



11th International Conference on *Legionella*

Commemorating 50 years of *Legionella* discovery

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University of Zurich, Main Campus, Switzerland

Monday September 7 to Friday September 11, 2026

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Congress office Management

Meeting.com Congress Organisation – info@legionella2026.com
021 312 92 61 – Rue des Pâquis 1 – CH-1033 Cheseaux-sur-Lausanne
Registration on <https://legionella2026.com>



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Organization

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Congress organization – Scientific committee

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Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Italy

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Toho University, Japan

Welcome to the 11th International Conference on *Legionella* 2026 in Zürich

Dear colleagues,

In the summer of 1976, more than 200 participants at an American Legion convention in Philadelphia developed severe pneumonia, leaving 34 dead. In the aftermath of the outbreak, microbiologist Dr. Joseph McDade and his team at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention identified a previously unknown bacterium as the causative agent. Reflecting its first victims and its lifestyle, the pathogen was named *Legionella pneumophila*.

On behalf of the Scientific Committee, it is our great pleasure to welcome you to the 11th International Conference on *Legionella*, taking place September 7-11, 2026. Commemorating 50 years since the discovery of *Legionella*, the meeting will open with a keynote lecture on the history and fascinating biology of the pathogen, followed by a session highlighting rising stars and key questions in the field.

The conference will cover the many facets of *Legionella* and Legionnaires' disease through sessions on Virulence & Pathogenicity, Immunology & Disease, Ecology & Environment, Clinics & Diagnostics, and Epidemiology & Prevention. In addition to invited talks, short oral presentations and posters will be selected from submitted abstracts. The varied program is designed to foster exchange among researchers approaching the topic from different perspectives.

The conference will take place at the University of Zurich main campus, conveniently accessible from Zurich Airport and the city's main train station. Zurich is a picturesque city in the heart of Switzerland, surrounded by forests, hills, rivers, and Lake Zurich. The water temperature may still be permissive for the brave-hearted in September.

Alongside superb science, participants can look forward to a welcome reception and a networking dinner – not to mention cozy bars in downtown Zurich, renowned art and history museums, and the Giacometti frescoes in “Europe’s prettiest police station.” So don’t miss the opportunity to be part of a fantastic meeting!

Hubert Hilbi & Carmen Buchrieser

General Information

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Venue

University of Zurich (City Campus), Haldeliweg 2, 8044 Zürich, Switzerland

Registration online on <https://legionella2026.com/registration>

Registration fee	Early fee (until June 25, 2026)	Late & onsite fee (as of June 26, 2026)
PhD/postdoc	CHF 500.00	CHF 650.00
Academic	CHF 700.00	CHF 850.00
Industry	CHF 1'100.00	CHF 1'250.00

Please note that registration is possible **without submitting an abstract**.

Conference Dinner on Thursday, September 10, 2026 at
Zunfthaus zur Meisen, Zurich. CHF 70.00 (limited places)

Free Guided City Tour on Wednesday, September 9, 2026
Free of charge (limited places)

Congress office management

Meeting.com Sàrl Congress Organisation
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Credits in demand to

This information will be updated shortly

Abstract submission and abstract book

Abstract submissions are now open on: <https://legionella2026.com/abstracts>

Deadline: June 2025, 2026

The link to the abstract book will be updated after the submission deadline.



*This meeting was selected by the Federation of European
Microbiological Societies (FEMS) to offer a grant*

Program

Monday September 7, 2026

12.00-14.00	Registration	BUILDING HAH, FOYER
14.00-15.30	Workshop: One health and <i>Legionella</i>	BUILDING HAH, PLENARY ROOM
16.00-16.30	Welcome address	BUILDING HAH, PLENARY ROOM
16.30-17.30	Opening session – 50 years of <i>Legionella</i> Chairs	BUILDING HAH, PLENARY ROOM
16.30-17.30	50 years of the Perfect Replication Vacuole <i>Ralph Isberg, Tufts University, Boston, USA</i>	
17.30-19.30	Rising stars and burning questions Chairs	BUILDING HAH, PLENARY ROOM
17.30-18.00	Talk from selected abstracts	
18.00-18.30	Talk from selected abstracts	
18.30-19.00	Talk from selected abstracts	
19.00-19.30	Talk from selected abstracts	
20.00	Welcome reception	ETZ, E FOYER

Tuesday

September 8, 2026

07.45 **Registration** BUILDING HAH, FOYER

08.30-10.15 **Session 1 – Ecology and environment** BUILDING HAH, PLENARY ROOM
Chairs

08.30-09.00 Where's Legio? A not-so obvious question in the environment
Yann Héchard, University of Poitiers, France

