



SWISS SOCIETY FOR MICROBIOLOGY

PROGRAM

Annual congress 2025

Congress Kursaal Interlaken,
Strandbadstrasse 44, 3800 Interlaken

August 27-28, 2025



Congress office Management

Meeting.com Congress Organisation
Rue des Pâquis 1 · CH-1033 Cheseaux-sur-Lausanne
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Registration on

meeting-com.ch / Conferences & Meetings

PUB

Table of content

Organization

Welcome word

General information

Poster Flash Session

My thesis in 180 seconds!

Awards

Early Career session & Early Career evening – 26.08.25 – 14.00 & 18.00

Program 27.08.2025

27.08.2025 – 17.00 – General Assembly SSM 2025

Program 28.08.2025

Location

Sponsors

Congress organization – Scientific committee

Prof. Hubert Hilbi, Institute of Medical Microbiology
University of Zurich, Zurich

Prof. Adrian Egli, Institute of Medical Microbiology,
University of Zurich, Zurich

Clinical Microbiology

Alexis Dumoulin, Sion ; Gilbert Greub, Lausanne

Early career

Florian Tagini, Lausanne ; Fabio Palmieri, Neuchâtel ;
Marion Aruanno, Lausanne

Environmental Microbiology

Pilar Junier, Neuchâtel ; Marie Schölmerich, Zurich

Lay Communication

Pilar Junier, Neuchâtel

Molecular Microbiology

Alexander Harms, Zurich ; Hubert Hilbi, Zurich

Mycology

Saskia Bindschedler, Neuchâtel ; Frédéric Lamoth, Lausanne ;
Aleksandar Vjestica, Lausanne

Virology

Silke Stertz, Zurich ; Volker Thiel, Bern



Welcome to the SSM annual meeting in Interlaken

Dear microbiologists, dear participants,

On behalf of the Swiss Society for Microbiology and the scientific committee, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to Interlaken for the annual meeting on August 27th and 28th, 2025. The meeting will take place at the Congress Kursaal, located in the heart of the picturesque small village of Interlaken, home to 6259 residents and more than a million tourists annually.

I am happy to announce an exciting scientific program comprising five keynote lectures delivered by leaders in their fields and a total of 25 parallel sessions covering hot topics from the different sections of the SSM – Clinical Microbiology, Environmental Microbiology, Molecular Microbiology, Mycology and Virology. In addition to the authoritative scientific talks given by invited speakers, short talks will be selected from the submitted abstracts, and ample time will be given for stimulating poster sessions. We will also have inspiring sessions organized by the sections Early Career and Lay Communication (my thesis in 180 seconds).

At the congress, you will not only be exposed to great science but have the opportunity to network with friends and colleagues, socialize, and find your next job. For these activities, the Networking Dinner – taking place at the Congress Kursaal – will provide an ideal setting. Finally, there should even be time to enjoy the spectacular scenery of Interlaken and surroundings or take a swim in one of the two lakes. I am looking forward to an exciting meeting and hope that many of you will join the 2025 congress in Interlaken!

Prof. Hubert Hilbi
SSM president and chair annual meeting 2025



Venue

Congress Kursaal Interlaken
Strandbadstrasse 44, 3800 Interlaken
www.congress-interlaken.ch

Registration

online on www.meeting-com.ch / Conferences & Meetings

Registration fee	Early fee (until July 31, 2025)	Late fee & onsite (as of August 1, 2025)
MEMBER*	CHF 300.00	CHF 400.00
NON-Member	CHF 400.00	CHF 500.00
Student Member*	CHF 150.00	CHF 220.00
Student NON-Member**	CHF 200.00	CHF 270.00

Networking Dinner on Wednesday, August 27, 2025

CHF 120.00 (limited places)

At the Congress Kursaal Interlaken**Early career session – Tuesday, August 26, 2025**

I participate in the early career session on Tue August 26, 2025 at 14h00

☐ yes (included in the registration fees)

I participate in the early career evening on Tue August 26, 2025 at 18h00

☐ yes (NOT included in the registration fees)

Early Career Round Table Sessions

Engage in small group discussions about career development, building a professional network, skill developments or work-life balance at roundtable sessions and receive advice from leading experts in microbiology. Space is limited to 20 participants each day (first come, first served)!

