EMBO SCIENTISTS' FORUM 2026

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

28–30 October 2026 • Sheraton Dubrovnik Riviera Hotel • Croatia

WEDNESDAY, 28 OCTOBER 2026	
19:00–21:00	**Registration and icebreaker**
THURSDAY, 29 OCTOBER 2026	
08:30–09:00	**Welcome Address**
09:00–10:00	**Plenary Lecture: The Biophysics of Genome Inheritance** Iva Tolić — Ruđer Bošković Institute, Croatia
10:00–10:30	**Coffee Break**
10:30–12:30	**Session 1: Immune system and its impact on health** **Session Chair:** Marko Šestan — University of Rijeka School of Medicine, Croatia
10:30–11:10	**Balancing B-T Cell Interactions in Autoimmunity and Lymphoma** Marc Schmidt-Supprian — Technical University of Munich, Germany
11:10–11:50	**Ribosomal Protein Haploinsufficiency Cooperates with TP53 Loss to Rewire Translation, Metabolism, and Promote Tumorigenesis** Siniša Volarević — University of Rijeka School of Medicine, Croatia
11:50–12:30	**Translational Control of Human T Cell Responses in Health and Disease** Monika Wolkers — Oncode Institute / Sanquin, the Netherlands
12:30–14:00	**Lunch Break**

14:00–16:00	**Session 2: Computational Genomics: From Cell Fate To Genome Function** **Session Chair:** Damir Baranašić — Ruđer Bošković Institute, Croatia
14:00–14:40	**Reading the Transcriptome One Molecule at a Time: Long-Read Sequencing and the Revealed Isoform Biology** Ana Conesa — Institute for Integrative Systems Biology (I2SysBio), Spanish National Research Council (CSIC), Spain
14:40–15:20	**Genomic Language Models for Elucidating DNA Replication, Mutagenesis and RNA Turnover** Fran Supek — Biotech Research & Innovation Centre, University of Copenhagen, Denmark
15:20–16:00	**Translational Optimization in Microbial Communities** Kristian Vlahoviček — University of Zagreb, Faculty of Science, Croatia
16:00–18:00	**Poster Session 1 and Coffee Break**
18:00–19:30	**Workshop: Responsible Use of AI and Open Science** Thomas Lemberger — EMBO Press; Head of Open Science Implementation and Deputy Head of Scientific Publications
19:30– 	**Free Time**

	FRIDAY, 30 OCTOBER 2026
09:00–11:00	**Session 3: Adaptation and Climate Change** **Session Chair:** Jelena Bujan — Ruđer Bošković Institute, Croatia
09:00–09:40	**From Biogeographic Processes to Genetic Signatures** Lesley Lancaster — University of Aberdeen, United Kingdom
09:40–10:20	**Of bold mice and shy squirrels: how animal personalities shape forest ecosystems** Alessio Mortelliti — University of Trieste, Italy
10:20–11:00	**When Lizards Get in Each Other's Way: From Behaviour to Climate-Change Predictions** Anamarija Žagar — National Institute of Biology, Slovenia
11:00–11:30	**Coffee Break**
11:30–13:00	**Workshop: Job Crafting for a Sustainable Scientific Career** Maja Tadić — Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar, Croatia
13:00–14:00	**Lunch Break**
14:00–16:00	**Session 4: Unconventional Models at the Frontiers of Cell Biology** **Session Chair:** Jelena Godrijan — Ruđer Bošković Institute, Croatia
14:00–14:40	**Exploring Diatom Life in the Marine Environment Through the Lens of Photoreceptor Function** Angela Falciatore — Institut de Biologie Physico-Chimique, France
14:40–15:20	**An Amoeba as a Model for Multicellular Development** Vlatka Antolović — Ruđer Bošković Institute, Croatia
15:20–16:00	**Life with Little Water: Lessons from Unconventional Fungal Models** Nina Gunde-Cimerman — University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

