



**September 7 – 11, 2026**  
University of Zürich, Main Campus  
<https://legionella2026.com/>

**Preliminary program**

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7**

12h00 – 16h00	<b>Registration</b>
16h00 – 16h30	<b>Welcome address</b>
16h30 – 17h30	<b>Opening session - 50 years of <i>Legionella</i></b> 50 years of the Perfect Replication Vacuole <b>Ralph Isberg</b> (Tufts University, Boston, USA)
17h30 – 19h30	<b>Rising stars and burning questions</b> 4 talks selected from the abstracts (4 x 30 min)
20h00	<b>Welcome reception</b>

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8**

<b>8h30 – 10h15</b>	<b>Ecology and environment</b>
8h30 – 9h00	Where's <i>Legio</i> ? A not-so obvious question in the environment. <b>Yann Héchard</b> (University of Poitiers, France)
9h00 – 9h15	talk selected from the abstracts (15 min)
9h15 – 9h30	talk selected from the abstracts (15 min)
9h30 – 10h00	<b>Stephen Chambers</b> (University of Otago, New Zealand)
10h00 – 10h15	talk selected from the abstracts (15 min)
10h15 – 10h50	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>10h50 – 12h35</b>	<b>Epidemiology and diagnostics</b>
10h50 – 11h20	<b>Janet Stout</b> (University of Pittsburgh, USA)
11h20 – 11h35	talk selected from the abstracts (15 min)
11h35 – 11h50	talk selected from the abstracts (15 min)
11h50 – 12h20	<b>Sophie Jarraud</b> (University of Lyon, France)

12h20 – 12h35	talk selected from the abstracts (15 min)
12h35 – 13h35	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>13h35 – 15h20</b>	<b>Host - Microbe interactions</b>
	a) Secretion systems and their substrates
13h35 – 14h05	Legionella and its secreted phospholipases: a universe in a nutshell
	<b>Antje Flieger</b> (Robert Koch Institut, Wernigerode, Germany)
14h05 – 14h20	talk selected from the abstracts (15 min)
14h20 – 14h35	talk selected from the abstracts (15 min)
14h35 – 15h05	<b>Nicholas Cianciotto</b> (Northwestern University, Chicago, USA)
15h05 - 15h20	talk selected from the abstracts (15 min)
15h20 - 15h55	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>15h55 – 17h10</b>	<b>Host - Microbe interactions</b>
	b) Immunology and virulence
15h55 – 16h25	<b>tbc</b>
16h25 – 16h40	talk selected from the abstracts (15 min)
16h40 – 17h10	<b>Sunny Shin</b> (University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, USA)
<b>17h10 – 19h10</b>	<b>Poster session I, beverages and snacks</b>
20h00	<b>Speakers' dinner</b>

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

<b>8h30 – 10h15</b>	<b>Host - Microbe interactions</b>
	c) Remodelling of the pathogen vacuole
8h30 – 9h00	<b>Sagar Bhogaraju</b> (EMBL Grenoble, France)
9h00 – 9h15	talk selected from the abstracts (15 min)
9h15 – 9h30	talk selected from the abstracts (15 min)
9h30 – 10h00	<b>Gunnar Schroeder</b> (University of Belfast, UK)
10h00 – 10h15	talk selected from the abstracts (15 min)
<b>08h30 – 10h15</b>	<b>Using WGS in Outbreak Investigations: The Good, the Bad and the Puzzling</b>
	<b>PARALLEL SESSION</b>

08.30 – 09.00	Session introduction and NYS Investigations using WGS (NYSDOH, NY) <b>Ursula Lauper and Danielle Wroblewski</b>
09.00 – 09.20	Epidemiological and Bioinformatic aspects of WGS (France) <b>Sophie Jarraud</b>
09.20 – 09.40	Approaches to CAC and VS Outbreaks in Canada (Canada) <b>Michele Provost and Sebastien Faucher</b>
09.40 – 10.00	Sequence Capture and Enrichment and WGS at the Swiss Reference Centre (Switzerland) <b>Helena Smith &amp; Tim Roloff</b>
10.00 – 10.15	Questions