☐ yes, I participate : 27.08 at 13.00-14.00 – max 20 participants

☐ Yes, I participate : 28.08 at 13.00-14.00 – max 20 participants

Daily participation at 50% of the indicated late rate.
Please contact the congress management.

* In order to benefit from the Member fee, the annual membership 2025 has to be duly paid to the SSM.

** In order to benefit from the reduced fee, PhD students are required to send a document confirming their status to the Congress Management info@meeting-com.ch

**Networking Dinner**

On Wednesday August 27, 2025 at Congress Kursaal Interlaken
18.45-19.30 Aperitif & poster session
As of 19.30 Networking Dinner

Congress office management

Meeting.com Sàrl Congress Organisation
Rue des Pâquis 1 · CH-1033 Cheseaux-sur-Lausanne
Mrs Nicole Giacomini
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**Credits in demand to**

- FAMH in Microbiology
- Swiss Society for Infectious Diseases
- Animal Experimentation



On Wednesday, August 27, 2025 at 10.00

Plenary Room Theatersaal

Speed science is a session where posters are highlighted in 3-minute time slot, in addition to a poster in paper format.

- The allocated speaking time is 3 minutes and no time for discussion
- The moderators will ensure that the time limit is not exceeded.

Be prepared for an exciting session!

Poster walk – Even Numbers

On Wednesday, August 27, 2025 at 12.30
In the poster area

Poster walk – Odd Numbers

On Thursday, August 28, 2025 at 12.30
In the poster area

There will also be a general poster viewing during the aperitif on Wednesday, August 27, 2025 at 18.45.



On Wednesday August 27, 2025 at 17.30 – 18.00

Plenary Room Theatersaal

Selected abstracts from the submission process from PhD and MD PhD students will present their thesis in 180 seconds using lay words.

There will be a prize for the best presentation. But it is not the quality of the science that is considered at all here. The jury will consider the following criteria:

- Timing
- Story telling
- Humor
- Illustrations
- Keep it simple
- Art of speaking
- The talks will be exactly 180 seconds (3mn) each
- No question/discussion since it is based on a talk of 180 seconds exactly
- The moderators will ensure that the time limit is not exceeded.

Be prepared for a dynamic session!

**On Wednesday, August 27, 2025 &
Thursday, August 28, 2025 at 13.00**

Breakout room Brünig

Join us for the Early Career Round Tables sessions on Wednesday, August 27th, and Thursday, August 28th, from 13:00 to 14:00. Dive into 30-minute roundtable discussions in groups capped at four early-career scientists, each guided by an inspiring expert in microbiology. These sessions offer a prime setting for delving into topics like career development, cultivating professional network, enhancing relevant skills, and achieving work-life balance. You'll gain insights from esteemed microbiologists and infectious disease specialists. It's a chance to forge meaningful connections with prominent figures in the field and your peers. With only 20 spots available each day, ensure your place at this exclusive event by registering promptly – attendance is on a first-come, first-served basis!



On Thursday August 28, 2025 at 16.00-16.30

Plenary room Theatersaal

During the meeting, you may be lucky and win one of the following awards:

- Best Oral Presentation : 5 Awards (one per section) in the context of the annual meeting presentations.
- Poster Award : 3 Awards selected during the annual meeting by an ad-hoc award committee
- My thesis in 180 seconds award : 1 award will be given to the best presentation

All the above-mentioned awards as well as the SSM Encouragement Award will be presented at the end of the meeting during the very last session.

The SSM encouragement award is given to young investigators in the field of microbiology for achievements that are outstanding in terms of their originality and of particular scientific value. Achievements in the field of teaching as well as research and development are taken into consideration as well. The Award is given for a work that has been carried out in Switzerland or that is closely connected with our country. To know more about the rules, please go to <https://www.swissmicrobiology.ch/promoting/awards/encouragement-awards>



EARLY CAREER SESSION

BRÜNIG

14.00-15.30 Artificial Intelligence session

Chairs : Hanna Marti; Florian Tagini

14.00-14.45 AI: the new assistant for scientific writing ?