16:00–17:45	**Poster Session 2 and Coffee Break**
17:45–18:45	**Panel Discussion: Women in Science: From Representation to Equal Opportunity** Gerlind Wallon — EMBO; Head of Young Investigator Programme Lesley Lancaster — University of Aberdeen, United Kingdom Kristian Vlahoviček — University of Zagreb, Faculty of Science, Croatia Tea Vasiljević — Ruđer Bošković Institute, Croatia Alba Madrero Pardo — Ruđer Bošković Institute, Croatia Moderator: Petra Buljević Zdjelarević — Ruđer Bošković Institute, Croatia
18:45–19:15	**EMBO Presentation: EMBO Opportunities for Young Scientists** Gerlind Wallon — EMBO; Head of Young Investigator Programme
20:00–	**Gala Dinner and Entertainment**

List of Posters

Posters are listed alphabetically by the presenter's surname

Number	First name	Last name	Submission title
1	Ana Belén	Alonso Aguado	Adipose-immune dysregulation promotes breast cancer progression
2	Anja	Batel	Stress memory in a clonal crop: drought and heat priming across garlic generations
3	Veronika	Bencerić	Association of the TRPV1 rs8065080 Polymorphism with Taste Detection Thresholds and Anthropometric Characteristics in Adolescents: Preliminary Results from the Biceps_Nutrition Project
4	Lucija	Berlančić	Single-cell coccolithophores and their bacteria - relationship or situationship?
5	Clara	Bonacasa Escrich	Metabolic reprogramming of Monocyte-derived Kupffer cells prime them to respond to dietary insults
6	Marta	Bošnjaković	Characterizing promoter regulatory landscapes using Danio rerio and Astyanax mexicanus as model systems
7	Maja	Carić	Association of elevated blood pressure with body composition in Zagreb adolescents
8	Anirban	Debnath	Decoupling lignan content from salinity tolerance: microRNA-mediated regulatory control in flax (Linum usitatissimum L.)
9	Ana	Depolo	Impacts of Biomass-Burning Black Carbon on Marine Phytoplankton
10	Ema	Eržić	Psychological Profile Does Not Predict Glycemic Response to CGM in Insulin-Treated Type 2 Diabetes
11	Elena	Fasciolo	Role of AMBRA1 in the Autophagosome Formation at Raft-like NE/ER Contact Sites During Autophagy

12	Sara	García Dosil	ISG20L2 controls mRNA decay in T cells
13	Marija	Habijan	Reading Proliferative State and Tissue Architecture of Prostate Cancer from H&E: A Spatial Graph-Learning Approach
14	Robert	Horn	Effects of nutrient availability on coccolithophore lipid composition and degradation
15	Neha	Jain	Exposure to bacterial amyloid curli primes immune cells in response to α-synuclein
16	Katarina	Kajan	Reading the starting line of genes: from raw sequencing data to genome function in one command
17	Rieke	Keller	Spatial confinement of T cell receptors is sufficient to initiate signaling
18	Toni	Kočevar	Responses to Heat: Thermal Plasticity and Microbiome Composition in a harvester ant
19	Alan	Koshy	The Double-Edged Sword of ROS: Exploring the Thioredoxin System
20	Wissal	Koukouch	Nanocarrier-Based Delivery of Bee Venom Melittin for Cancer Therapy: An Overview of Current Strategies
21	Karolina	Kowalska	Beyond supplementation: Methylsulfonylmethane (MSM) suppresses the adipogenesis in 3T3-L1 adipocytes
22	Katarzyna	Kozak	Advancing P3HB functionality through l-P3HB: a new route to high-performance biodegradable biomaterials
23	Natalia	Kulminskaya	Structural conservation does not predict equivalent IgE recognition of allergenic arginine kinases
24	Gwan Yong	Lim	Anticancer Activity of Oroxin A and Oroxin B in Burkitt Lymphoma Cells
25	Antonia Jelena	Lučev	Preliminary Assessment of Trace Element Concentrations in Recreationally Caught Fish from the Central Adriatic Sea

