23rd Horizons in Molecular Biology

PROGRAMME · 7–10 SEPTEMBER 2026 · GÖTTINGEN, GERMANY

SCHEDULE: ACADEMIC TALKS

Monday (07.09.2026)

Talks	
08:00 – 09:00	**Registration**
09:00 – 09:30	**Opening Ceremony for Academic Talks**
09:30 – 10:00	**Judith Frydman** Stanford University *Proteostasis function and dysfunction: the machines and processes that maintain proteome health*
10:00 – 10:30	**Chao Sun** University of Aarhus *Local machinery for protein turnover at neuronal synapses*
10:30 – 10:45	**Pitch Talks**
10:45 – 11:00	**Break**
11:00 – 11:30	**Katrin Rittinger** The Francis Crick Institute *Bacterial E3 ligases: structure, mechanism and inhibition*
11:30 – 12:00	**Felix Randow** MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology *Ubiquitylation of non-protein substrates: Mechanisms and consequences*
12:00 – 12:15	**Pitch Talks**
12:15 – 13:15	**Lunch Break**
13:15 – 14:15	**Poster Session 1**
14:15 – 14:45	**Visit Donor Booths**
14:45 – 15:15	**Michael Rapé** UC Berkeley *From basic biology to new therapeutic ideas: metabolic stress signaling*
15:15 – 15:45	**Andreas Küffner** MPI-NAT Göttingen *Understanding promiscuous carboxylation for engineering advanced carbon concentrating mechanisms*
15:45 – 16:00	**Break**
16:00 – 16:30	**Nihal Terzi Çizmecioğlu** Middle East Technical University *SET'ting The Stage for Embryonic Stem Cell Lineage Commitment*
16:30 – 17:00	**Juan M. Vaquerizas** MRC Laboratory of Medical Sciences *3D genome organisation and the awakening of the genome*
18:00 – 19:45	**City Tours**
19:45 →	**BarCelona**

Tuesday (08.09.2026)

Talks	
08:30 – 09:30	**Registration**
09:30 – 10:30	**Keynote Lecture** **Bill Earnshaw** University of Edinburgh *Approaching mitotic chromosome formation from all directions*
10:30 – 11:00	**Break**
11:00 – 11:30	**Diana Laird** UC San Francisco *Aging and rejuvenation of the ovary*
11:30 – 12:00	**Friedrich Förster** Utrecht University *Molecular visualization of protein biogenesis in the cell*
12:00 – 13:00	**Lunch Break**
13:00 – 13:30	**Anne Bertolotti** MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology *Therapeutic and structural insights into the integrated stress response, a pathway of medical relevance for neurodegenerative diseases*
13:30 – 14:00	**Sumana Sharma** University of Oxford *Learning the rules of inhibition: a systematic dissection of inhibitory receptors in T cells*
14:00 – 14:30	**Student Talks**
14:30 – 15:00	**Visit Donor Booths**
15:00 – 15:30	**Group Picture & Break**
15:30 – 16:00	**Juliette Fedry** MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology *CryoET insights into ribosome collision stress responses*
16:00 – 16:30	**Elke Deuerling** University Konstanz *Essential co-translational pathways for maintaining proteome health*

Wednesday (09.09.2026)

Talks	
08:30 – 09:30	**Registration**
09:30 – 10:00	**Charles Danko** Cornell University *Transcription as a lens for interpreting genome sequence*
10:00 – 10:30	**Jumana AlHaj Abed** MPI of Immunobiology and Epigenetics *How do chromosomes communicate?*
10:30 – 10:45	**Pitch Talks**
10:45 – 11:00	**Break**
11:00 – 11:30	**Sichen (Susan) Shao** Harvard Medical School *Mechanisms of protein quality control*
11:30 – 12:00	**Sven Truckenbrodt** MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology *Molecular brain mapping: seeing the forest beyond the trees*
12:00 – 12:15	**Pitch Talks**
12:15 – 13:15	**Lunch Break**
13:15 – 13:45	**Tobias Erb** MPI of Terrestrial Microbiology *Building new biology from scratch: Re-constructing photosynthesis with new-to-nature enzymes, synthetic pathways and artificial chloroplasts*
13:45 – 14:15	**David Bednář** Masaryk University *FireProt: combining machine learning, physics, and evolution for protein stability design*
14:15 – 14:30	**Break**
14:30 – 15:00	**Randy J. Read** Cambridge Institute for Medical Research *Intersecting theory and methods in structural biology*
15:00 – 15:15	**Pitch Talks**
15:15 – 16:15	**Poster Session 2**
16:30 – 17:00	**Closing Ceremony for Academic Talks**
20:00 →	**Conference Dinner**

SCHEDULE: CAREER FAIR

Thursday (10.09.2026)

Talks		Workshops
09:00 – 09:45	**Registration**	
09:45 – 10:00	**Opening Ceremony for Career Fair**	
10:00 – 10:30	**Carlos Eduardo Lima da Cunha** Programme Manager, EU HaDEA *Biochemistry to bureaucracy: how I learned to stop worrying and love the spreadsheet*	**10:00 – 12:00** **Workshop 1** **Sarah Blackford** PhD Career Specialist *Recognizing and leveraging your transferable skills*
10:30 – 11:00	**Gerrit Altmeppen** Senior Analyst, McKinsey & Company *The Real Deal about Consulting*	
11:00 – 11:30	**Break**	
11:30 – 12:00	**Inke Näthke** UK Research Integrity Office *Research integrity in practice*	
12:00 – 13:15	**Lunch Break**	
13:15 – 14:00	**Speed Dating 1**	
14:00 – 14:30	**Visit Donor Booths**	
14:30 – 15:00	**Markus Strasser** Country Lead Rare Tumors, Merck *Translating science into patient benefit: navigating careers in pharma's commercial world*	**14:15 – 16:15** **Workshop 2** **Sarah Blackford** PhD Career Specialist *Effective self-presentation during interviews and networking*
15:00 – 15:30	**Valentina Manzini** CDx Project Coordinator, GenDx *The hidden side of precision medicine: an IVD industry perspective*	
15:30 – 15:45	**Break**	
15:45 – 16:15	**Adrian Schomburg** CEO & Founder, Eisbach Bio *Turning Molecular Biology into Medicines- and a Company*	
16:15 – 17:00	**Speed Dating 2**	
17:00 – 17:45	**Closing Ceremony**	
17:45 – 19:15	**Happy Hour**	

City tours, the conference dinner and the workshops are open to conference package holders only.