11th International Conference on *Legionella*

Commemorating 50 years of *Legionella* discovery

University of Zurich, Main Campus, Switzerland

Monday September 7 to Friday September 11, 2026

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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Congress Organisation

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Organization

Congress organization – Scientific committee

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Reggio Emilia, Italy

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Kazuhiro Tateda
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

Venue
University of Zurich (City Campus), Häldeliweg 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 *(place tbc)*
on Thursday, September 10, 2026 (limited places), CHF 70.00

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

Congress office management
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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.

Federation of European Microbiological Societies

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

Monday September 7, 2026

12.00-14.00	**Registration**	BUILDING HAH, FOYER
16.00-16.30	**Welcome address**	BUILDING HAH, PLENARY ROOM
16.30-17.30	**Opening session – 50 years of *Legionella*** Chairs	BUILDING HAH, PLENARY ROOM
16.30-17.30 M01	**50 years of the Perfect Replication Vacuole** *Ralph Isberg, Trufts University, Boston, USA*	
17.30-19.30	**Rising stars and burning questions** Chairs	BUILDING HAH, PLENARY ROOM
17.30-18.00 RS01*	Discovery of antiphage defence systems targeting a novel bacteriophage of Legionella pneumophila *Dustin Loso, Toronto (CA)*	
18.00-18.30 RS02	Single-cell spatial metabolomics during Legionella pneumophila infection reveals specific metabolic signatures in human macrophages *Paula Martinez-Oca, Paris (FR)*	
18.30-18.45 RS03	Legionella effector AnkX puts the brakes on IMPDH2 filaments *Marietta Sandkamp-Kaspers, Hamburg (DE); Pia Stauffer, Zurich*	
18.45-19.00 RS04*	Subversion of IMPDH2 oncoprotein activity by Legionella pneumophila effector AnkX *Pia Stauffer, Zurich*	
18.45-19.00 RS05*	CRISPR-Cas12a detection of Legionella cell-free DNA for the diagnosis of Legionnaires' Disease *Elizabeth Chernysheva, Christchurch (NZ)*	
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** Chairs	BUILDING HAH, PLENARY ROOM
08.30-09.00 M02	Where is Legio, a not so simple question in the environment? *Yann Héchard, University of Poitiers, France*	
09.00-09.15 S01	Two Chemical-Free Approaches to Legionella Control in Building Water Systems: Dissolved Oxygen Reduction and Charged-Membrane Filtration *Chris Nancrede, Indianapolis (USA)*	
09.15-09.30 S02	U.S. Cruise-associated case surveillance of Legionnaires' disease – 2016-2025 *Sooji Lee, Atlanta (USA)*	
09.30-10.00 M03	How Treatment Reshapes the Water Microbiome and Legionella Presence *Laura Gomez-Valero, Institut Pasteur, Paris, France*	
10.00-10.15 S03*	Comparative genomic analysis reveals distinct population structure in Legionella anisa *Maria Najeeb, Montreal (CA)*	
10.15-10.50	Coffee break / Poster viewing / Exhibition	ETZ, E FOYER
10.50-12.35	**Session 2 – Epidemiology and diagnostics** Chairs	BUILDING HAH, PLENARY ROOM
10.50-11.20 M04	Ending Legionnaires' Disease: An Audacious or Achievable Goal? *Janet Stout, University of Pittsburgh, USA*	
11.20-11.50 M05	Pulmonary and extrapulmonary legionellosis: diagnostic challenges and unresolved questions *Sophie Jarraud,University of Lyon, France*	

11.50-12.20 M06	Legionella Diagnostics: From Culture to Metagenomics *Valeria Gaia, Swiss National Reference Center, Bellinzona, Switzerland*
12.20-12.35 S04	Evaluation of the national enhanced legionella surveillance system in England, 2025 *Katie Wrenn, London (UK)*

