



International Conference

THE MICROBIOME THROUGHOUT LIFE

*Translating new science
into clinical practice*

19 - 21 March 2026 - Belgrade, Serbia

PROGRAM BOOK



Professional Congress Organizer
www.medical-congresses.ro

microbiometolife.com

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WELCOME LETTER

Dear Colleagues,

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the **Microbiome Throughout Life International Conference, 19-21 March 2026** in **Belgrade, Serbia!**

This year's theme, *Translating New Science into Clinical Practice*, reflects our commitment to bridging original microbiome research with real-world medical applications that improve patient care across the lifespan, from preconception through aging. The emphasis will be placed on real-world implementation, interdisciplinary collaboration and the evolving role of microbiome science in personalized and preventive medicine.

This high-level scientific event brings together a multidisciplinary community of microbiome researchers, gynecologists, neonatologists, pediatricians, gastroenterologists and industry leaders. Together, we will explore cutting-edge discoveries and their clinical applications, highlighting the essential role of the microbiome at every stage of life.

We encourage you to seize the opportunity to explore, be active and get involved with everything the Conference has to offer!

Sincerely,

The Scientific Committee



**Prof. Omry
Koren**
Bar-Ilan
University,
Israel



**Prof. Nicola
Segata**
University of
Trento,
Italy



**Prof. Liza
Konnikova**
Yale School of
Medicine,
USA



**Prof. Gianluca
Ianaro**
Universita
Cattolica del Sacro
Cuore, Italy



**Prof. Alexandra
Zhernakova**
University of
Groningen,
The Netherlands



Prof. GwangPyo Ko
Center for Human
and Environmental
Microbiome,
South Korea

PROGRAM TIMETABLE

THURSDAY, 19 MARCH

09:30 – 12:30	WORKSHOP “INTRODUCTION TO METAGENOMIC DATA ANALYSIS WITH bioBakery”
14:00 – 14:15	WELCOME ADDRESS FROM THE COMMITTEE
14:15 – 14:45	OPENING KEYNOTE LECTURE
14:45 – 15:50	SESSION 1 – THE MICROBIOME FROM PREGNANCY TO EARLY LIFE – PART 1
15:50 – 16:20	COFFEE BREAK, POSTER VIEWING, EXHIBITION AND NETWORKING
16:20 – 17:25	SESSION 2 – COMPUTATIONAL, INTEGRATIVE AND AI TOOLS FOR META-OMICS – PART 1
17:25 – 19:15	SESSION 3 – MICROBIOME, AGING AND DISEASE
19:15 – 20:30	WELCOME RECEPTION

FRIDAY, 20 MARCH

08:30 – 09:00	KEYNOTE LECTURE
09:00 – 10:15	SESSION 4 – THE GUT-BRAIN AXIS & THE ROLE OF GUT TESTING IN HUMAN DISORDERS
10:15 – 10:45	COFFEE BREAK, POSTER VIEWING, EXHIBITION AND NETWORKING
10:45 – 11:35	SESSION 5 – MICROBIOMES BEYOND BACTERIA
11:35 – 12:20	INDUSTRY SESSION BY DNA-TECHNOLOGY
12:20 – 13:30	LUNCH BREAK, POSTER VIEWING, EXHIBITION AND NETWORKING
13:30 – 15:30	SESSION 6 – THE MICROBIOME FOR CLINICIANS: HOW TO MOVE MICROBIOME INTO CLINICAL PRACTICE – PART 1
15:30 – 16:10	COFFEE BREAK, POSTER VIEWING, EXHIBITION AND NETWORKING
16:10 – 17:00	SESSION 7 – MICROBIOME FROM PREGNANCY TO EARLY LIFE – PART 2
17:00 – 18:00	SESSION 8 – OTHER MICROBIOMES IN HEALTH AND DISEASE (VAGINAL, ORAL, SKIN, ETC.)

SATURDAY, 21 MARCH

08:30 – 09:20	SESSION 9 – MICROBIOME FROM PREGNANCY TO EARLY LIFE – PART 3
09:20 – 10:00	SESSION 10 – THE HUMAN MICROBIOME AND CANCER
10:00 – 10:40	COFFEE BREAK, POSTER VIEWING, EXHIBITION AND NETWORKING
10:40 – 12:00	SESSION 11 – THE MICROBIOME FOR CLINICIANS: HOW TO MOVE MICROBIOME INTO CLINICAL PRACTICE – PART 2
12:00 – 13:00	SESSION 12 – THE MICROBIOME, THE IMMUNE SYSTEM AND THERAPEUTICS
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH BREAK, POSTER VIEWING, EXHIBITION AND NETWORKING
14:00 – 14:45	SESSION 13 – COMPUTATIONAL, INTEGRATIVE AND AI TOOLS FOR METAGENOMICS – PART 2
14:45 – 15:15	KEYNOTE LECTURE
15:15 – 15:30	CLOSING DISCUSSION WITH THE COMMITTEE

GENERAL INFORMATION

VENUE

Sava Centar Belgrade
Milentija Popovića 9, Beograd 11000, Serbia
www.savacentar.rs

REGISTRATION DESK HOURS

Thursday, 19 March	08:30 - 20:45
Friday, 20 March	08:00 - 18:10
Saturday, 21 March	08:00 - 15:45

EXHIBITION OPENING HOURS

Thursday, 19 March	14:00 - 20:30
Friday, 20 March	09:30 - 18:00
Saturday, 21 March	09:30 - 14:30

PARTICIPANTS BADGE

Upon registration, you will receive your name badge. You are kindly requested to wear your badge during all sessions and events.

WELCOME RECEPTION

All participants are invited to join the Welcome Reception, which will take place in the Exhibition & Networking Area (Atrium) from 19:15 on Thursday, 19 March.

EXHIBITION AREA

The exhibition booths are located in the Atrium.

CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE

After the last Conference Day, all delegates will receive a Certificate of Attendance via email after completing the online evaluation. All poster and oral presenters will receive a separate certificate for their presentation/s via email.

MOBILE PHONES

Mobile phones must be muted during all sessions.

WI-FI

Complimentary Wi-Fi will be available throughout the conference venue via the Sava Center network. No password is required.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND RECORDING PRIVILEGES

No photographs, video recording or audio recording is permitted in the scientific sessions unless otherwise authorized by the Scientific Committee and the Conference Organizers.

GUEST ATTENDANCE POLICY

All event activities (including meal functions, exhibition, etc.) are exclusively reserved for registered attendees. Non-registered guests (including children, family members, colleagues, etc.) are not allowed in any of the event areas. Badges provided at registration are required for entrance into all functions and will be strictly enforced.

LIABILITY AND INSURANCE

The Conference Secretariat and Organizers cannot accept liability for personal accidents or loss of or damage to private property of participants. Participants are advised not to leave their personal belongings unattended in session halls and throughout the venue.

CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT

PROevents International



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MBTL MOBILE APP

Elevate your experience at MBTL 2026 and install the Conference Mobile App on your smartphone and portable devices.

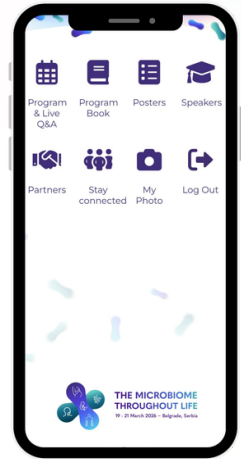
USE THE APP TO:

- See the full conference program
- Submit questions to the speakers in real time during the Session discussions
- Explore the accepted abstracts and check the posters
- Check the MBTL speakers and partners
- Join our social media games for a chance to win

HOW TO INSTALL THE APP:

Download The Event App by Events Air from Apple Store, Google Play, or use the HTML version.

1. Scan the QR code or Tap the link for your device
2. Enter the event code **"mbtl2026"**
3. To log in **type the email you used to register for the Conference** and use the password: **mbtl2026**



WIN A REGISTRATION PASS

Capture your conference experience and win a full registration pass for the 2027 edition!

The rules are simple:

Take a photo during the event and post it on LinkedIn or Facebook

Use the hashtag **#MBTL2026**

Two winners will be announced on the last day

Share your best moments from The Microbiome Throughout Life 2026 and become part of the conference story!



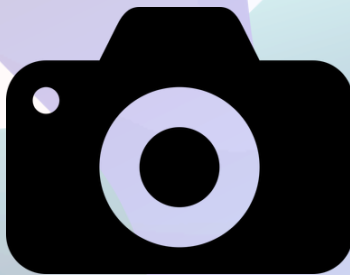
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INFORMATION FOR POSTERS

PHYSICAL POSTER PRESENTATION GUIDELINES

Participants are asked to prepare their posters in accordance with the guidelines below:

- The poster should be produced on a single sheet of cardboard, heavy paper, or fabric
- Poster dimensions must not exceed 90 cm in width and 120 cm in height.
- The upper section of the poster should display the title and authors exactly as indicated in the submitted abstract
- Text, figures, and other visual elements should be sufficiently bold and legible from approximately two meters
- Tacks and basic technical equipment for poster mounting will be provided onsite

MOUNTING/ DISMANTLING TIMES

Location: Poster Zone in the Exhibition & Networking Area (Atrium)

Poster Mounting

Thursday, 19 March 09:00 – 15:30

Friday, 20 March 07:30 – 10:00

Poster Dismantling

Saturday, 21 March 14:30 – 16:30

The organisers will not be responsible for any posters that are not dismantled until the designated hour specified above.

POSTER VIEWING & DISCUSSIONS

Location: Poster Zone in the Exhibition & Networking Area (Atrium)

The official poster discussions will take place during **breaks as indicated in the program on Friday, 20 March**. All poster presenters are kindly requested to be present at their posters during this time to engage with delegates and respond to questions.

Posters will remain on display throughout the entire Conference, and delegates are welcome to view them during scheduled breaks.

Presenters are encouraged to include their contact details (e.g., a business card) alongside their poster to facilitate follow-up questions or discussions in case they are temporarily unavailable.