Anna C. Véron, University Library Zurich

14.45-15.30 Coding with AI

Marco Weber, Zurich

15.30-16.00 Coffee break

16.00-17.30 Impostor syndrome session

Chairs : Marion Aruanno; Florian Tagini

16.00-16.30 Two point of views on the Impostor syndrome

Alix Coste, Lausanne

16.30-17.00 Two point of views on the Impostor syndrome

Valeria Cagno, Lausanne

17.00-17.30 Panel discussion & conclusion

As from 18.00 Early carrer Networking event with apero in the city and dinner (not included in the congress fees)



Keynote lectures	Clinical Microbiology	Environmental Microbiology	Molecular Microbiology
Mycology	Virology	Early career	
07.30	Registration		FOYER
08.45-09.00	Introduction		THEATERSAAL
09.00-10.00	KEYNOTE 1 & 2 Chairs:		THEATERSAAL
09.00-09.30	Keynote 1 – NCCR Microbiomes Pascale Vonaesch, Lausanne		
09.30-10.00	Keynote 2 – MM Rafael Pinilla-Redondo, Copenhagen (DK)		
10.00-10.30	POSTER FLASH SESSION Chair:		THEATERSAAL
10.00-10.05	Short talk		
10.05-10.10	Short talk		
10.10-10.15	Short talk		
10.15-10.20	Short talk		
10.20-10.25	Short talk		
10.25-10.30	Short talk		
10.30-11.00	Coffee break / Poster viewing / Exhibition		EXHIBITION



11.00-12.00		
SESSION 1	Clinical Virology	THEATERSAAL
	Chair:	
11.00-11.30	Diagnostic and Clinical Applications of Viral Metagenomic Sequencing Karoline Leuzinger, Basel	
11.30-11.45	Short talk	
11.45-12.00	Short talk	
SESSION 2	Environmental Microbiology	BALSAAL
	Chair:	
11.00-11.30	Title Wenyu Gu, Lausanne	
11.30-11.45	Short talk	
11.45-12.00	Short talk	
SESSION 3	Bacterial signal transduction	BRÜNIG
	Chair:	
11.00-11.30	Title Anna Dragos, Ljubljana (SI)	
11.30-11.45	Short talk	
11.45-12.00	Short talk	
SESSION 4	Fundamental fungal biology: genetics and genomics	CLUB CASINO
	Chair:	
11.00-11.30	Title Robbie Joseph Loewith, Geneva	
11.30-11.45	Short talk	



11.45-12.00 Short talk

SESSION 5 **Challenges in clinical and veterinary virology** GRIMSEL

Chair:

11.00-11.30 **Title**
Benjamin Meyer, Geneva

11.30-12.00 **NGS applications at the Swiss veterinary virological reference laboratory**
Claudia Bachofen, Bern

12.00-12.45 **Climate change** THEATERSAAL

Chair:

12.00-12.45 **Title**
Klaus Butterbach-Bahl, Aarhus (DK)

12.30/45-14.00 **Lunch Break / Poster walk / Exhibition POSTERWALK EVEN NUMBERS** EXHIBITION

13.00-14.00 **Early career round table session** BRÜNIG

Chair:

13.00-14.00 **Discussion**
Typhaine Brual, Lyon (FR); Linda Müller, Bellinzona;
Pilar Junier, Neuchâtel; Alix Coste, Lausanne

14.00-15.30

SESSION 6 **Clinical impact of diagnostic microbiology** THEATERSAAL

Chair:

14.00-14.30 **Value-based laboratory medicine**
Mario Plebani, Padova (IT)

14.30-14.45 **Short talk**



14.45-15.00 Short talk

15.00-15.15 Short talk

15.15-15.30 Short talk

SESSION 7 **Environmental Microbiology** BALSAL

Chair:

14.00-14.30 **Title**
Serina Robinson, Dübendorf

14.30-14.45 **Short talk**

14.45-15.00 **Short talk**

15.00-15.15 **Short talk**

15.15-15.30 **Short talk**

SESSION 8 **Bacteriophages and bacterial immunity** BRÜNIG

Chair:

14.00-14.30 **What phage-bacteria interactions teach us on innate immunity**
François Rousset, Lyon (FR)

