

# Swiss Society for Microbiology Annual Congress 2026

From 26 to 28 August 2026

2m2c Montreux Music & Convention Center

# PROGRAM





**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](http://meeting-com.ch) / Conferences & Meetings

# Table of content

Organization

---

Welcome word

---

General information

---

Poster Flash Session

---

My thesis in 180 seconds!

---

Awards

---

Being a Microbiologist today  
organized by the Early Career Section – 26.08.26

---

Program 26.08.2026

---

General Assembly SSM 2026 - 27.08.2026 – 18.00

---

Program 27.08.2026

---

Program 28.08.2026

---

Location

---

Sponsors

---

# Organization

## **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



# Welcome word

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



**BE A GAME CHANGER**  
You can make a global impact

## Venue

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

## Registration

online on [www.meeting-com.ch](http://www.meeting-com.ch)/Conferences & Meetings

<b>Registration fee</b>	<b>Early fee 1-day (26.08)</b> (until August 16, 2026)	<b>Late fee &amp; onsite 1-day (26.08)</b> (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

	<b>Early fee 2-days (27-28.08)</b> (until August 16, 2026)	<b>Late fee &amp; onsite 2-days (27-28.08)</b> (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

	<b>Early fee 3-days (26-28.08)</b> (until August 16, 2026)	<b>Late fee &amp; onsite 3-days (26-28.08)</b> (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](mailto: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](mailto: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** Current AST Practices in Swiss Clinical Microbiology  
 Laboratories: A Nationwide Survey  
 Stefano Mancini, Zurich

**10.45-11.45** Round table  
 Stefano Mancini, Zurich; Damien 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  
 M 03 Terroir in Fermented Foods  
 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

**Alternative careers in Biotech: Lessons from Entrepreneurship**

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

AGORA 5

## Microbial Ecology

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

MILES DAVIS 3-4

## Virology

Chair:

13.15-13.45

Genomic and functional diversification of the bat antiviral innate immunity

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, Bern; 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**  
Sophie Martin, Geneva; 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:  
Cyclic 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** **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**



**BE A GAME CHANGER**  
You can make a global impact

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 **Wartime Wound Infections in Ukraine: Evolution of Antimicrobial Resistance among ESKAPE**

Viktorii 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**

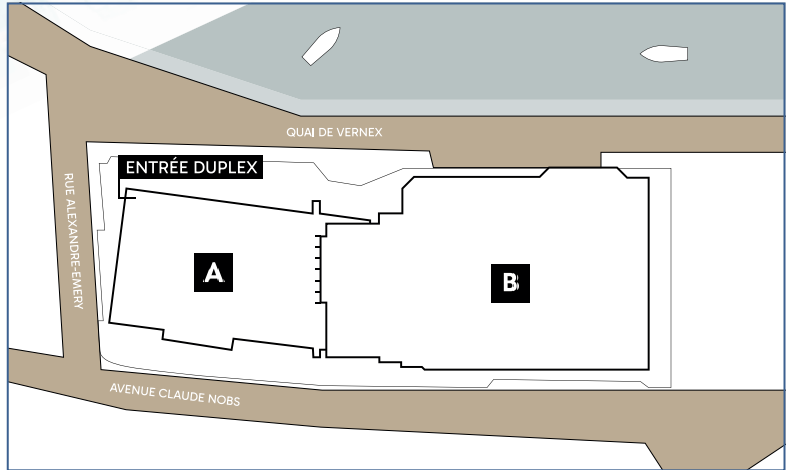
**15.15-15.40** Innovating Against AMR: The Role of Diagnostics  
Robin Patel, Rochester (USA)

**09.10-09.20** Discussion

**15.50-16.20 Awards & Closing remarks** **MILES DAVIS HALL**

**16.20 Farewell**

# Location



## 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



# Sponsors

Kind thanks to our sponsors



# Sponsors

Kind thanks to our sponsors