POSTERS

- 1 PILOSIBACTER PROVIDES SUBSTRATE DIVERSIFICATION TO THE HUMAN GUT MICROBIOME'S BUTYRATE PRODUCING FUNCTION AS A CORE GLUTAMATE-FUELED BUTYROGENIC COMMENSAL
Aleksandar Bisenic, Institute of Molecular Genetics and Genetic Engineering, Serbia
- 2 MULTI-OMICS INTEGRATION FRAMEWORK FOR PREDICTING INCIDENT DISEASE RISK
Sneha Das, University Of Turku, Finland
- 3 PROSPECTIVE POTENTIAL OF LATENT GUT MICROBIOTA SIGNATURES
Himmi Lindgren, University Of Turku, Finland
- 4 MULTIDRUG RESISTANT BACTERIA IN PRETERM NEONATES: FROM METAGENOMES TO GENOMES
Manuel Bernabeu, Agrochemistry And Food Technology Institute (IATA-CSIC), Spain
- 5 GUT MICROBIOTA AT PRESCHOOL AGE: LINKS TO DIET, PARENT MICROBIOTA AND MATERNAL FACTORS
Nima Fouladi Gharehshiran, University Of Helsinki, Finland
- 6 EFFECT OF BIOTIC FACTORS ON THE STRESS PHYSIOLOGY AND ANTIBIOTIC SUSCEPTIBILITY OF LACTIC ACID BACTERIA ISOLATED FROM HUMAN BREAST MILK AND INFANT FAECES
Stanimira Ivanova, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Bulgaria
- 7 FROM MICROBES TO MILESTONES: GUT BACTERIAL ABUNDANCES AND FUNCTIONAL PATHWAYS ASSOCIATE WITH NEURODEVELOPMENT FOLLOWING PRETERM BIRTH
Aisling Kenny, University Of Edinburgh, United Kingdom
- 8 ISOLATION, IDENTIFICATION, AND qPCR-BASED ASSESSMENT OF LACTIC ACID BACTERIA AND BIFIDOBACTERIA FROM HUMAN BREAST MILK AND INFANT FAECES
Viliana Miteva, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Bulgaria
- 9 DIAMMOND: Mapping the Maternal Gut Microbiota–Diet Interplay Across Pregnancy
Marta Selma, Institute Of Agrochemistry And Food Technology (IATA-CSIC), Spain
- 10 GUT MICROBIOTA AND ENVIRONMENT: EXPLORING KEY FACTORS IN CHILDHOOD
Anna Valls-Verdoy, Institute Of Agrochemistry And Food Technology - Spanish National Research Council (IATA-CSIC), Spain
- 11 EVALUATION OF VAGINAL MICROBIOTA DYSBIOSIS AND DETECTION OF UROGENITAL PATHOGENS IN WOMEN FROM SKOPJE: A PCR-BASED STUDY
Marija Aleksovski, Center For Public Health Skopje, Macedonia
- 12 GUT MICROBIOME COMPOSITION AND DIVERSITY IN ME/CFS WITH REGARDS TO IBS: A METAGENOME-WIDE ASSOCIATION STUDY IN A LARGE-SCALE POPULATION COHORT
Alon Alexander, Umcg, The Netherlands

13	<p>THE AIRWAY MYCOBIOME IN COPD AND HEALTHY CONTROLS: ASSOCIATIONS WITH EOSINOPHILIA AND CORONARY HEART DISEASE</p> <p>Christina Due Svendsen, Haukeland University Hospital, Norway</p>
14	<p>GUT MICROBIOTA AND WELLBEING ACROSS THREE DUTCH COHORT STUDIES: A DISCOVERY-REPLICATION DESIGN</p> <p>Anne Geijsen, VU Amsterdam, The Netherlands</p>
15	<p>ASSOCIATIONS BETWEEN ORAL MICROBIOME AND SALIVARY INFLAMMATORY MARKERS WITH PERIODONTITIS SEVERITY IN A GENERAL POPULATION OF 70-YEAR-OLDS IN NORWAY: THE HORDALAND ORAL HEALTH STUDY (HUSK-T)</p> <p>Tuva Norderud Jensen, Oral Health Centre of Expertise in Western Norway, Norway</p>
16	<p>GUT MICROBIOTA-DERIVED EXTRACELLULAR VESICLES IN PARKINSON'S DISEASE</p> <p>Sonja Karikka, University Of Oulu, Finland</p>
17	<p>LIFESTYLE ASSOCIATES WITH UNIQUE RESISTOME AND MICROBIOME SIGNATURES IN CHILDREN</p> <p>Hendrik Dühr, University Medical Center Groningen, The Netherlands</p>
18	<p>THE GUT MICROBIOME IN LYNCH SYNDROME IS DISTINCT FROM THE GENERAL POPULATION</p> <p>Iwan Hidding, Umcg, The Netherlands</p>
19	<p>CONNECTING INTESTINAL PERMEABILITY AND THE GUT MICROBIOME IN CIRRHOSIS: THE ROLE OF PHASCOLARCTOBACTERIUM IN MAINTAINING SUCCINATE HOMEOSTASIS</p> <p>Rosa Haller, Cbmed, Austria</p>
20	<p>UNRAVELING THE PROGESTERONE-MICROBIOTA AXIS: SEX-SPECIFIC EFFECTS ON WEIGHT AND METABOLISM</p> <p>Soha Zgairy, Bar-Ilan University, Israel</p>
21	<p>DEVELOPMENT OF A MINIATURIZED 24-WELL FERMENTATION PLATFORM FOR HIGH-THROUGHPUT IN VITRO STUDIES OF THE HUMAN GUT MICROBIOTA</p> <p>Simon De Jaeger, University Of Siena, Italy</p>
22	<p>EXPLORING THE ROLE OF MICROBIOTA IN AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER: INSIGHTS FROM A SERBIAN COHORT OF 200 INDIVIDUALS</p> <p>Marija Mihailovic, Institute of Molecular Genetics and Genetic Engineering, Serbia</p>
23	<p>16S NANOPORE SEQUENCING REVEALS RECIPROCAL DYNAMICS BETWEEN LACTOBACILLUS AND GARDNERELLA IN THE VAGINAL MICROBIOME</p> <p>Ivana Ćuruvija, The Institute of Virology, Vaccines, and Sera "Torlak", Serbia</p>
24	<p>THE GUT-SKIN AXIS-WHY MICROBIOTA MATTERS IN CHRONIC ECZEMA</p> <p>Daniela Motoran, Cmi Motoran Daniela, Romania</p>