14.30-14.45 **Short talk**

14.45-15.00 **Short talk**

15.00-15.15 **Short talk**

15.15-15.30 **Short talk**

SESSION 9 **Fundamental fungal biology from molecules to structures** CLUB CASINO

Chair:

14.00-14.30 **Title**
Snezhana Oliferenko, London (UK)

14.30-14.45 **Short talk**



14.45-15.00 Short talk
15.00-15.15 Short talk
15.15-15.30 Short talk

SESSION 10 Emerging viral infections

GRIMSEL

Chair:

14.00-14.30 Title
 Jenna Kelly, Bern
14.30-14.45 Title
 Umut Karakus, Zurich
14.45-15.00 Short talk
15.00-15.15 Short talk
15.15-15.30 Short talk

15.30-16.00 Coffee break / Poster viewing / Exhibition

EXHIBITION

16.00-17.30

SESSION 11 Clinical parasitology & clinical mycology

THEATERSAAL

Chair:

16.00-16.30 Diagnosis of Parasitic Infections
 Beatrice Nickel, Allschwil
16.30-16.45 Short talk
16.45-17.00 Short talk
17.00-17.15 Short talk
17.15-17.30 Short talk



SESSION 12 Environmental Microbiology

BALSAAL

Chair:

16.00-16.30 Title
 Ianina Altshuler, Lausanne
16.30-16.45 Short talk
16.45-17.00 Short talk
17.00-17.15 Short talk
17.15-17.30 Short talk

SESSION 13 Bacterial secretion systems

BRÜNIG

Chair:

16.00-16.30 Title
 Gregor Weiss, Zurich
16.30-16.45 Short talk
16.45-17.00 Short talk
17.00-17.15 Short talk
17.15-17.30 Short talk

SESSION 14 Medical and clinical mycology

CLUB CASINO

Chair:

16.00-16.30 Title
 Alexandre Alanio, Paris (FR)
16.30-16.45 Short talk
16.45-17.00 Short talk
17.00-17.15 Short talk
17.15-17.30 Short talk



SESSION 15 Virus-host interactions GRIMSEL

Chair:

16.00-16.30 Unfolded protein response during viral infections

Vibhu Prasad, Geneva

16.30-17.00 Title

Linda Brunotte, Münster (DE)

17.00-17.15 Short talk

17.15-17.30 Short talk

17.30-18.00 MY THESIS IN 180 SECONDS THEATERSAAL

Chair:

17.30-17.35

17.35-17.40

17.40-17.45

17.45-17.50

17.50-17.55

17.55-18.00

18.00-18.45 GENERAL ASSEMBLY (OPEN TO MEMBERS ONLY) THEATERSAAL

Chair:

SSM Board Committee

18.45-19.30 Aperitif & poster viewing POSTER AREA

As of 19.30 Networking diner BALSAL

00.00 END OF DAY 1



09.00-10.00 KEYNOTE 3 & 4 THEATERSAAL

Chairs:

09.00-09.30 Keynote 3 – TB pathogenesis
Lalita Ramakrishnan, Cambridge (UK)

09.30-10.00 Keynote 4 – EM
Lukas Wick, Leipzig (DE)

10.00-10.30 Coffee break / Poster viewing / Exhibition EXHIBITION

10.30-12.00

SESSION 16 Microbiology for gynecology/obstetrics THEATERSAAL

Chair:

10.30-11.00 Ureaplasma & Mycoplasma infection : clinical significance
Manon Vouga, Lausanne

11.00-11.15 Short talk

11.15-11.30 Short talk

11.30-11.45 Short talk

11.45-12.00 Short talk

SESSION 17 Environmental Microbiology BALSAL

Chair:

10.30-11.00 Title
Sara Mitri, Lausanne

11.00-11.15 Short talk

11.15-11.30 Short talk

11.30-11.45 Short talk

11.45-12.00 Short talk



SESSION 18	Cell biology of infection	BRÜNIG
	Chair:	
10.30-11.00	Title Annika Hausmann, Zurich	
11.00-11.15	Short talk	
11.15-11.30	Short talk	
11.30-11.45	Short talk	
11.45-12.00	Short talk	