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 M07	Legionella and its secreted phospholipases: a universe in a nutshell *Antje Flieger, Robert Koch Institut, Wernigerode, Germany*
14.05-14.20 S05*	Exploring the biphasic lifecycle of Legionella through characterization of L. pneumophila protein Lpg1968 *Tiffany Penner, Winnipeg (CA)*
14.20-14.35 S06*	Legionella pneumophila delays host cell apoptosis by modulating host chromatin landscape *Cristina Di Silvestre, Paris (FR)*
14.35-15.05 M08	Expanding role of the Legionella pneumophila type II secretion system *Nicholas Cianciotto, Northwestern University, Chicago, USA*
15.05-15.10 PF01 / P001	From source to tap: mapping the water distribution system microbiome and analyzing opportunistic pathogens at species-level resolution *Pierre Foucault, Paris (FR)*
15.10-15.15 PF02* / P002*	Experimental evolution of copper resistance in Legionella pneumophila also selects for improved recovery after stress *Gillian Cameron, Montreal (CA)*
15.15-15.20 PF03 / P003	Association between genetic lineage and antimicrobial susceptibility in clinical and environmental Legionella pneumophila isolates from Japan *Shoko Komatsu, Kobe (JP)*

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

15.55-17.10	**Session 4 – Microbe interactions** **Part 2: Immunology and virulence** Chairs	BUILDING HAH, PLENARY ROOM
15.55-16.25 M09	Protein sociology of Legionella pneumophila PPIase Mip and infection interference *Michael Steinert, University of Braunschweig, Germany*	
16.25-16.40 S07	Macrophage Dysfunction in VEXAS Syndrome *Abdelrahim Zoued, Lyon (FR)*	
16.40-17.10 M10	Innate immune detection and restriction of Legionella pneumophila *Sunny Shin, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, USA*	

17.10-19.10	**Poster session 1 and aperitive** P001 – P038	ETZ, E FOYER

Wednesday September 9, 2026

07.45	**Registration**	BUILDING HAH, FOYER
08.30-10.15	**Session 5 – Microbe interactions** **Part 3: Remodeling of the pathogen vacuole** Chairs	BUILDING HAH, PLENARY ROOM
08.30-09.00 M11	Structural elucidation of the essential Legionella pneumophila effector SdhA *Sagar Bhogaraju, EMBL Grenoble, France*	
09.00-09.15 S08	SidL is an adenylyltransferase that modifies the host glycolytic metabolite 3-phosphoglycerate *Joshua Black, Baltimore (USA)*	
09.15-09.30 S09*	Proteomic profiling reveals macrophage bioenergetic responses during mid-to-late Legionella pneumophila infection *Jake Ellis, Delaware (USA)*	
09.30-10.00 M12	Manipulation of the nucleoli by a powerful Dot/Icm T4SS protease effector *Gunnar Schroeder, University of Belfast, UK*	
10.00-10.15 S10	Using mitochondrial signals and AI to predict Legionella pneumophila replication within human macrophages *Pedro Escoll, Paris (FR)*	
10.15-10.50	Coffee break / Poster viewing / Exhibition	ETZ, E FOYER
10.50-12.35	**Session 6 – Microbe – Environment interactions** **Part 1: Genetics, conjugation, phages** Chairs	BUILDING HAH, PLENARY ROOM
10.50-11.20 M13	Blame the phage – on the unexpected origins of Legionnaires' disease *Alexander Ensminger, Univserity of Toronto, Canada*	
11.20-11.35 S11	Global climate gradients structure soil Legionella diversity, abundance and pathogen distributions *Hans Singh, Honolulu (USA)*	

11.35-11.50 S12	Modulation of L. pneumophila biofilm growth through a unique protein conformational switching mechanism *James Garnett, London (UK)*	
11.50-12.20 M14	Mechanistic insights into DNA uptake by natural transformation in Legionella pneumophila *Manuela Hospenthal, ETH Zürich, Switzerland*	
12.20-12.25 PF04 / P004	Targeted degradation of SidJ as a strategy against Legionella pneumophila infection *Giulio Giuliani, Frankfurt am Main (DE)*	
12.25-12.30 PF05 / P005	Elucidating genetics of Legionella micdadei biofilm and amyloid production through transposon mutagenesis screening *Christa Chatfield, Cortland (USA)*	
12.30-12.35 PF06* / P006*	Capsule-mediated lethality in Legionella longbeachae is associated with host immune dysregulation and increased NET formation *Pedro Henrique Medeiros Câmara, São Paulo (BR)*	
12.35-13.35	Lunch break / Poster viewing / Exhibition	ETZ, E FOYER
13.35-15.35	**Poster session 2** P039 – P077	ETZ, E FOYER
15.35-17.20	**Session 7 – Microbe – Environment interactions** **Part 2: Natural and artificial reservoirs – protozoa, persistence** Chairs	BUILDING HAH, PLENARY ROOM
15.35-16.05 M15	*Tamara O'Connor, John Hopkins Medicine, Baltimore, USA*	
16.05-16.20 S13	Impact of amoeba hosts on Legionella effector horizontal gene transfer and evolution *Tera Levin, Pittsburg (USA)*	
16.20-16.35 S14*	Modulation of intercellular tunnelling nanotubes of Dictyostelium discoideum by Legionella pneumophila *Luca Langlois, Zurich*	