10h15 – 10h50	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>10h50 – 12h35</b>	<b>Microbe - Environment interactions</b> a) Genetics, conjugation, phages
10h50 – 11h20	The discovery of Legionella phages and their role in shaping human disease. <b>Alexander Ensminger</b> (University of Toronto, Canada)
11h20 – 11h35	talk selected from the abstracts (15 min)
11h35 – 11h50	talk selected from the abstracts (15 min)
11h50 – 12h20	Mechanistic insights into DNA uptake by natural transformation in Legionella pneumophila <b>Manuela Hospenthal</b> (ETH Zürich, Switzerland)
12h20 – 12h35	6 flash talks selected from the abstracts (15 min)
12h35 – 13h35	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>13h35 – 15h20</b>	<b>Poster session II</b>
<b>15h20 – 17h05</b>	<b>Microbe - Environment interactions</b> b) Natural and artificial reservoirs - protozoa, persistence
15h20 – 15h50	<b>Tamara O'Connor</b> (John Hopkins Medicine, Baltimore, USA)
15h50 – 16h05	talk selected from the abstracts (15 min)
16h05 – 16h20	talk selected from the abstracts (15 min)
16h20 – 16h50	<b>Shira Ninio</b> (Kinneret Limnological Laboratory, Migdal, Israel)
16h50 – 17h05	talk selected from the abstracts (15 min)

17h05 - 17h40

**Coffee break**

**17h40 – 18h55**

**Prevention, diagnostics and control**

17h40 – 18h10

Prevention and Control of Legionella: Emerging Perspectives from Artificial Intelligence.

**Maria Luisa Ricci** (Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Rome, Italy)

18h10 – 18h25

talk selected from the abstracts (15 min)

18h25 – 18h55

30 Years of story of Legionella disease in Japan: Basic science and clinical relevance

**Kazuhiro Tateda** (Toho University, Tokyo, Japan)

18h55

Guided city tour of Zurich (registration mandatory)

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

**8h30 – 10h15**

**Population genetics, complex models, and outbreaks**

8h30 – 9h00

Genome size evolution and dynamics of horizontal gene transfers in 100 Legionella species

**Lionel Guy** (Uppsala University, Sweden)

9h00 – 9h15

talk selected from the abstracts (15 min)

9h15 – 9h30

talk selected from the abstracts (15 min)

9h30 – 10h00

Protein sociology of Legionella pneumophila PPIase Mip and infection interference

**Michael Steinert** (University of Braunschweig, Germany)

10h00 – 10h15

talk selected from the abstracts (15 min)

10h15 – 10h50

**Coffee break**

**10h50 – 12h35**

**Type IV secretion system and effectors**

10h50 – 11h20

**Melanie Ohi** (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA)

11h20 – 11h35

talk selected from the abstracts (15 min)

11h35 – 11h50

talk selected from the abstracts (15 min)

11h50 – 12h20

*Legionella pneumophila* counteracts vacuole acidification through amino acid antiport

**Matthias Machner** (NIH, Bethesda, USA)

12h20 – 12h35

6 flash talks selected from the abstracts (15 min)

12h35 – 13h35	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>13h35 – 15h20</b>	<b>Type IV effectors and host response</b>
13h35 – 14h05	<b>Shaeri Mukherjee</b> (University of California, San Francisco, USA)
14h05 – 14h20	talk selected from the abstracts (15 min)
14h20 – 14h35	talk selected from the abstracts (15 min)
14h35 – 15h05	<b>Elizabeth Hartland</b> (Hudson Institute, Melbourne, Australia)
15h05 – 15h20	talk selected from the abstracts (15 min)
15h20 – 15h55	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>15h55 – 17h10</b>	<b>Type IV effectors and posttranslational modifications</b>
15h55 – 16h25	<b>Aymelt Itzen</b> (University of Hamburg, Germany)
16h25 – 16h40	talk selected from the abstracts (15 min)
16h40 – 17h10	Regulation of host mitophagy by <i>Legionella pneumophila</i> . <b>Tomoko Kubori</b> (Gifu University, Gidai, Japan)
<b>17h10 – 19h10</b>	<b>Poster session III, beverages and snacks</b>
20h00	<b>Conference dinner</b>

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

<b>9h00 – 10h30</b>	<b>Genomics, evolution, and surveillance</b>
9h00 – 9h30	<b>Laura Gomez-Valero</b> (Institut Pasteur, Paris, France)
9h30 – 9h45	talk selected from the abstracts (15 min)
9h45 – 10h15	<b>Valeria Gaia</b> (Swiss National Reference Center, Bellinzona, Switzerland)
10h15 – 10h30	talk selected from the abstracts (15 min)
10h30 – 11h05	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>11h05 – 12h50</b>	<b>Host - Microbe interactions</b>
11h05 – 11h35	d) Cell biology The outer mitochondrial membrane as a platform for effector activity
11h35 – 11h50	<b>Hayley Newton</b> (University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia) talk selected from the abstracts (15 min)

11h50 – 12h20

**Zhao-Qing Luo** (Purdue University, West Lafayette, USA)

12h20 – 12h50

Legionella evasion of host autophagy

**Craig Roy** (Yale University, New Haven, USA)

**12h50 – 13h20**

**Short talks and poster awards, closing remarks**