09.00-09.15 Talk from selected abstracts

09.15-09.30 Talk from selected abstracts

09.30-10.00 How Treatment Reshapes the Water Microbiome
and *Legionella* Presence
Laura Gomez-Valero, Institut Pasteur, Paris, France

10.00-10.15 Talk from selected abstracts

10.15-10.50 Coffee break / Poster viewing / Exhibition ETZ, E FOYER

10.50-12.35 **Session 2 – Epidemiology and diagnostics** BUILDING HAH, PLENARY ROOM
Chairs

10.50-11.20 Ending Legionnaires' Disease: An Audacious or Achievable Goal?
Janet Stout, University of Pittsburgh, USA

11.20-11.35 Talk from selected abstracts

11.35-11.50 Talk from selected abstracts

11.50-12.20 *Valeria Gaia, Swiss National Reference Center, Bellinzona, Switzerland*

12.20-12.35 Talk from selected abstracts

12.35-13.35 Lunch break / Poster viewing / Exhibition ETZ, E FOYER

13.35-15.20 **Session 3 – Microbe interactions** BUILDING HAH, PLENARY ROOM

Part 1: Secretion systems and their substrates

Chairs

13.35-14.05 *Legionella* and its secreted phospholipases:
a universe in a nutshell
Antje Flieger, Robert Koch Institut, Wernigerode, Germany

14.05-14.20 Talk from selected abstracts

14.20-14.35 Talk from selected abstracts

14.35-15.05 The expanding role of the *Legionella pneumophila*
type II secretion system
Nicholas Cianciotto, Northwestern University, Chicago, USA

15.05-15.20 Talk from selected abstracts

15.20-15.55 Coffee break / Poster viewing / Exhibition ETZ, E FOYER

15.55-17.10 **Seission 4 – Microbe interactions** BUILDING HAH, PLENARY ROOM

Part 2: Immunology and virulence

Chairs

15.55-16.25 Protein sociology of *Legionella pneumophila*
PPIase Mip and infection interference
Michael Steinert, University of Braunschweig, Germany

16.25-16.40 Talk from selected abstracts

16.40-17.10 *Sunny Shin, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, USA*

17.10-19.10 **Poster session 1 and aperitive** ETZ, E FOYER

Wednesday

September 9, 2026

07.45 **Registration** BUILDING HAH, FOYER

08.30-10.15 **Session 5 – Microbe interactions** BUILDING HAH, PLENARY ROOM

Part 3: Remodeling of the pathogen vacuole

Chairs

08.30-09.00 Structural elucidation of the essential *Legionella pneumophila* effector SdhA
Sagar Bhogaraju, EMBL Grenoble, France

09.00-09.15 Talk from selected abstracts

09.15-09.30 Talk from selected abstracts

09.30-10.00 Manipulation of the nucleoli by a powerful Dot/Icm T4SS protease effector
Gunnar Schroeder, University of Belfast, UK

10.00-10.15 Talk from selected abstracts

10.15-10.50 Coffee break / Poster viewing / Exhibition ETZ, E FOYER

10.50-12.35 **Session 6 – Microbe – Environment interactions** BUILDING HAH, PLENARY ROOM

Part 1: Genetics, conjugation, phages

Chairs

10.50-11.20 Blame the phage – on the unexpected origins of Legionnaires' disease
Alexander Ensminger, University of Toronto, Canada

11.20-11.35 Talk from selected abstracts

11.35-11.50 Talk from selected abstracts

11.50-12.20 Mechanistic insights into DNA uptake by natural transformation in *Legionella pneumophila*
Manuela Hospenthal, ETH Zürich, Switzerland

12.20-12.35 6 flash talks from selected abstracts

12.35-13.35 Lunch break / Poster viewing / Exhibition ETZ, E FOYER

13.35-15.35 **Poster session 2** ETZ, E FOYER

15.35-17.20 **Session 7 – Microbe – Environment interactions** BUILDING HAH, PLENARY ROOM
Part 2: Natural and artificial reservoirs – protozoa, persistence
Chairs

15.35-16.05 *Tamara O'Connor, John Hopkins Medicine, Baltimore, USA*

16.05-16.20 Talk from selected abstracts

16.20-16.35 Talk from selected abstracts

16.35-17.05 *Shira Ninio, Kinneret Limnological Laboratory, Migdal, Israel*

17.05-17.20 Talk from selected abstracts

17.20-17.55 Coffee break / Poster viewing / Exhibition ETZ, E FOYER

17.55-18.55 **Session 8 – Prevention, diagnostics and control** BUILDING HAH, PLENARY ROOM
Chairs

17.55 - 18.25 Prevention and Control of *Legionella*:
Emerging Perspectives from Artificial Intelligence
Maria Luisa Ricci, Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Rome, Italy

18.25-18.55 30 Years of story of *Legionella* disease in Japan:
Basic science and clinical relevance
Kazuhiro Tateda, Toho University, Tokyo, Japan