25	OPTIMIZATION OF SALIVA-BASED MICROBIAL DNA EXTRACTION FOR ORAL MICROBIOME PROFILING IN POLYCYSTIC OVARY SYNDROME Selvasankar Murugesan , Sidra Medicine, Qatar
26	NANOPORE SEQUENCING IDENTIFIES STREPTOCOCCUS-LINKED DISTURBANCE OF LACTOBACILLUS DOMINANCE WITHIN THE VAGINAL MICROBIOTA Ivana Prijić , Institute of Virology, Vaccines and Sera "Torlak", Serbia
27	APPENDICEAL MICROBIOME IN RECURRENT APPENDICITIS Vilhelm Suksi , Department Of Computing, University Of Turku, Finland
28	PERI-IMPLANT DISEASE PROGRESSION IS DRIVEN BY HOST-RESPONSE DYSREGULATION RATHER THAN MICROBIAL SHIFTS: A MULTI-OMIC CLINICAL STUDY Allinson Olaechea , University Of Granada, Spain
29	MICROBIOME MODULATION AND FECAL MICROBIOTA TRANSPLANTATION IN ALOPECIA AREATA: PROTOCOL DESIGN FOR ORAL FMT CAPSULES Tea Rosović , Poliklinika Grandmed, Croatia
30	COLONIC BIOPSY-ASSOCIATED MICROBIAL SIGNATURES ARE PREDICTIVE OF RESPONSE TO ANTI-TNFA BIOLOGICAL THERAPY IN CROHN'S DISEASE Wouter De Jonge , Amsterdam UMC, The Netherlands
31	PROBIOTIC INTERVENTION INDUCES SUBTLE BENEFICIAL MICROBIAL SHIFTS AND INFLAMMATORY PROFILE IMPROVEMENTS IN POST-COVID INDIVIDUALS Ana Bačić , Innovation Centre, Faculty Of Technology And Metallurgy, University Of Belgrade, Serbia
32	EVALUATION OF AN EVIDENCE-BASED MULTISPECIES PROBIOTIC FOR MITIGATING PROTON PUMP INHIBITOR-INDUCED ORALIZATION Angela Horvath , Cbmed, Austria
33	ANTIDEPRESSANT EFFECTS OF A PHOCAEICOLA VULGATUS NGB218 POSTBIOTIC IN A RAT MODEL OF DEPRESSION Hristina Mitrovic , Institute Of Molecular Genetics And Genetic Engineering, Serbia
34	MICROEUKARYOTES AND THE IMMUNE SYSTEM: MICROBIAL SENTINEL CELLS DELIVERED AT BIRTH David Smith , Independent, United Kingdom
35	NUTRACEUTICALS, PHYTONUTRIENTS, AND OTHER NON-PHARMACOLOGICAL MICROBIOTA MEDIATED TREATMENT OPTIONS: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS Nitida Pastor , MJN, Spain
36	A CASE STUDY ON THE IMPACT OF INNOVATIVE PROBIOTIC DRINK SUPPLEMENTATION IN ADULTS WITH TYPE II DIABETES MELLITUS Milica Živković , Imgge, Serbia

WORKSHOP

Part of the scientific program of this year's World of Microbiome Conference is a not-to-miss workshop. Access to the workshop is available only to preregistered participants.

THURSDAY, 19 MARCH

09:30 – 12:30

WORKSHOP "INTRODUCTION TO METAGENOMIC DATA ANALYSIS WITH bioBakery"
Plenary Hall (Amphitheater)

Instructors:

Aitor Blanco-Míguez, Coordinator Microbiome Bioinformatic Core, Prebiotics, Italy

Francesco Asnicar, Tenure-track researcher, Department CIBIO, University of Trento, Italy

Riccardo Vanini, PhD student in Biomolecular Sciences, Department CIBIO, University of Trento, Italy

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

THURSDAY, 19 MARCH

14:00 – 14:15 WELCOME ADDRESS FROM THE COMMITTEE
Plenary Hall (Amphitheater)

14:15 – 14:45 OPENING KEYNOTE LECTURE
Plenary Hall (Amphitheater)
Chair: Michael Silverman, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, USA

A seeding reaction to colonizing microbes early in life
Petter Brodin, Imperial College London, UK

14:45 – 15:50 SESSION 1 – THE MICROBIOME FROM PREGNANCY TO EARLY LIFE – PART 1
Plenary Hall (Amphitheater)
Chair: **Alexandra Zhernakova**, University Medical Center Groningen, The Netherlands

14:45 – 15:00 The gut microbiome in the first 1000 days of life
Omry Koren, Bar-Ilan University, Israel

15:00 – 15:15 Leveraging early-life microbes to prevent autoimmune diabetes
Michael Silverman, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, USA

15:15 – 15:25 Mom Matters: Maternal influences on infant gut microbiome and health in 714 mother-infant pairs in the Lifelines NEXT cohort
Trishla Sinha, University of Groningen, The Netherlands

15:35 – 15:50 Panel Discussion

15:50 – 16:20 COFFEE BREAK, POSTER VIEWING, EXHIBITION AND NETWORKING
Exhibition & Networking Area (Atrium)

16:20 – 17:25

SESSION 2 – COMPUTATIONAL, INTEGRATIVE AND AI TOOLS FOR METAGENOMICS – PART 1

Plenary Hall (Amphitheater)

Chair: **Liviana Ricci**, Cibio, University of Trento, Italy

16:20 – 16:35

The transmission landscape of the human microbiome: a One Health perspective
Mireia Valles Colomer, University Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain

16:35 – 16:50

Decoding diet-microbiome interactions using data science and ex vivo models
Mani Arumugam, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

16:50 – 17:00

Digital biology in microbiome innovation
Henrik Bjørn Nielsen, Cmbio, Denmark

17:00 – 17:10

Microbial virulence landscapes of the infant gut across birth modes and locations
Valeriia Ivanova, Bar Ilan University, Israel

17:10 – 17:25

Panel Discussion

17:25 – 19:15

SESSION 3 – MICROBIOME, AGING AND DISEASE

Plenary Hall (Amphitheater)

Chair: **Mirjana Rajlić-Stojanović**, University of Belgrade, Serbia

17:25 – 17:40

Gut microbiome associations with diet and cardiometabolic health
Francesco Asnicar, University of Trento, Italy

17:40 – 17:55

Strain- and genetic-level resolved microbial roles in human health and biological aging
Jingyuan Fu, University of Groningen, The Netherlands

17:55 – 18:05

Meta-analysis of ischemic stroke microbiota identifies cross-cohort microbial signatures predictive of outcome
Adam Sorbie, LMU University Hospital, Germany