SESSION 19	Environmental mycology	CLUB CASINO
	Chair:	
10.30-11.00	Title Valentin Queloz, Birmensdorf	
11.00-11.15	Short talk	
11.15-11.30	Short talk	
11.30-11.45	Short talk	
11.45-12.00	Short talk	

SESSION 20	Advanced culture systems to study viral pathogenicity	GRIMSEL
	Chair:	
10.30-11.00	Title Mirco Schmolke, Geneva	
11.00-11.15	Title Marco Alves, Bern	
11.15-11.30	Short talk	
11.30-11.45	Short talk	
11.45-12.00	Short talk	



12.00-12.30/45 **Symposium** THEATERSAAL

12.30/45-14.00 **Lunch Break / Poster walk / Exhibition** EXHIBITION
POSTERWALK ODD NUMBERS

13.00-14.00	Early career round table session	BRÜNIG
	Chair:	
13.00-14.00	Discussion Typhaine Brual, Lyon (FR) ; Linda Müller, Bellinzona ; Pilar Junier, Neuchâtel ; Alix Coste, Lausanne	

14.00-15.30

SESSION 21	Artificial intelligence in diagnostic microbiology	THEATERSAAL
	Chair:	
14.00-14.30	Artificial intelligence in microbiology Adrian Egli, Zurich	
14.30-14.45	Short talk	
14.45-15.00	Short talk	
15.00-15.15	Short talk	
15.15-15.30	Short talk	



SESSION 22 **Environmental Microbiology** **BALSAAL**

Chair:

- 14.00-14.30** **Title**
Alice Bosco, Lausanne
- 14.30-14.45** **Short talk**
- 14.45-15.00** **Short talk**
- 15.00-15.15** **Short talk**
- 15.15-15.30** **Short talk**

SESSION 23 **Bacterial cell biology and physiology** **BRÜNIG**

Chair:

- 14.00-14.30** **Title**
Paula Navarro, Lausanne
- 14.30-14.45** **Short talk**
- 14.45-15.00** **Short talk**
- 15.00-15.15** **Short talk**
- 15.15-15.30** **Short talk**

SESSION 24 **Fungi in microbiomes** **CLUB CASINO**

Chair:

- 14.00-14.30** **Title**
Giuseppe Ianiri, Campobasso CB (IT)
- 14.30-14.45** **Short talk**
- 14.45-15.00** **Short talk**
- 15.00-15.15** **Short talk**
- 15.15-15.30** **Short talk**

SESSION 25 **Immune response to virus infections** **GRIMSEL**

Chair:

- 14.00-14.30** **Title**
Charaf Benarafa, Bern
- 14.30-15.00** **The co-inhibitory receptor TIGIT promotes tissue protective functions in T cells**
Nicole Joller, Zurich
- 15.00-15.15** **Short talk**
- 15.15-15.30** **Short talk**

15.30-16.00 **Coffee break / Poster viewing / Exhibition** **EXHIBITION**

16.00-16.30 **POSTER & SOCIETY AWARDS** **THEATERSAAL**

Chair:

16.30-17.00 **KEYNOTE 5** **THEATERSAAL**

Chairs:

- 16.30-17.00** **Keynote 5 – VIR**
Beate Sodeik, Hannover (DE)

17.00 **END OF THE SSM ANNUAL MEETING 2025**

PUB

Location



Arrival

- By car Exit motorway "Interlaken Ost" and follow the signs to Casino Kursaal. There are many public car parks in the immediate vicinity. These can be paid for with the PayByPhone – App and others payment options.
- By train, go to Interlaken West from the railway station you can reach the Kursaal Interlaken in about 13 minutes on foot or in a few minutes by taxi.

Venue

Congress Kursaal Interlaken
Strandbadstrasse 44, 3800 Interlaken
www.congress-interlaken.ch

Meeting rooms : Theatersaal, Balsaal, Brünig, Club Casino, Grimsel

Networking Dinner

On Wednesday August 27, 2025 at Congress Kursaal Interlaken
18.45-19.30 Aperitif & poster session
As of 19.30 Networking Diner

Kind thanks to our sponsors



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