

Swiss Society for Microbiology Annual Congress 2026

From 26 to 28 August 2026

2m2c Montreux Music & Convention Center

PROGRAM



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Location

Sponsors

Congress office Management

Meeting.com Congress Organisation
Rue des Pâquis 1 · CH-1033 Cheseaux-sur-Lausanne
nicole@meetingcom.ch · T 021 312 92 62



Registration on meeting-com.ch / Conferences & Meetings

Congress organization – Scientific committee

Prof Philipp Engel, Department of Fundamental Microbiology (DMF), UNIL, Lausanne

Prof. Tom Ian Battin, School of Architecture, Civil and Environmental Engineering, EPFL, Lausanne

Clinical Microbiology

Adrian Egli, Zurich; Linda Müller, Bellinzona; Oliver Nolte, Zurich

Early career

Marion Aruanno, Lausanne

Microbial Ecology

Philipp Engel, Lausanne; Tom Ian Battin, Lausanne

Lay Communication

Pilar Junier, Neuchâtel; Mandy Müller, Lausanne

Molecular Microbiology

Alexander Harms, Zurich, Camille Goemans, Lausanne

Mycology

Alix Coste, Lausanne; Markus Kunzler, Zurich

Virology

Silke Stertz, Zurich; Mirco Schmolke, Geneva

Dear Colleagues,

Please save the date for the Annual Congress of the Swiss Society of Microbiology, which will take place from 26-28 August 2026 at the 2m2c Music and Convention Centre, on the shores of Lake Geneva in Montreux, Switzerland.

The congress will bring together experts from across the full spectrum of microbiology, including clinical microbiology, virology, mycology, microbial ecology, and molecular microbiology.

The Scientific Committee, chaired by Prof. Philipp Engel and Prof. Tom Ian Battin, aims to create an interdisciplinary and supportive environment with strong opportunities for presentation, discussion, and networking, especially for early-career researchers.

The scientific program will include:

- 5 keynote lectures
- 15 parallel sessions covering current and broad topics in microbiology
- 2 dedicated poster sessions
- “My Thesis in 180 Seconds”
- Lay communication activity
- An afternoon dedicated to Early Career Researchers

We look forward to welcoming you to Montreux in 2026.

Kind regards,
The Organizing Committee of the 2026
Annual Congress of the SGM-SSM

Venue

2m2c Montreux Music Convention Center
Avenue Claude-Nobs 6, 1820 Montreux
<https://2m2c.ch/fr>

Registration

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

Registration fee	Early fee	Late fee & onsite
	1-day (26.08)	1-day (26.08)
	(until August 16, 2026)	(as of August 17, 2026)
MEMBER*	CHF 200.00	CHF 300.00
NON-Member	CHF 350.00	CHF 450.00
Student Member*	CHF 100.00	CHF 175.00
Student NON-Member**	CHF 200.00	CHF 275.00

	Early fee	Late fee & onsite
	2-days (27-28.08)	2-days (27-28.08)
	(until August 16, 2026)	(as of August 17, 2026)
MEMBER*	CHF 350.00	CHF 450.00
NON-Member	CHF 500.00	CHF 600.00
Student Member*	CHF 170.00	CHF 220.00
Student NON-Member**	CHF 270.00	CHF 320.00

	Early fee	Late fee & onsite
	3-days (26-28.08)	3-days (26-28.08)
	(until August 16, 2026)	(as of August 17, 2026)
MEMBER*	CHF 450.00	CHF 550.00
NON-Member	CHF 600.00	CHF 700.00
Student Member*	CHF 220.00	CHF 330.00
Student NON-Member**	CHF 320.00	CHF 430.00

Networking Dinner on Thursday, August 27, 2026

CHF 120.00 (limited places)

at 2m2c Montreux Music Convention Center

Being a Microbiologist today - organized by the Early Career Section – Wednesday, August 26, 2026

I participate Wed August 26, 2026 at 15.00

yes (included in the registration fees)

I participate in the early career evening on Wed August 26, 2026 at 18.30

yes (included in the registration fees)

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 2026 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@meetingcom.ch

Networking Dinner

On Thursday August 27, 2026 at 2m2c Montreux Music Convention Center
18.45-19.45 Aperitive
As of 19.45 Networking Diner

Congress office management

Meeting.com Sàrl Congress Organisation
Rue des Pâquis 1 · CH-1033 Cheseaux-sur-Lausanne
Mrs Nicole Giacomini
T +41 (0)21 312 92 62 · nicole@meetingcom.ch



Credits

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

Book of abstracts & Online program

More information to come

On Thursday, August 27, 2026 at 13.30**Plenary Room Miles Davis Hall**

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!