18:05 – 18:15

Strain-specific neuroprotection by human gut bacteria: *blautia fusiformis* and *ruminococcoides intestinalis* extend lifespan and preserve cognition in *C. elegans* neurodegeneration models via distinct molecular programs
Stefan Jakovljevic, Institute Of Molecular Genetics And Genetic Engineering, Belgrade, Serbia

18:15 – 18:25

Full-length 16S rRNA sequencing of fecal samples reveals distinct gut microbiome signatures in Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease
Simon De Jaeger, University Of Siena, Italy

18:25 – 18:35

Age-associated remodelling of the human gut microbiome: insights from a meta-analysis of public metagenomic datasets
Dusan Radojevic, University of Belgrade, Serbia

18:35 – 18:45	Exploring Early Life Microbiome Signatures in a Malawian Infant Cohort Leon Mijic , University of Birmingham, United Kingdom
18:45 – 18:55	Deciphering gut bacteria-regulated pathways of longevity in <i>Caenorhabditis elegans</i> Miroslav Dinic , University of Belgrade, Serbia
18:55 – 19:15	Panel Discussion
19:15 – 20:30	WELCOME RECEPTION <i>Exhibition & Networking Area (Atrium)</i>

FRIDAY, 20 MARCH

08:30 – 09:00	KEYNOTE LECTURE <i>Plenary Hall (Amphitheater)</i> Chair: Rochellys Diaz Hejtz , Karolinska Institutet, Sweden Gut feelings: The microbiome as a key regulator of brain & behaviour across the lifespan John F. Cryan , University College Cork, Ireland
09:00 – 10:15	SESSION 4 – THE GUT-BRAIN AXIS & THE ROLE OF GUT TESTING IN HUMAN DISORDERS <i>Plenary Hall (Amphitheater)</i> Chair: John F. Cryan , University College Cork Ireland
09:00 – 09:15	Peptidoglycan messengers from birth to aging: shaping brain development, function, and behavior Rochellys Diaz Hejtz , Karolinska Institutet, Sweden
09:15 – 09:30	The gut microbiome for prediction of disease development or drug response Rinse Weersma , University of Groningen, The Netherlands
09:30 – 09:45	Potential Uses of Gut Microbiome Testing Tim Spector , King's College London, UK
09:45 – 09:55	Gut microbiota in children with neurodevelopmental disorders Ekaterina Voroshilina , DNA – Technology
09:55 – 10:15	Panel Discussion
10:15 – 10:45	COFFEE BREAK, POSTER VIEWING, EXHIBITION AND NETWORKING <i>Exhibition & Networking Area (Atrium)</i>

10:45 – 11:35

SESSION 5 – MICROBIOMES BEYOND BACTERIA

Plenary Hall (Amphitheater)

Chair: **Alexandra Zhernakova**, University Medical Center Groningen, The Netherlands

10:45 – 11:00

We need to talk about the virome
Colin Hill, University College Cork, Ireland

11:00 – 11:10

Maternal gut mycobiota-derived fungal extracellular vesicles in fetal environment
Anna Kaisanlahti, University of Oulu, Finland

11:10 – 11:20

A five-year longitudinal study reveals population-dependent phage dynamics and high turnover rates in the human gut
Yishay Pinto, Bar-Ilan University, Israel

11:20 – 11:35

Panel Discussion

11:35 – 12:20

INDUSTRY SESSION BY DNA-TECHNOLOGY

Plenary Hall (Amphitheater)

Chair: **Alexandra Zhernakova**, University Medical Center Groningen, The Netherlands

How Molecular Testing Can Improve Vaginal Microbiome Evaluation in Women's Health

Ekaterina Voroshilina, DNA – Technology

12:20 – 13:30

LUNCH BREAK, POSTER VIEWING, EXHIBITION AND NETWORKING

Exhibition & Networking Area (Atrium)

13:30 – 15:30

SESSION 6 – THE MICROBIOME FOR CLINICIANS: HOW TO MOVE MICROBIOME INTO CLINICAL PRACTICE – PART 1

Plenary Hall (Amphitheater)

Chair: **Gianluca Ianiro**, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Rome, Italy

13:30 – 13:45

The opportunities of exploiting gut microbiome in clinical practice
Gianluca Ianiro, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Rome, Italy

13:45 – 14:00

Gut microbes as medicine? From preclinical mechanisms to clinical application
Patrice Cani, University of Louvain, Brussels, Belgium

14:00 – 14:10

Bloating and microbiota: therapeutic options
Dan L. Dumitrașcu, Iuliu Hațieganu University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Romania

14:10 – 14:20

Influence of nutrition to gut microbiome and gastrointestinal and liver diseases
Vladimir Miliivojevic, School of Medicine, Belgrade University, Serbia

14:20 – 14:30

Turku clinical microbiome bank, TCMB
Eveliina Munukka, Turku University Hospital, Finland

