EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF MYCOBACTERIOLOGY

46TH ANNUAL CONGRESS

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, VERONA

22-25 JUNE 2026

ONLINE RESOURCES

Registered delegates can access online delegate resources, including interactive programme, delegate list, abstracts and poster listing via their online registration portal.
https://www5.shocklogic.com/sl/c91c578

PROGRAMME

Monday 22 June

13:00-14:00	**Registration and welcome coffee**
14:00-15:00	**Workshop: Gender, sex and tuberculosis** Chairs: **Troels Lillebaek, Richard Anthony** 14:00 **Bianca Schneider,** *Research Center Borstel* Sex differences in Immunity: the case of tuberculosis 14:20 **William Bishai,** *John Hopkins University, Baltimore* Understanding the sex differences in TB disease: revelations from the FCG mouse model 14:40 **Ole Skouvig Pedersen,** *Aarhus University* Sex differences in risk factors for unsuccessful tuberculosis treatment outcomes in Eastern Europe from 2020 to 2022: a multi-country retrospective cohort study
15:00-15:45	**Industry sponsored Symposium: Copan** Chairs: **Cristiano Sabelli,** *Copan, Italy*; **Daniela Maria Cirillo** 15:00 **Renée Codsi,** *University of Washington, USA*; **Sirje Sasi,** *North Estonia Medical Centre, Estonia* From Past to Future in TB Pre Analytics: Driving Innovation While Preserving Standard Workflows
15:45-16:30	**Industry sponsored Symposium: Vircell** Chairs: 15:45 **TBC**
16:30-17:00	**Coffee Break**

17:00-19:15	**Opening Session** Chairs: **Troels Lillebaek, Daniela Maria Cirillo** 17:00 Welcome words, ESM and Congress Presidents **Troels Lillebaek** – *President of European Society of Mycobacteriology ESM* **Daniela Maria Cirillo** – *Chair of ESM 2026* **Opening Keynote** 17:15 **Lorenzo Guglielmetti,** *IRCCS Sacro Cuore Don Calabria Hospital, Negrar di Valpolicella* **GL01:** New TB regimens: killing bugs or treating people? **Gertrud Meissner Award presented by S. Niemann** 18:00 **Margo Diricks,** *Research Center Borstel* Decoding non tuberculous mycobacteria : From environmental reservoirs to Clinical relevance **GL02 Gardner Middlebrook Award** 18:25 **Bouke de Jong,** *Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp*
19:15-21:00	**Networking drinks and light dinner snacks** Chamber of Commerce

Tuesday 23 June

08:00-08:30	**Registration**
08:30-10:00	**Session 1: Molecular Biology and Mycobacterial Evolution** Exploring the molecular underpinnings of mycobacterial evolution, this session connects genetic diversity, functional biology, and host-pathogen interaction to inform future TB research and innovation Chairs: **Mireia Coscolla, Sébastien Gagneux** 08:30 **Christophe Sola,** *Université Paris-Saclay IAME (INSERM-Université Paris-Cité, Université Sorbonne Paris-Nord)* **GL03:** An Interdisciplinary Approach to Tuberculosis Evolutionary History 09:00 **Paula Ruiz Rodriguez,** *University of Valencia* **OR01:** Complementary gene loss and sequence diversification shape host adaptation in the Mycobacterium tuberculosis complex 09:15 **Mireia Coscolla,** *University of Valencia* **OR02:** Structural remodeling in a closed pangenome shapes evolution in the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex 09:30 **Alina Minias,** *Institute of Medical Biology Polish Academy of Sciences* **OR03:** Evolutionary patterns guiding identification of druggable and resistance-linked sites in *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* 09:45 **Luke Harrison,** *Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre* **OR04:** Patterns of substitution rate variation across the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex
10:00-10:30	**Coffee Break**