16.35-17.05 M16	*Shira Ninio, Kinneret Limnological Laboratory, Migdal, Israel*	
17.05-17.20 S15	Do different Legionella strains behave differently within Pseudomonas biofilms? *Ana Rosa, Porto (PT)*	
17.20-17.55	Coffee break / Poster viewing / Exhibition	ETZ, E FOYER
17.55-18.55	**Session 8 – Prevention, diagnostics and control** Chairs	BUILDING HAH, PLENARY ROOM
17.55 - 18.25 M17	Prevention and Control of Legionella: Emerging Perspectives from Artificial Intelligence *Maria Luisa Ricci, Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Rome, Italy*	
18.25-18.55 M18	30 Years of story of Legionella disease in Japan: Basic science and clinical relevance *Kazuhiro Tateda, Toho University, Tokyo, Japan*	
19.15	**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** Chairs	BUILDING HAH, PLENARY ROOM
08.30-09.00 M19	Session introduction and NYS Investigations using WGS Ursula Lauper and Danielle Wroblewski and *Wolfgang Haas, NYSDOH, New York, USA*	
09.00-09.20 M20	Epidemiological and Bioinformatic aspects of WGS Camille Jacqueline, EURL-PH-LEGI, *Hospices Civils de Lyon, France*	
09.20-09.40 M21	How to consider Legionella diversity and dynamics for source matching *Michèle Prévost and Sebastien Faucher,* *McGill University, Montréal, Canada*	
09.40-10.00 M22	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** Chairs	BUILDING HAH, PLENARY ROOM
10.50-11.20 M23	Cryo-EM analysis of the Legionella T4SS using cryo-EM *Melanie Ohi, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA*	
11.20-11.35 S16* / P007*	The Legionella effector MavP targets host cell PMP70 to recruit peroxisomes to the replication vacuole *Katerina Romanov, Baltimore (USA)*	

11.35-11.50 S17*	Legionella pneumophila subverts mitochondrial dynamics and mtDNA quality control to promote intracellular replication *Tobias Jäggi, Zurich*	
11.50-12.20 M24	Legionella pneumophila counteracts vacuole acidification through amino acid antiport *Matthias Machner, NIH, Bethesda, USA*	
12.20-12.35 S18	Beyond Canonical Domains: Legionella Effectors Use Conserved α-Helical Folds to Target Phosphoinositides *Ramona Neunuebel, Delaware (USA)*	
12.35-13.35	Lunch break / Poster viewing / Exhibition	ETZ, E FOYER
13.35-15.20	**Session 11 – Type IV effectors and host response** Chairs	BUILDING HAH, PLENARY ROOM
13.35-14.05 M25	How to make a home in the ER: Legionella shows the way *Shaeri Mukherjee, University of California, San Francisco, USA*	
14.05-14.20 S19	Post-translational modifications of the conserved Hippo pathway control host defense against pathogenic Legionella *Pei-Chung Lee, Detroit (USA)*	
14.20-14.35 S20*	Caspase-8 mediates host resistance to Legionella longbeachae independently of inflammasome signaling *#123, Rhanoica Guerra, São Paulo (BR)*	
14.35-15.05 M26	Legionella effectors modify the host epitranscriptome *Elizabeth Hartland, Hudson Institute, Melbourne, Australia*	
15.05-15.20 S21	The Legionella effector RidL binds the large fission GTPase Drp1 to promote mitochondrial fragmentation *Ana Katic, Zurich*	
15.20-15.55	Coffee break / Poster viewing / Exhibition	ETZ, E FOYER

15.55-17.10	**Session 12 – Type IV effectors and posttranslational modifications** Chairs	BUILDING HAH, PLENARY ROOM
15.55-16.25 M27	Towards the function of Fic enzymes in posttranslational modifications of Legionella *Aymelt Itzen, University of Hamburg, Germany*	
16.25-16.40 S22	Structural Basis for Membrane Targeting and Secretion of Legionella SidE Ubiquitin Ligases *Mohit Misra, Frankfurt am Main (DE)*	
16.40-17.10 M28	Regulation of host mitophagy by Legionella pneumophila *Tomoko Kubori, Gifu University, Gidai, Japan*	