14:30 – 14:40	Evolution of the peri-implant microbiome and its relationship with long-term marginal bone stability: A randomized clinical study Pablo Galindo-Moreno , University of Granada, Spain
14:40 – 14:50	Modulating the microbiota: a systematic review of probiotics as adjunctive therapy for gastroesophageal reflux disease Abdulahman Ismaiel , University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Cluj-Napoca, Romania
14:50 – 15:00	Standardized probiotic supplementation shows favourable trends in reducing Incidence of necrotizing enterocolitis and mortality in very preterm infants: a retrospective cohort study Marijana Vidmar Šimic , University Medical Centre Ljubljana, Slovenia
15:00 – 15:30	Panel Discussion
15:30 – 16:10	COFFEE BREAK, POSTER VIEWING, EXHIBITION AND NETWORKING <i>Exhibition & Networking Area (Atrium)</i>
16:10 – 17:00	SESSION 7 – MICROBIOME FROM PREGNANCY TO EARLY LIFE – PART 2 <i>Plenary Hall (Amphitheater)</i> Chair: Michael Silverman , Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, USA
16:10 – 16:25	Are we missing half of the picture? The early life virome Alexandra Zhernakova , University Medical Center Groningen, The Netherlands
16:25 – 16:35	Early-life exposures and functional maturation trajectories of the infant gut microbiome: Insights from a longitudinal meta-analysis Maxime Naour , Nantes Université, France
16:35 – 16:45	Gut Plasmidome Composition and Plasmid-Encoded Gene Functions During Pregnancy and the Postpartum Period in Mothers From the Lifelines NEXT Cohort Sergio George , University of Groningen, The Netherlands
16:45 – 16:55	Microbial strain transmission between infants in the nursery drives gut microbiome development Liviana Ricci , Cibio, University of Trento, Italy
16:55 – 17:00	Panel Discussion
17:10 – 17:50	SESSION 8 – OTHER MICROBIOMES IN HEALTH AND DISEASE (VAGINAL, ORAL, SKIN, ETC.) <i>Plenary Hall (Amphitheater)</i> Chair: Patrice Cani , UCLouvain, Belgium
17:10 – 17:20	Changes in the oral microbiome and systemic inflammatory biomarkers one year after periodontal therapy: bergen oral intervention study Randi J Bertelsen , Oral Health Center of Expertise in Western Norway, Norway

17:20 – 17:30 Integrated salivary microbiome and proteome profiling uncovers functional diversity linked to obesity among Qataris
Selvasankar Murugesan, Reproductive and Perinatal Health Division, Sidra Medicine, Doha, Qatar

17:30 – 17:50 Panel Discussion

SATURDAY, 21 MARCH

08:30 – 09:20 **SESSION 9 – MICROBIOME FROM PREGNANCY TO EARLY LIFE – PART 3**
Plenary Hall (Amphitheater)
Chair: Nicola Segata, University of Trento, Italy

08:30 – 08:45 Maternally derived microbial metabolites and the fetal immune system
Liza Konnikova, Yale University School of Medicine, USA

08:45 – 09:00 What Shapes the Early-Life Microbiota, Resistome and Phageome?: Insights from MAMI cohort
Maria Carmen Collado, Institute of Agrochemistry and Food Technology-National Research Council (IATA-CSIC), Spain

09:00 – 09:20 Panel discussion

09:20 – 10:00 **SESSION 10 – THE HUMAN MICROBIOME AND CANCER**
Plenary Hall (Amphitheater)
Chair: **Dino Tarabar**, University Hospital Center Dr Dragiša Mišević, Serbia

09:20 – 09:32 Gut microbiota mediates the impact of oral iron therapy on colorectal cancer progression in ApcMin/+ mice
Manuela M Santos, CRCHUM Montréal, Canada

09:32 – 09:44 Anastomotic response microbial subtypes (ARMS) predict anastomotic leakage after colorectal cancer surgery
Jonge Wouter, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

09:44 – 10:00 Panel Discussion

10:00 – 10:40 **COFFEE BREAK, POSTER VIEWING, EXHIBITION AND NETWORKING**
Exhibition & Networking Area (Atrium)

10:40 – 12:00

SESSION 11 – THE MICROBIOME FOR CLINICIANS: HOW TO MOVE MICROBIOME INTO CLINICAL PRACTICE – PART 2

Plenary Hall (Amphitheater)

Chair: **Miodrag Krstic**, University of Belgrade, Serbia

10:40 – 10:52

Gut microbiota in endometriosis – screening or treatment?

Elvira Brătîlă, Alexandra Bausic, Carol Davila University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Romania

10:52 – 11:04

Microbiome and obesity: the hidden connection

Gerasim Temelkov, Director of a private gastroenterology and longevity practice, Bulgaria

11:04 – 11:16

Oral administration of *Lactobacillus crispatus* in pregnant women colonized with GBS: preliminary results

Radu Vlădăreanu, Mihaela Boț, Carol Davila University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Romania

11:16 – 11:28

When Hormones Meet the Microbiome...

Dejana Milojević, MediGroup, Serbia

11:28 – 11:40

Fertility, Pregnancy, Obesity: One Axis, One Microbiome

Desimira Mironova, Bulgarian Association of reproductive and metabolic disease, Bulgaria

11:40 – 12:00

Panel Discussion

12:00 – 13:00

SESSION 12 – THE MICROBIOME, THE IMMUNE SYSTEM AND THERAPEUTICS

Plenary Hall (Amphitheater)

Chair: **Liza Konnikova**, Yale University School of Medicine, USA

12:00 – 12:10

Beyond the Drug: The “Mediterranean Code”—Microbiome, Immunity, and Clinical translation

Nitida Pastor Perez, Mead Johnson Nutrition, Spain

12:10 – 12:20

Optogenetics-integrated gut organ culture system connects enteric neurons dynamics and gut homeostasis

Nissan Yissachar, Bar-Ilan University, Israel

12:20 – 12:30

Opsonisation of vaginal microbiota in women at high-risk of delivering preterm

Belen Gimeno Molina, Imperial College London, United Kingdom

12:30 – 12:40

Aggression: a gut reaction? The cross-generational effects of gut microbiome manipulation on aggression

Sondra Turjeman, Bar-Ilan University, Israel

12:40 – 13:00

Panel discussion

13:00 – 14:00

LUNCH BREAK, POSTER VIEWING, EXHIBITION AND NETWORKING
Exhibition & Networking Area (Atrium)

14:00 – 14:45

SESSION 13 – COMPUTATIONAL, INTEGRATIVE AND AI TOOLS FOR META-OMICS – PART 2
Plenary Hall (Amphitheater)
Chair: Francesco Asnicar, University of Trento, Italy

14:00 – 14:10

Unravelling the role of gut microbial proteases genes in inflammatory bowel disease: a cross-species metagenomic study
Riccardo Vanini, CIBIO, University of Trento, Italy