10:30-11:45	**Session 2: TB Short Regimens in trials** How short can you go? This session examines the latest clinical trials testing the limits of tuberculosis treatment shortening, balancing efficacy, safety, and implementation feasibility Chairs: **Francesca Saluzzo, Lorenzo Guglielmetti** 10:30 **Jodie Schildkraut,** *Radboud University Medical Center* **GL04:** How Short Can We Go? Evidence and Innovation in TB Treatment 11:00 **Andrea Muscetti**, *Università Vita e Salute San Raffaele, Milano* **OR05:** Implementation of standardised EUCAST-aligned MIC testing in the PARADIGM4TB trial 11:15 **Andrei Gabrielian**, *OCICB NIAID NIH* **OR06:** Tuberculosis missed by initial bacteriological tests is a distinct clinical subgroup 11:30 **Annelies Van Rie**, *University of Antwerp* **OR07:** Economic evaluation of Whole Genome Sequencing Guided Treatment for Rifampicin-Resistant Tuberculosis - a within trial analysis
11:45-12:30	**Poster pitches - Session 1** Chair: **Leen Rigouts** *1 minute per poster*
12:30-13:30	**Lunch**
13:30-14:45	**Poster Session 1** All posters with uneven numbers (P001, P003 etc)
14:45-16:00	**Session 3: Exploring new strategies for diagnosis of TB and other pathogens** This session explores innovative diagnostic strategies for tuberculosis and nontuberculous mycobacteria, emphasizing the challenges of maintaining high positive predictive value in low-incidence resource-rich European settings. Chairs: **Erik Svensson, Daniela Maria Cirillo** 14:45 **Claudia Denkinger**, *University of Heidelberg* **GL05:** Alternative diagnostic approach and applicability in low incidence contests 15:15 **Dag Harmsen,** *University Münster, Ridom GmbH* **OR08:** Evaluation of a GUI-pipeline with integrated database for storing all results for detection of resistance to anti-tuberculous drugs from WGS data 15:30 **Emilyn Costa Conceicao,** *Stellenbosch University* **OR09:** Real-time culture-based whole-genome sequencing for clinical management of rifampicin-resistant tuberculosis–insights from the PARR-TB implementation research study in South Africa 15:45 **Teunie Westera,** *Bilthoven Biologicals BV* **OR10:** Distinct On/Off Induration Profile of rdESAT-6/rCFP-10 in Pooled TESEC Trials
16:00-16:30	**Coffee Break**

16:30-17:45	**Session 4: New Diagnostics for MDR-TB** This session highlights advances in molecular and phenotypic diagnostics for multidrug-resistant tuberculosis, focusing on tools that enable faster, more precise detection to guide effective treatment Chairs: **Stefan Niemann, Sofie Braet** 16:30 **Andrea M Cabibbe,** *IRCCS San Raffaele Scientific Institute, Milan* **GL06:** Direct sequencing of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* from sputum: how far are we? 17:00 **Vincent Rennie,** *University of Antwerp* **OR11:** Whole-genome sequencing for drug resistance and transmission inference: simulating a combined direct-from-sputum and culture-based sequencing approach. 17:15 **Ruan Spies,** *University of Oxford* **OR12:** Undetected isoniazid resistance leads to rifampicin-resistant tuberculosis 17:30 **Roya Akar,** *Public Health Agency of Sweden, Karolinska Institutet, Solna* **OR13:** Multi-laboratory study of meropenem–clavulanic acid minimum inhibitory concentration distributions for the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex determined by broth microdilution 17:45 **Elisa Nemes,** *University of Cape Town* **GL07:** TBC
18:30	**Guided Tour** Departure from Chamber of Commerce
20:00	**Traditional Dinner** **San Matteo Church,** Vicolo San Matteo, 4, 37121 Verona

Wednesday 24 June

08:30-09:00	**Registration**
09:00-10:30	**Session 5: Recent advances in research on Mycobacterial pathogenesis** This session presents recent insights into the molecular and cellular mechanisms of mycobacterial pathogenesis, illuminating how *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* interacts with and evades host defences. Chairs: **Christophe Sola, William Bishai** 09:00 **Caroline Barisch**, *Research Center Borstel* **GL08:** Survival of the Fattest: How intracellular mycobacteria exploit host lipids 09:30 **Elke Goethe,** *University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover* **OR14:** The outer membrane porin protein MspD is involved in *Mycobacterium smegmatis* zinc homeostasis and is regulated by the global zinc uptake regulator ZUR 09:45 **Mariagiulia Conte,** *IRCCS San Raffaele Scientific Institute, Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele, Milan* **OR15:** Sputum single-cell RNA sequencing enables high-resolution profiling of airway immunity in *Mycobacterium abscessus* infection and pulmonary disease 10:00 **Sisay Girma Worku,** *University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover* **OR16:** Nitric oxide-producing monocytic myeloid suppressor cells promote *Mycobacterium avium* virulence 10:15 **Tiago Alves,** *University of Porto* **OR17:** Beyond Conventional Therapy: A Novel THEDES-Based Nanoplatform to Overcome *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* Persistence