26	Alba	Madrero Pardo	Two genomes, one embryo: how duplicated regulatory programmes coordinate development in the common carp
27	Katarina	Mandić	DNA methylation patterns in genomic regulatory blocks
28	Nina	Marn	Earthworm behaviour as an early-warning biomarker of pollutant exposure: from automated tracking to Dynamic Energy Budget modelling
29	Nina	Marn	Metabolic Constraints and Diversity: Insights from the Add-my-Pet Database Through Dynamic Energy Budget Patterns
30	Marija	Matejcic	Mechanical Coordination of Intestinal Cell Extrusion by Supracellular 3D Force Patterns
31	Mariusz	Możajew	Unique features of EIGHT fold - proteins with the most complex 8.3 knotted topology
32	Urška	Murovec	Balancing Read Length, Depth and Throughput for Phasing and Methylation in Population-Scale Nanopore Sequencing
33	Pei Qin (Sabrina)	Ng	Understanding the role of transcription elongation factor Elongin A (ELOA) in mouse gastrulation using nascent transcriptomics (TT-seq)
34	Maria	Nicoara	Warming and acidification reshape growth and fatty-acid quality in a key marine diatom
35	Elwira	Nieboga	Effects of Co-stimulation with R848 and TLR Agonists on MDM Activation and Antitumor Activity
36	Michał	Nizio	TLR Stimulation of Macrophages Enhances Antibody-Dependent Cellular Phagocytosis of Breast Cancer Cells
37	Dijana	Ostojic	Genetically predicted multi-omics traits in psychosis

38	Serena	Ozturk	Mitochondrial genome instability disrupts brown adipose tissue through pseudohypoxia-iron-NAD^+ axis
39	Javier	Pérez-García	Mitochondrial MCJ protects against ROS-driven macrophage inflammation and metabolic dysfunction in obesity
40	Diego	Perojil Morata	Patterns of non-coding conservation across 100 vertebrate genomes
41	Karolina	Pipinić	Effects of temperature increase and microplastic exposure on the mycelial growth of Aphanomyces astaci, the crayfish plague pathogen
42	Nikolina	Piteša	Identification of microRNA-mRNA Networks in Melanoma: mir-3065 as a potential novel GLI2 transcription target regulating MAPK signaling pathway
43	Ira	Renko	Application of Deep Learning for Systematic Bias Correction
44	Ayşe Hülya	Şanal	Unraveling the Role of NLRP7 Deficiency in Modulating Cellular Response to Double-Stranded DNA Breaks and Replication Stress
45	Ángela	Sánchez-Fernández	A novel adipokine remodels adipose tissue lipid metabolism and adipocyte-macrophage crosstalk
46	Marcin	Skorzynski	R848-Induced M1-like Macrophage Polarization Reduces Cancer Cell Numbers Despite Inhibition of Nitric Oxide Production
47	Antonia	Smolić	Effect of urbanization on physiological defences in ants
48	Tea	Sonicki	Rewired Dynamics of Gut Microbiota Keystone Species in Primary Antibody Deficiencies
49	Stefanie	Strasser	Drug Concentration Calculator: an open-source tool for fast, reliable preparation of drug solutions for high-throughput screens
50	Ilke	Süder	Investigating Cell Fate Responses to Aneuploidy Induction in an iPSC Model of Hydatidiform Mole

51	Eva Viola	Suranyi	Computational Design of Synthetic RNA Tools for Copy-Number Discrimination and Ribozyme-Mediated Nucleic Acid Editing
52	Jernej	Vajda	Zonation, not damage: conserved periportal enrichment of mitochondrial transcripts in human liver
53	Benluvankar	Varghese	Chromatin remodeling impairs mechano-induced amoeboid migration in breast cancer
54	Tea	Vasiljević	Unravelling cell-cycle dynamics across the Calcidiscus leptoporus life cycle
55	Ana	Verbanac	Studying Startle Response and Habituation in Planktonic Larvae
56	Iva	Verbanac	Cell Division and the Evolution of Clonal Multicellularity in Choanoflagellates
57	Renato	Vidić	Synthesis of Anthropogenic Impacts on Birds - Systematic Map and Bibliometric Analysis of Meta-Analyses
58	Matija	Vodopija	Impact of plastic ingestion on the body condition of Longnose lancetfish (Alepisaurus ferox)
59	Ayşe	Yazıcı	Proteomic Remodeling of Palmitate-Activated Microglial Secretomes and Exosomes Reveals SIK2-Dependent Communication with POMC Neurons
60	Gintarė	Žvejytė	Structural Characterization of a Non-Canonical Type IV-A1 CRISPR-Cas System