14:10 – 14:20

Unravelling the BGC-ome of the human gut prokaryome: a comprehensive mining of biosynthetic gene clusters in a northern Netherlands human cohort
Cristian D Grisales-Vargas, University Medical Center Groningen, The Netherlands

14:20 – 14:30

Translating microbiome research into clinical decision support
Mattia Bolzan, PreBiomics, Italy

14:30 – 14:45

Panel discussion

14:45 – 15:15

KEYNOTE LECTURE
Plenary Hall (Amphitheater)
Chair: **Liza Konnikova**, Yale University School of Medicine, USA

Human-to-human microbiome transmission: from research to clinical applications
Nicola Segata, University of Trento, Italy

15:15 – 15:30

CLOSING DISCUSSION WITH THE COMMITTEE
Plenary Hall (Amphitheater)

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«DNA-Technology» – The leader company in PCR Equipment and kits manufacturing. Founded in 1993, the company combines the expertise of top level specialists from microbiology and engineering areas. For over 30 years, DNA-Technology has been developing and manufacturing full-cycle PCR diagnostic solutions that meet international standards (ISO 13485:2016, CE IVD, ANVISA, etc.). Our portfolio includes: Real-time PCR instruments - DT-Series and comon PCR-equipment; Robotic workstation for lab PCR automation; Innovative reproductive tract microbiome tests (Femoflor®, Androflor®); Unique pediatric gut microbiome analysis (ENTEROFLOLOR KIDDY kit, ages 1-14); Genetic testing (BRCA, hemostasis, HLA II); NIPT (fetal Rh factor, gender detection); Bacterial screening & antibiotic resistance (BacScreen, BacResista); Newborn SMA screening; NGS solutions. We don't just supply equipment and reagents – we deliver world-class & high-end diagnostic solutions.

PreBiomics

<https://www.prebiomics.com/>



PreBiomics is an Italian biotechnology company specializing in microbiome research and advanced metagenomics technologies. The company develops innovative tools and services that enable high-resolution analysis of microbial communities, with a particular focus on the oral microbiome. By combining next-generation sequencing, bioinformatics, and artificial intelligence, PreBiomics helps researchers and clinicians better understand the role of microbiota in human health and disease. Its solutions support applications in diagnostics, prevention, and personalized medicine, enabling new strategies for managing oral and systemic conditions. Through research collaborations and advanced laboratory infrastructure, PreBiomics contributes to the development of precision health approaches based on microbiome science.

Cmbio

<https://cmbio.io/>



Cmbio is a global research partner specializing in microbiome science and integrated multi-omics technologies. Formed through the combination of several leading microbiome and metabolomics organizations, the company provides advanced laboratory services, bioinformatics, and data science solutions for researchers and industry partners. Cmbio supports studies across human, animal, and environmental health by offering metagenomics, metabolomics, transcriptomics, and other omics technologies. With laboratories and teams across Europe and North America, the company helps scientists generate high-quality microbiome data and translate complex biological information into meaningful insights. Its integrated platforms enable innovation in healthcare, nutrition, agriculture, and sustainability.

MediGroup

<https://mideuropa.com/portfolio/medigroup/>



MediGroup is the leading private healthcare provider in Serbia, operating a network of hospitals, clinics, laboratories, and specialized medical centers across the country. The group provides a broad range of medical services, including inpatient and outpatient care, laboratory diagnostics, fertility treatment, ophthalmology, and aesthetic medicine. MediGroup serves more than one million patients annually and continues to expand through investment in modern medical facilities, digital healthcare services, and professional development. As part of a broader regional healthcare network, the organization aims to improve access to high-quality medical care while introducing innovative treatment methods and advanced diagnostic technologies.

Mendes SA

<https://mendes-swiss.ch/en/>



Mendes SA is a Swiss life sciences company dedicated to the development of scientifically validated probiotic formulations. Founded in 2012, the company focuses on research, formulation, and distribution of probiotic products designed to support health and wellbeing. Its products are developed using specific bacterial strains with proven safety and efficacy, supported by experimental and clinical studies. Mendes' work spans several therapeutic areas, including gastroenterology, liver disease, gynecology, and immune health. By combining microbiome research with advanced probiotic technologies, the company aims to contribute to new preventive and therapeutic strategies that promote a balanced microbiota and improved health outcomes.

OxyBiotis



OxyBiotis is a Swiss life sciences company focused on the development, consulting, and commercialization of products in the pharmaceutical, nutritional, and dietetic sectors. Founded in 2022 and based in Jouxens-Mézery, Switzerland, the company works across multiple areas of health innovation, including the development and distribution of products related to nutrition, health, and biotechnology. OxyBiotis collaborates with partners and organizations to support the creation and market introduction of novel health solutions, particularly in the fields of dietary supplements and health-related technologies. Through research partnerships and commercial activities, the company aims to contribute to innovation in preventive healthcare and wellness solutions.

Mead Johnson Nutrition

<https://www.meadjohnson.com/>



For over 120 years, Mead Johnson Nutrition has been leading breakthrough innovations in pediatric nutrition. With the mission to provide the best start for a healthier life, we are present in over 60 countries and offer more than 70 products, including our iconic brands Enfamil and Nutramigen. As part of Mead Johnson Nutrition, the Mead Johnson Nutrition Institute is dedicated to nutrition research and education, supporting healthcare professionals worldwide with credible and practice-relevant science. To explore more, visit us at MJNI.com.

Aqualab Laboratories

<https://aqualab.rs/en>



Aqualab Laboratories is one of the largest private laboratory diagnostic networks in the Western Balkans. Founded in 2002, the company provides a comprehensive range of laboratory tests across multiple medical disciplines, including biochemistry, microbiology, genetics, and histopathology. Its network of laboratories spans numerous cities across Serbia and the region, serving millions of patients annually. Aqualab works in partnership with international laboratory networks and employs advanced diagnostic technologies to ensure accurate and reliable test results. Through continuous investment in equipment, digital systems, and professional expertise, the company supports modern clinical diagnostics and preventive healthcare.

