epistasis-aware protein language model approach <i>Rubayet Alam, University Of Glasgow, United Kingdom</i>	
17:40	17:55	Quantum Approximation in Phylogenetic tree Construction <i>Yeuko Manganyi, University Of Cape Town, South Africa</i>	
17:55	18:10	How can we make better phylogenetic tree visualisations? <i>Gytis Dudas, Vilnius University, Lithuania</i>	
18:10	19:00	Poster pitch talks for even number posters	<i>Auditorium</i>
19:00	20:00	Poster session 2 (even number posters) and networking reception	<i>Event Space</i>
20:00	22:00	Dinner	<i>Hinxton Hall Restaurant</i>
20:00		Bar open (card payments only)	<i>Graham Cameron Bar</i>

Friday 13 November 2026

9:15		Briefing for Session 7 speakers, chair and moderator	<i>Auditorium</i>
9:30	10:45	Session 7: Viral genomics and public health <i>Chair: Deogratius Ssemwanga</i> <i>Moderator: Kate Grabowski</i>	<i>Auditorium</i>
9:30	10:00	Operational perspectives on genomic surveillance of viral pathogens in field settings Sophie Duraffour, Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine, Germany	
10:00	10:15	Targeted metagenomic sequencing of respiratory infections from UK healthcare workers in the SIREN study <i>Marissa Knoll, Wellcome Sanger Institute, United Kingdom</i>	
10:15	10:30	Estimating epidemic success of viral lineages from population-level wastewater surveillance data <i>Anika John, ETH Zürich, Switzerland</i>	
10:30	10:45	Evolutionary promiscuity in norovirus emergence: hidden diversity and multiple routes to persistence and spread <i>Damien Tully, London School Of Hygiene And Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom</i>	
10:45	11:30	Refreshment break and networking	<i>Event Space</i>
11:15		Briefing for keynote, chair, moderator and committee	<i>Auditorium</i>
11:30	12:20	Closing keynote <i>Chair: Kate Grabowski</i> <i>Moderator: Nick Loman</i> Title TBC Bryan Grenfell, Princeton University, United States of America	<i>Auditorium</i>
12:20	12:35	Closing remarks Scientific Programme Committee: Deogratius Ssemwanga, LSHTM and MRC-UVRI, Uganda Kate Grabowski, Johns Hopkins University, United States of America Nick Loman, University of Birmingham, United Kingdom	<i>Auditorium</i>
12:35	13:45	Lunch	<i>Hinxton Hall Restaurant</i>
13:45		Coach departure for Stansted and Heathrow airports	<i>Main entrance</i>
13:55		Coach departure for Cambridge train station and city centre	<i>Main entrance</i>