10:30-11:00	**Coffee Break**
11:00-12:00	**Session 6: AI in diagnosis of Drug resistance** This session explores how artificial intelligence might reshaping mycobacteriology research? From image analysis and molecular diagnostics to genomics and drug discovery, offering new insights into complex datasets and decision-making. Chairs: **Matthias Merker, Tim Walker** 11:00 **Philip Fowler,** *University of Oxford* **GL09:** Revisiting phenotypic strategies for DR detection 11:30 **Dylan Dissanayake,** *University of Oxford* **OR18:** Predicting pyrazinamide resistance in Mycobacterium tuberculosis using structural deep learning 11:45 **Paolo Miotto,** *IRCCS San Raffaele Scientific Institute, Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele, Milan* **OR24:** Beyond single variants: a mechanistic and polygenic framework for bedaquiline resistance interpretation in *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*
12:00-12:30	**Poster pitches - Session 2** Chair: **Bouke De Jong** *1 minute per poster*
12:30-13:30	**Lunch**
13:30-15:00	**Poster Session 2** All posters with an even number (P002, P004, etc)
15:00-16:15	**Session 7: Therapeutic strategies for NTM** This session addresses current and emerging therapeutic strategies for nontuberculous mycobacterial disease, tackling challenges of drug resistance, treatment duration, and clinical outcomes. Chairs: **Enrico Tortoli, Daniela Maria Cirillo** 15:00 **Lucas Boeck**, *University Hospital Basel* **GL10:** New strategies to overcome NTM treatment challenges 15:30 **Alma Zinola,** *IRCCS San Raffaele Scientific Institute, Milan* **OR20:** Hybrid long-read sequencing reveals microevolution and novel plasmid clusters during persistent *Mycobacterium abscessus* infection in cystic fibrosis 15:45 **Camille Allam,** *1AP-HP Nord Université Paris Cité, Hôpital Bichat* **OR21:** First occurrence in Europe of plasmid-borne genes conferring inducible macrolide resistance in *Mycobacterium chelonae* and other rapidly-growing mycobacteria 16:00 **Gabriel Oliveira,** *University of Porto* **OR22:** Phenotypic profiling of newfound hits against *M. abscessus* intracellular infections
16:15-16:45	**Coffee Break**

16:45-18:00	**Session 8: Omics in diagnosis of mycobacteria infection and disease** This session explores how genomic, transcriptomic, proteomic, and metabolomic approaches are transforming the diagnosis and characterization of mycobacterial infection and disease. Chairs: **Leen Rigouts, Paolo Miotto** 16:45 **Nicola Ivan Lorè**, *Ospedale San Raffaele, Milan* **GL11:** Host immune response in the NTM pulmonary disease 17:15 **Wilma Quispe Rojas,** *University of Antwerp* **OR23:** Can we predict the bedaquiline phenotype in *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* based on the effect of Rv067 missense variants on the mmpR5 protein structure and function? 17:30 **Oren Tzfadia,** *Institute for Tropical Medicine* **OR25:** Module-guided method for ranking of candidate pathway genes in *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* 17:45 **Corentin Poignon,** *AP-HP. Sorbonne Université, Hôpital Pitié-Salpêtrière, INSERM, U1135, Paris* **OR26:** MAC-Explorer: bridging genome-based taxonomy and an identification tool for the *Mycobacterium avium* complex
18:00	**General Assembly**
19:30	**Social activity: Dinner and party** **Palazzo Verità Poeta,** Vicolo San Silvestro, 4/6, 37122 Verona

Thursday 25 June

08:30-09:00	**Registration**
09:00-10:30	**Session 9: Innovative models to study mycobacterial infections** Session explores new alternatives to study TB pathogenesis and response to new drugs Chairs: **Troels Lillebaek, Margo Diricks** 09:00 **Sebastien Gagneux**, *Swiss Tropical & Public Health Institute* **GL12:** Epistasis and the evolution of multidrug-resistant *M. tuberculosis* 09:30 **Gaia Saldarini,** *IRCCS San Raffaele Scientific Institute, Milan* **OR27:** Mapping *Mycobacterium Abscessus* immune responses in lung tissue through paired spatial and single-cell transcriptomics 09:45 **Jeremy Westhead,** *Oxford University* **OR28:** Longitudinal dataset of 58,150 non-tuberculosis clinical isolates collected in England from 2016-2024 identified 24 new species and showed changes in prevalence of species over time 10:00 **Enrica Campagnaro,** *University of Sienna* **OR29:** Capturing tuberculosis drug responses in a standardized Granuloma-Like Structure (GLS) platform 10:15 **Tine Van Win,** *KU Leuven* **OR30:** Bioluminescent double reporter *Mycobacterium abscessus* enables longitudinal infection assessment in Galleria mellonella and mouse model
10:30-11:00	**Coffee Break**

11:00-12:30	**Session 10: Closing session** Chairs: **Troels Lillebaek, Leen Rigouts** 11:00 **Giulia Manina**, *Institut Pasteur, Paris* **GL13:** Advanced imaging of mycobacterial phenotypes to improve treatment and detection 11:30 **Igor Mokrousov,** *St. Petersburg Pasteur Institute* **OR31:** Use of C57BL/6 mouse model to study *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* adaptation to long-term selective pressure by next-generation antibiotics 11:45 **Dylan Adlard,** *University of Oxford* **OR32:** Dissecting AMR determinants in 7,300 NTM isolates from England 12:00 **Noud Hermans,** *KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation, The Hague* **OR33:** Comparison of three targeted next-generation sequencing assays for drug susceptibility prediction in *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex 12:15 **Praharshinie Rupasinghe,** *Institute of Tropical Medicine Antwerp* **OR34:** Analytical performance of a EUCAST-derived broth microdilution assay incorporating automated drug dispensing for MIC determination of key antituberculosis drugs against *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*
12:30-13:00	**Poster Awards and Closing Ceremony** **Chairs: Troels Lillebaek, Leen Rigouts**

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