Save Health

<https://www.savehealth.rs/>



Save Health is a pharmaceutical and healthcare company focused on promoting health through innovative products and medical education. Established in 2018, the company works to introduce modern therapeutic and preventive solutions to the regional market. Its activities include the distribution and promotion of high-quality healthcare products, including probiotics and other health-supporting formulations. Save Health collaborates with healthcare professionals and industry partners to ensure access to scientifically supported products and up-to-date medical knowledge. Through educational initiatives and partnerships with international manufacturers, the company aims to improve awareness and provide safe, effective solutions that support public health and patient wellbeing.

Biotek Solutions

<https://biotek.com.mk>



Biotek Solutions is a regional provider of laboratory diagnostics, medical equipment, and life science solutions based in North Macedonia. Founded in 1999, the company operates a clinical laboratory offering services in biochemistry, immunology, microbiology, and molecular diagnostics. In addition to laboratory services, Biotek distributes advanced diagnostic technologies and supports healthcare institutions and research laboratories across the region. Through partnerships with international manufacturers and continuous investment in modern technologies, the company aims to improve diagnostic accuracy and laboratory efficiency. Biotek's work supports clinical medicine, biomedical research, and the implementation of advanced molecular diagnostic approaches.

RIDACOM

<https://ridacom.com/en>



RIDACOM is a biotechnology and life sciences company based in Sofia, Bulgaria, specializing in products and solutions for molecular diagnostics, genomics, microbiology, and precision medicine. The company supplies research laboratories, clinical facilities, and biotech organizations with diagnostic kits, reagents, sequencing technologies, and laboratory equipment. RIDACOM also collaborates with international partners to introduce advanced genomic technologies and next-generation sequencing solutions to regional markets. By supporting scientists and clinicians with innovative tools and technical expertise, the company contributes to advances in clinical diagnostics, microbiome research, and biomedical innovation.

Adexilis

<https://adexilis.com/>



Adexilis is a Swiss-based life sciences company providing regional representation, commercialization, and strategic support for innovative healthcare products across Central and Eastern Europe. Founded in 2015, the company partners with pharmaceutical and biotechnology firms to bring new therapies, medical devices, and health technologies to regional markets. Adexilis offers services including market access, regulatory support, sales and distribution, and biopartnering initiatives. With operations in multiple countries, the company focuses on several therapeutic areas such as gastroenterology, women's health, oncology, and specialty pharmaceuticals, helping innovators successfully introduce new medical solutions to patients and healthcare systems.

Macrogen Europe

<https://www.macrogen-europe.com/>



Macrogen Europe is a biotechnology company specializing in genomic sequencing and advanced molecular analysis services. Established in 2008 and headquartered in Amsterdam, the company provides high-quality DNA sequencing, next-generation sequencing (NGS), and bioinformatics solutions for researchers and healthcare organizations across Europe and Africa.

GETTING AROUND IN BELGRADE

Belgrade is the capital and largest city of Serbia, located at the strategic confluence of the Sava and Danube rivers in the central Balkans. While today, it is a modern, cosmopolitan metropolis known for its vibrant cultural scene, dynamic nightlife and ongoing urban development, its' history dates back to prehistoric times, being continuously inhabited for millennia and served as an important crossroads between East and West.

The city has been shaped by successive Roman, Byzantine, Ottoman and Austro-Hungarian influences, which are still visible in its diverse architectural and cultural landscape. Stari Grad, the Old Town, features remnants of medieval walls, Ottoman-style buildings, and 19th-century urban planning, centered around the historic Kalemegdan Fortress.

ACCESSIBILITY

Belgrade Nikola Tesla Airport is the city's main international gateway, located approximately 20 minutes by car from the city center and around 15 minutes from Sava Center. The airport is well connected to the city by taxi, bus, and shuttle services. Belgrade has an extensive public transportation network, including buses, trams, and trolleybuses. At the moment, public transportation in Belgrade is free.

HIGHLIGHTS

Kalemegdan Fortress & Park: Kalemegdan Fortress is one of the most historically significant sites in Belgrade. Dating back to the Roman period, the fortress has been expanded and reconstructed by Byzantines, Ottomans and Austro-Hungarians over the centuries. It served as a key military stronghold due to its elevated position and panoramic views of the surrounding area. Today, the site also includes Kalemegdan Park, a public green space that features monuments, museums, galleries, and walking paths

Saint Sava Temple: The Church of Saint Sava is one of the largest Orthodox Christian churches in the world and a major religious and architectural landmark of Serbia. Constructed on the presumed site where the remains of Saint Sava - the founder of the Serbian Orthodox Church - were burned by the Ottoman authorities in the 16th century, the church symbolizes national identity and spiritual resilience. Its construction began in 1935 and has continued for decades, with a richly decorated interior featuring golden mosaics and a vast central dome inspired by Byzantine architecture. The church remains an active place of worship and a prominent cultural symbol of modern Serbia.

Skadarlija Street: Belgrade's historic bohemian quarter, often referred to as the city's artistic heart, is located in the old town, this cobblestone street has preserved the atmosphere of late 19th and early 20th-century Serbia. It was once home to poets, writers, and artists and today hosts traditional Serbian taverns (kafanas) that maintain the spirit of that era through live folk music, authentic cuisine, and decor.

Ada Ciganlija: Originally an island on the Sava River and now a river peninsula, it is one of Belgrade's most popular recreational areas. Known colloquially as "Belgrade's Sea," it features a large artificial lake with developed beaches, sports facilities, cycling paths and leisure zones. Its transformation into a public park began in the mid-20th century, and it now attracts thousands of visitors.

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