18.55 **Free Guided City Tour** (registration mandatory, limited places)

Thursday

September 10, 2026

07.45 **Registration** BUILDING HAH, FOYER

08.30-10.15 **Session 9 - Using Whole Genome Sequencing in Outbreak Investigations: The Good, the Bad and the Puzzling** BUILDING HAH, PLENARY ROOM

Chairs

08.30-09.00 Session introduction and NYS Investigations using WGS
Ursula Lauper and Danielle Wroblewski, NYSDOH, New York, USA

09.00-09.20 Epidemiological and Bioinformatic aspects of WGS
Sophie Jarraud, University of Lyon, France

09.20-09.40 Approaches to CAC and VS Outbreaks in Canada
Michele Provost and Sebastien Faucher, McGill University, Montréal, Canada

09.40-10.00 Sequence Capture and Enrichment and WGS at the Swiss Reference Centre
Helena Smith & Tim Roloff, University of Zürich, Switzerland

10.00-10.15 Questions

10.15-10.50 Coffee break / Poster viewing / Exhibition ETZ, E FOYER

10.50-12.35 **Session 10 – Type IV secretion system and effectors** BUILDING HAH, PLENARY ROOM

Chairs

10.50-11.20 Cryo-EM analysis of the *Legionella* T4SS using cryo-EM
Melanie Ohi, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA

11.20-11.35 Talk from selected abstracts

11.35-11.50 Talk from selected abstracts

11.50-12.20 *Legionella pneumophila* counteracts vacuole acidification through amino acid antiport
Matthias Machner, NIH, Bethesda, USA

12.20-12.35 6 flash talks from selected abstracts

12.35-13.35 Lunch break / Poster viewing / Exhibition ETZ, E FOYER

13.35-15.20 **Session 11 – Type IV effectors and host response** BUILDING HAH, PLENARY ROOM

Chairs

13.35-14.05 How to make a home in the ER: *Legionella* shows the way
Shaeri Mukherjee, University of California, San Francisco, USA

14.05-14.20 Talk from selected abstracts

14.20-14.35 Talk from selected abstracts

14.35-15.05 *Elizabeth Hartland, Hudson Institute, Melbourne, Australia*

15.05-15.20 Talk from selected abstracts

15.20-15.55 Coffee break / Poster viewing / Exhibition ETZ, E FOYER

15.55-17.10 **Session 12 – Type IV effectors and posttranslational modifications** BUILDING HAH, PLENARY ROOM

Chairs

15.55-16.25 Aymelt Itzen, University of Hamburg, Germany

16.25-16.40 Talk from selected abstracts

16.40-17.10 Regulation of host mitophagy by *Legionella pneumophila*
Tomoko Kubori, Gifu University, Gidai, Japan

17.10-19.10 **Poster session 3 and aperitive** ETZ, E FOYER

As from 20.00 **Conference dinner** (registration mandatory) ZUNFTHAUS ZUR MEISEN

Friday

September 11, 2026

08.30 **Registration** BUILDING HAH, FOYER

09.00-10.15 **Session 13 – Genomics, evolution and surveillance** BUILDING HAH, PLENARY ROOM

Chairs

09.00-09.30 Genome size evolution and dynamics of horizontal gene transfers in 100 *Legionella* species
Lionel Guy, Uppsala University, Sweden

09.30-09.45 Talk from selected abstracts

09.45-10.00 Talk from selected abstracts

10.00-10.15 Talk from selected abstracts

10.15-11.00 Coffee break / Poster viewing / Exhibition ETZ, E FOYER

11.00-12.45 **Session 14 – Microbe interactions Part 4: Cell biology** BUILDING HAH, PLENARY ROOM

Chairs

11.00-11.30 The outer mitochondrial membrane as a platform for effector activity
Hayley Newton, University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia

11.30-11.45 Talk from selected abstracts

11.45-12.15 *Zhao-Quing Luo, Purdue Unniversity, West Lafayette, USA*

12.15-12.45 *Legionella* evasion of host autophagy
Craig Roy, Yale University, New Haven, USA

12.45-13.15 Short break – sandwiches

13.15-13.30 **Short talks and poster awards** BUILDING HAH, PLENARY ROOM

13.30-15.00 **Session 15 – Round Table: The future: *Legionella* and Climate change**

15.00-15.15 **Closing remarks**

Location

Arrival

By train, you can reach the UZH HAH building and the ETH ETZ building by taking the tram nr 6 (from Zürich main station) or nr 8 (from Bellevue) until “Zürich, Platte” or “Zürich, Voltastrasse”. From there, it is 2-3 minutes on foot.

By plane, you can reach Zürich main station from Zürich airport conveniently by train. The trains run frequently, and it takes ca. 10-12 min.



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