Virology Next 2026 Conference

Scientific Programme

1st and 2nd October 2026
Campus Flemingsberg, Jan-Åke Gustafsson Auditorium, Neo building

Day 1

TIME	SESSION / SPEAKER	TOPIC
08:30–09:00	REGISTRATION	
09:00–09:15	Opening Remarks **Soham Gupta & Iva Filipovic**	
SESSION 1	**VIRUS ENTRY AND TROPISM**	
09:15–10:00	KEYNOTE **Adolfo García-Sastre** *Icahn School of Medicine*	New determinants of host tropism of SARS-CoV-2 and influenza viruses
	10:00–10:30 Coffee break	
10:30–11:00	INVITED TALK **Stefan Pöhlmann** *German Primate Center*	Targeting Sec61 and Furin for Antiviral Therapy
11:00–11:30	INVITED TALK **Debby van Riel** *Erasmus MC*	Neuropathogenesis of emerging viruses: influenza A viruses and SARS-CoV-2
11:30–11:45	SELECTED TALK **Meaghan Flagg** *Umeå University*	Induction of Strong Innate Immune Response in Human Alveolar Epithelium is Correlated with Pathogenicity of Avian Influenza Viruses.
11:45–12:00	SELECTED TALK **Akhee Sabiha Jahan** *Statens Serum institut*	DNA Vaccination with Inferred Ancestral Antigens: A New Strategy Against Evolving Swine Influenza Viruses
	12:00–13:00 Lunch	
SESSION 2 · HOST–VIRUS INTERACTION		
13:00–13:30	INVITED TALK **Nerea Irigoyen** *Cambridge University*	What can ribosome profiling teach us about Zika virus?
13:30–14:00	INVITED TALK **Susana Guerra** *Universidad Autónoma de Madrid*	ISG15-mediated antiviral restriction of emerging MPXV strains
14:00–14:15	SELECTED TALK **Ana Cindrić** *Genos d.o.o.*	Immunoglobulin G glycosylation as a modulator of antiviral immunity: from acute respiratory virus infection to maternal and infant RSV immunisation.
14:15–14:30	SELECTED TALK **Mariano A Molina** *Karolinska Institutet*	Multiomics profiling reveals distinct cervicovaginal states across high-risk HPV infections.
	14:30–15:00 Coffee break	

TIME	SESSION / SPEAKER	TOPIC
SESSION 3 · ANTIVIRALS, ANTIBODIES AND VACCINES		
15:00–15:30	INVITED TALK **Isabelle Imbert** *Aix Marseille Université*	Deciphering molecular replication in RNA viruses: paving the way for new antiviral strategies
15:30–16:00	INVITED TALK **Leo Hanke** *Karolinska Institutet*	Structural basis of henipavirus fusion neutralization
16:00–16:30	INVITED TALK **Jayanta Bhattacharya** *THSTI*	Monoclonal antibodies as rapid medical countermeasures for priority pathogens
16:30-16:45	SELECTED TALK **Lara Sweetapple** *Karolinska Institutet*	A Pre-GMP mRNA–LNP Platform to Accelerate Vaccine Development in the Nordics.
16:45-17:00	SELECTED TALK **Britta Wahren** *Karolinska Institutet*	Therapeutic vaccine regimens result in reduction of viral reservoir in pediatric HIV
17:00–20:00	*Poster session + mingle + dinner*	

Day 2

09:00 – 09:45 · INAUGURATION OF CSIB

09:00 - 09:03	**Matti Sällberg** *Campus Vice President KI South, Karolinska Institutet*
09:03 - 09:13	**Ujjwal Neogi, Iva Filipovic** *Director/Co-director, Center for Systems Infection Biology, Karolinska Institutet*
09:13 - 09:16	**Maria Van Kerkhove** *Director, Department of Epidemic and Pandemic Management, World Health Organization*
09:16 - 09:19	**Sara Heelge Vikmång** *Kommunstyrelsens ordförande, Huddinge Kommun*
09:19 - 09:21	**Jonas Fuxe** *Head of Department, Department of Laboratory Medicine, Karolinska Institutet*
09:21 - 09:24	**Christian Giske** *Head of AMR and Healthcare-Associated Infection, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control*
09:24 - 09:27	**Annika Karlsson** *Division Head, Division of Clinical Microbiology, Labmed, Karolinska Institutet*
09:27 - 09:30	**Natasha Bank** *Cluster Manager, Flemingsberg Science*

TIME	SESSION / SPEAKER	TOPIC
09:45 – 10:30	KEYNOTE **Maria Van Kerkhove** *WHO*	Global pandemic preparedness
10:30–11:00	*Toast, mingle + photo*	

SESSION 4 · ZOONOTIC AND EMERGING VIRUS PREPAREDNESS		
11:00–11:30	INVITED TALK **Magnus Evander** *Umeå University*	Rift Valley Fever at the Human-Animal-Environment Interface
11:30-12:00	INVITED TALK **Jonas Klingström** *Linköping University*	Hantaviruses on the move - preparedness and possible novel treatments
12:00–12:15	SELECTED TALK **Peter Sjö** *Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi)*	Identification of Host-Directed Therapies (HDTs) to prevent dengue disease escalation.
12:15–12:30	SELECTED TALK **Léna Vandenabeele** *Karolinska Institutet*	Comparative analysis of hantavirus infection in human and natural host cells.
12:30–13:30	*Lunch*	
SESSION 5 · MUCOSAL AND CELLULAR ANTIVIRAL IMMUNITY		
13:30 – 14:00	INVITED TALK **Elena Martinelli** *Northwestern University*	Host programs shaping viral persistence and antiviral immunity in HIV/SIV: from IFN to TGF-β
14:00–14:30	INVITED TALK **Clive M. Gray** *Stellenbosch University*	The Immune Landscape of the Placenta at the Maternal: Fetal Interface: The Case of Maternal HIV and CMV Co-Infections
14:30–15:00	INVITED TALK **Asier Sáez-Cirión** *Institut Pasteur*	Resilient CD8 T cells: An alternative differentiation pathway associated with optimal response against persistent viruses
15:00–15:15	CLOSING REMARKS	