On Friday August 28, 2026 at 09.20**Plenary room Miles Davis Hall**

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 (3 mn) 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!

Awards

On Friday August 28, 2026 at 15.50**Plenary room Miles Davis Hall**

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 will be presented at the end of the meeting during the very last session.

08.30 **Registration** **FOYER**
 09.25-09.40 **Welcome & Introduction** **MILES DAVIS HALL**

09.40-10.15 **KEYNOTE 1** **MILES DAVIS HALL**
 Chair:

09.40-10.05 **Expansion Microscopy Atlas of Microbial Eukaryotes**
 Omayya Dudin, Geneva

10.05-10.15 **Discussion**

10.15-11.45 **SESSION 1 CM** **MILES DAVIS HALL**
Swiss Dialogue on Diagnostic Harmonization: Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing
 Chair:

10.15-10.45 **tbc**
 Stefano Manici, Zurich

10.45-11.45 **Round table**
 Stefano Mancini, Zurich; Damine Jacot, Lausanne;
 Salomé Seiffert, St. Gallen; Abdessalam Cherkaoui, Geneva

11.00-11.45 **SESSION 2 MM** **AGORA 1-3**
Microbes in food
 Chair:

11.00-11.45 **Taste the Microbiome: The Ecology of Microbial Terroir in Fermented Foods**
 M 03
 Lena Flörl, Zurich

10.15-11.45 **SESSION 3 MY** **MILES DAVIS 1-2**
Swiss Mycology Symposium
 Chair:

10.15-10.30 **Short talk**

10.30-10.45 **Short talk**

10.45-11.00 **Short talk**

11.00-11.15 **Short talk**

11.15-11.45 **Jumping Genes and Pathogenic Schemes: The diverse role that transposons play in plant pathogen evolution**
 Megan McDonald, Zurich

10.15-11.45 **SESSION 4 ME** **AGORA 5**
Microbial Ecology
 Chair:

10.15-10.45 **Strain transmission and microbiome dynamics in early life**
 Pascale Vonaesch, Lausanne

10.45-11.00 **Short talk**

11.00-11.15 **Short talk**

11.15-11.30 **Short talk**

11.30-11.45 **Short talk**

10.15-11.45 SESSION 5 VI **MILES DAVIS 3-4**
Virus-host interactions

Chair:

10.15-10.45 **A wild-type mouse-adapted SARS-CoV-2 model captures multi-organ long COVID and enables host-focused mechanistic and interventional studies**
 Stefanie Bader, Heidelberg (DE)

10.45-11.00 **Short talk**

11.00-11.15 **Short talk**

11.15-11.30 **Short talk**

11.30-11.45 **Short talk**

11.45-13.15 **Lunch Break / Poster viewing / Exhibition** **EXHIBITION**

13.15-14.45 SESSION 6 CM **MILES DAVIS HALL**
Swiss Dialogue on Diagnostic Harmonization: Next Generation Sequencing

Chair:

13.15-13.45 **tbc**
 Tim Roloff, Zurich

13.45-14.45 **Round table**
 Alban Ramette, Bern; Claudio Neidhöfer, Basel,
 Claire Bertelli, Lausanne

13.15-14.45 SESSION 7 MM **AGORA 1-3**
My career in molecular microbiology

Chair:

13.15-13.45 **tbc**
 Giorgia Greter, Zurich

13.45-14.05 **tbc**
 Thomas Fiedler, Muttenz

14.05-14.25 **Leading with Science: Forging a Career as a Molecular Microbiologist in Big Pharma**
 Rusudan Okujava, Basel

14.25-14.45 **tbc**
 Andrea Vettiger, Lausanne

13.15-14.45 SESSION 8 MY **MILES DAVIS 1-2**
Swiss Mycology Symposium

Chair:

13.15-13.30 **Short talk**

13.30-13.45 **Short talk**

13.45-14.00 **Short talk**

14.00-14.15 **Short talk**

14.15-14.30 **Short talk**

14.30-14.45 **Short talk**

13.15-14.45 SESSION 9 ME **Microbial Ecology** **AGORA 5**

Chair:

13.15-13.45 **Engineering the plant microbiome: scaling-up biostimulant for sustainable agriculture**
Raphaël Bousageon, Zurich

13.45-14.00 **Short talk**

14.00-14.15 **Short talk**

14.15-14.30 **Short talk**

14.30-14.45 **Short talk**

13.15-14.45 SESSION 10 VI **Virology** **MILES DAVIS 3-4**

Chair:

13.15-13.45 **tbc**
Lucie Etienne, Lyon (FR)

13.45-14.00 **Short talk**

14.00-14.15 **Short talk**

14.15-14.30 **Short talk**

14.30-14.45 **Short talk**

15.00-16.30 **Being a Microbiologist today organized by the Early Career Section** **MILES DAVIS HALL**

Chairs: Marion Aruanno, Lausanne; Alessandra Vitale, Lausanne

15.00-16.30 **Microbiology and social media: Communicating clearly in the age of misinformation**
Noémie Matthey, Lausanne; Samuel Van Gele, Stuttgart (DE)

16.30-17.00 **Coffee break / Poster viewing / Exhibition** **EXHIBITION**

17.00-18.30 **Being a Microbiologist today organized by the Early Career Section** **MILES DAVIS HALL**

Chairs: Marion Aruanno Lausanne; Thomas Simonet, Lausanne

17.00-18.30 **Science without burnout: Well-being and career balance**
Kevin Nils Baumann, Basel; Maryame Bina, Basel

18.30-20.00 **Networking aperitive (early career)** **EXHIBITION**

09.00 Registration **FOYER**
10.00-10.15 Welcome and Introduction **MILES DAVIS HALL**

09.00-10.00 KEYNOTE 2 **MILES DAVIS HALL**
 Chair:
10.15-10.40 Carnivorous Fungi: From Molecules to Ecosystems
 Yen-Ping Hsueh, Tübingen (DE)
10.40-10.50 Discussion

10.50-12.20 SESSION 11 CM **MILES DAVIS HALL**
Lung infections
 Chair:
10.50-11.20 tbc
 Noémie Boillat Blanco, Lausanne
11.20-11.35 Short talk
11.35-11.50 Short talk
11.50-12.05 Short talk
12.05-12.20 Short talk

10.50-12.20 SESSION 12 MM **AGORA 1-3**
Mechanisms of microbial interactions
 Chair:
10.50-11.20 tbc
 Alan Pacheco, Lausanne
11.20-11.35 Short talk
11.35-11.50 Short talk
11.50-12.05 Short talk
12.05-12.20 Short talk

10.50-12.20 SESSION 13 MY **MILES DAVIS 1-2**
Fungi in nature and biotechnology
 Chair:
10.50-11.20 Fungi as a Platform for Sustainable Bio-Based Living Materials
 Gustav Nyström, Dübendorf
11.20-11.35 Short talk
11.35-11.50 Short talk
11.50-12.05 Short talk
12.05-12.20 Short talk

10.50-12.20 SESSION 14 ME **AGORA 5**
Microbes and environmental change
 Chair:
10.50-11.20 From dividing to dormant: the microbial activity spectrum and its ecological consequences
 Ashley Shade, Lyon (FR)
11.20-11.35 Short talk
11.35-11.50 Short talk
11.50-12.05 Short talk
12.05-12.20 Short talk

10.50-12.20 SESSION 15 VI **MILES DAVIS 3-4**
Zoonoses & vector-borne viral diseases
 Chair:
10.50-11.20 Dissecting Zoonotic Virus Infection Through Advanced Cellular Imaging
 Christian Sieben, Braunschweig (DE)
11.20-11.35 Short talk
11.35-11.50 Short talk
11.50-12.05 Short talk
12.05-12.20 Short talk

12.20-13.30 Lunch Break / Poster viewing / Exhibition EXHIBITION

13.30-14.05 **POSTER FLASH SESSION** MILES DAVIS HALL

Chair:

- 13.30-13.33 PF01
- 13.35-13.38 PF02
- 13.40-13.43 PF03
- 13.45-13.48 PF04
- 13.50-13.53 PF05
- 13.55-13.58 PF06
- 14.00-14.03 PF07

14.15-15.45 SESSION 16 CM – NCCR MILES DAVIS HALL

AntiResist: Modelling Human Infectious Disease

Chair:

- 14.15-14.45 **tbc**
Gray Camp, Basel
- 14.45-15.00 **Short talk**
- 15.00-15.15 **Short talk**
- 15.15-15.30 **Short talk**
- 15.30-15.45 **Short talk**

14.15-15.45 SESSION 17 MM AGORA 1-3

Bacterial cell biology and signal transduction

Chair:

- 14.15-14.45 **Being Lazy is not always bad: c-di-AMP signaling in cyanobacteria**
Khaled Selim, Düsseldorf (DE)
- 14.45-15.00 **Short talk**

15.00-15.15 **Short talk**

15.15-15.30 **Short talk**

15.30-15.45 **Short talk**

14.15-15.45 SESSION 18 MY MILES DAVIS 1-2

Current topics in clinical mycology

Chair:

- 14.15-14.45 **Fungal Infections in times of Climate Change**
Martin Hönigl, Graz (AT)
- 14.45-15.00 **Short talk**
- 15.00-15.15 **Short talk**
- 15.15-15.30 **Short talk**
- 15.30-15.45 **Short talk**

14.15-15.45 SESSION 19 ME AGORA 5

Ecology and evolution of microbial communities

Chair:

- 14.15-14.45 **Ecological diversity of microbial immunity**
Lucas Paoli, Lausanne
- 14.45-15.00 **Short talk**
- 15.00-15.15 **Short talk**
- 15.15-15.30 **Short talk**
- 15.30-15.45 **Short talk**

14.15-15.45 SESSION 20 VI MILES DAVIS 3-4

**When microbes unite – co-infections
(with viruses, bacteria, fungi)**

Chair:

14.15-14.45 **Systems biology approaches to uncover the molecular mechanisms of viral-bacterial co-infections**
Philipp Walch, Lausanne

14.45-15.00 **Short talk**

15.00-15.15 **Short talk**

15.15-15.30 **Short talk**

15.30-15.45 **Short talk**

15.45-16.45 **Coffee break / Poster viewing / Exhibition** EXHIBITION

16.15-17.15 **Poster walk ODD NUMBERS** POSTER AREA

17.15-17.50 **KEYNOTE 3** MILES DAVIS HALL

Chair:

17.15-17.40 **Deltavirus infection in human and animal hosts**
Karim Majzoub, Montpellier (FR)

17.40-17.50 **Discussion**

18.00-19.00 **GENERAL ASSEMBLY** MILES DAVIS HALL

open to members only

Chair: SSM Board Committee

18.45 **Aperitive** POSTER AREA

As of 19.45 **Networking dinner** 2M2C MONTREUX MUSIC CONVENTION CENTER

7.45 **Registration** FOYER

08.45-09.20 **KEYNOTE 4** MILES DAVIS HALL

08.45-09.10 Molecular mechanisms of bacterial cell division in filamentous bacteria
Susan Schlimpert, Norwich (UK)

09.10-09.20 Discussion

09.20-10.25 **MY THESIS IN 180 SECONDS** MILES DAVIS HALL

Chair:

09.20-09.25 Introduction & rules

09.25-09.30 MT01

09.30-09.35 MT02

09.35-09.40 MT03

09.40-09.45 MT04

09.45-09.50 MT05

09.50-09.55 MT06

09.55-10.00 MT07

10.00-10.05 MT08

10.05-10.10 MT09

10.10-10.15 MT10

10.15-10.20 MT11

10.20-10.25 MT12

10.25-11.00 **Coffee break / Poster viewing / Exhibition** EXHIBITION

11.00-12.00 **Poster walk EVEN NUMBERS** POSTER AREA

12.00-13.15 **Lunch Break / Poster viewing / Exhibition** EXHIBITION

13.15-14.45 **SESSION 21 CM** MILES DAVIS HALL

Deep wound infections

Chair:

13.15-13.45 **tbc**
Viktoriia Holubnycha, Sumy Oblast (UA)

13.45-14.00 **Short talk**

14.00-14.15 **Short talk**

14.15-14.30 **Short talk**

14.30-14.45 **Short talk**

13.15-14.45 **SESSION 22 MM** AGORA 1-3

Bacterial genetics and Mobile Genetic Elements

Chair:

13.15-13.45 **Role of mobile genetic elements in spreading phage resistance in bacterial populations**
Anne Chevallereau, Lyon (FR)

13.45-14.00 **Short talk**

14.00-14.15 **Short talk**

14.15-14.30 **Short talk**

14.30-14.45 **Short talk**

13.15-14.45 SESSION 23 MY MILES DAVIS 1-2
Viruses of fungi and bacteria
 Chair:

13.15-13.45 **Circular viroid-like RNA infectious elements infect fungi altering their biological properties**
 Massimo Turina, Torino (IT)

13.45-14.00 **Short talk**

14.00-14.15 **Short talk**

14.15-14.30 **Short talk**

14.30-14.45 **Short talk**

13.15-14.45 SESSION 24 NCCR AGORA 5
Microbiomes: Towards controlling microbiomes
 Chair:

13.15-13.45 **tbc**
 Michael Zimmermann, Heidelberg (DE)

13.45-14.00 **Short talk**

14.00-14.15 **Short talk**

14.15-14.30 **Short talk**

14.30-14.45 **Short talk**

13.15-14.45 SESSION 25 NCCR MILES DAVIS 3-4
Lay communication: Comic Strip workshop
 Chair: Lay Communication Committee

14.45-15.15 **Coffee break / Poster viewing / Exhibition** EXHIBITION

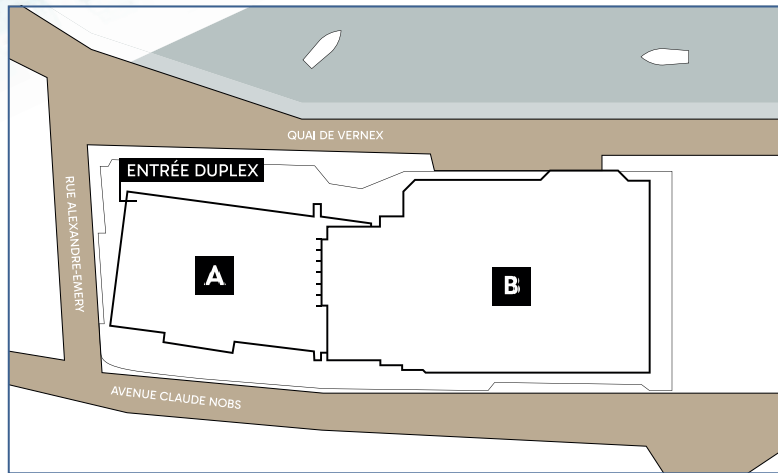
15.15-15.50 **KEYNOTE 5** MILES DAVIS HALL

15.15-15.40 **Innovating Against AMR: The Role of Diagnostics**
 Robin Patel, Rochester (USA)

09.10-09.20 **Discussion**

15.50-16.00 **Awards & Closing remarks** MILES DAVIS HALL

16.00 **Farewell**



Arrival

- By car: take the motorway exit “Montreux” and follow the signs towards the lake and Montreux city center. Continue in the direction of the 2m2c Montreux Music & Convention Centre. Several public parking facilities are available nearby.
- By train: travel to Montreux railway station. From there, the 2m2c Montreux Music & Convention Centre can be reached in approximately 7 minutes on foot along the lakeside promenade.

Venue

2m2c Montreux Music Convention Center
Avenue Claude-Nobs 6, 1820 Montreux
<https://2m2c.ch/fr>

Entrance of the 2m2c : Duplexe (not via the main entrance)

Meeting rooms :
Miles Davis Hall, Agora 1-3, Agora 5, Miles Davis 1-2, Miles Davis 3-4

Networking Dinner

On Thursday August 27, 2026 at the 2m2c Montreux Music Convention Center
18.45-19.30 Aperitive
As of 19.45 Networking Diner

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