17.10-19.10	**Poster session 3 and aperitive** P078 – P101	ETZ, E FOYER
As from 20.00	**Conference dinner** (registration mandatory)	PLACE TBC

Friday September 11, 2026

08.30	**Registration**	BUILDING HAH, FOYER
09.00-10.15	**Session 13 – Genomics, evolution and surveillance** Chairs	BUILDING HAH, PLENARY ROOM
09.00-09.30 M29	Genome size evolution and dynamics of horizontal gene transfers in 100 Legionella species *Lionel Guy, Uppsala University, Sweden*	
09.30-09.45 S23	From ST154 to ST574: Recombination within Norwegian L. pneumophila? *Anne V. Kroevel, Stavanger (NO)*	
09.45-10.00 S24	What is a cluster? the 6 km / 6 month rule and the challenge of community legionnaires' disease detection *David Howett, London (UK)*	
10.00-10.15 S25	Strengthening national surveillance of Legionnaires' disease: Evidence from SwissLEGIO *Melanie Bigler, Allschwil*	
10.15-11.00	Coffee break / Poster viewing / Exhibition	ETZ, E FOYER
11.00-12.45	**Session 14 – Microbe interactions Part 4: Cell biology** Chairs	BUILDING HAH, PLENARY ROOM
11.00-11.30 M30	The outer mitochondrial membrane as a platform for effector activity *Hayley Newton, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia*	
11.30-11.45 S26	The bacterial effector LpDot1 triggers a unique methylation on SFPQ to hijack paraspeckles and alternative splicing *Sonja Nicchi, Paris (FR)*	

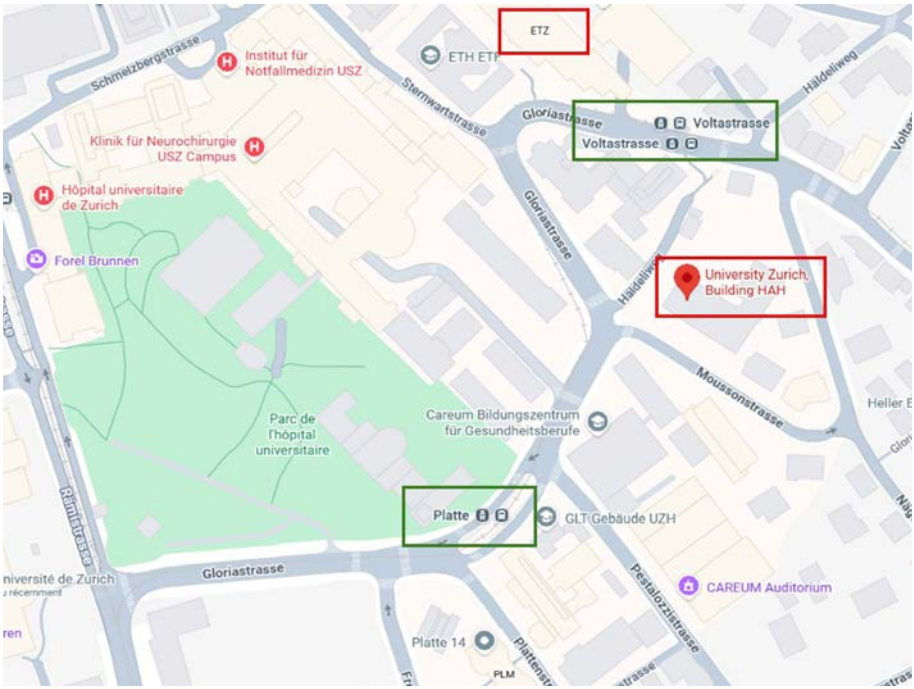
11.45-12.15 M31	Mechanistic Insights into LnaB-Mediated Regulation of Ubiquitin Signaling and Immunity *Zhao-Qing Luo, Jilin University, Changchun, China*	
12.15-12.45 M32	Multifaceted strategies for Legionella pneumophila evasion of host autophagy *Craig Roy, Yale University, New Haven, USA*	
12.45-13.15	Short break – sandwiches	
13.15-14.00	**Short talks and poster awards**	BUILDING HAH, PLENARY ROOM
14.00-14.30	**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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