
THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2026**8:30 – 9:00** Registration and coffee**9:00 – 9:05** Opening words**Session I: Microbiota in human and beyond
moderated by Reet Mändar****9:05 – 9:35** Definitions and benefit of biotics in microbiota management **Seppo Salminen**
professor, Nutrition and Food Research Center, University of Turku, Finland**9:35 – 9:55** Microbial ecology of long-propagated industrial rye bread sourdoughs **Liis Lutter**
lecturer, Estonian University of Life Sciences, Chair of Food Science and Technology; research fellow, BioCC**9:55 – 10:15** Associations between microbiome and diabetes **Alar Aints**
associate professor, Department of Immunology**10:15 – 10:35** Management of microbiota in bariatric surgery **Jelena Štšepetova**
research fellow, Department of Microbiology**10:35 – 11:00** *Coffee break***Session II: Biomolecules in health and disease
moderated by Karlis Pleiko****11:00 – 11:20** Rewired JAK-STAT pathway in circulating CD4⁺CLA⁺ and CD4⁺ naïve T cells from atopic dermatitis and psoriasis patients **Martin Pook**
research fellow, Department of Biomedicine**11:20 – 11:40** The role of RNA modification ac4C and its writer NAT10 in psoriasis **Pavel Kudrin**
research fellow, Department of Biomedicine**11:40 – 12:00** Technologies for discovery and validation of homing peptide receptors **Rasmus Enno**
PhD student/junior research fellow, Department of Biomedicine**12:00 – 12:20** Peptide-functionalized lipid nanoparticles for precision delivery **Jhalak Sethi**
PhD student/junior research fellow, Department of Biomedicine**12:20 – 13:00** *Lunch***Session III: Innovative approaches in research and teaching
moderated by Siim Suutre****13:00 – 13:20** Association of molecular markers CILP-2, DDR2, and C2C with the severity of tissue damage in knee osteoarthritis **Taavi Torga**
lecturer, Department of Anatomy**13:20 – 13:40** Loss of functional Wfs1 disrupts PERK-mediated ER stress signaling in a rat model of Wolfram syndrome **Mario Plaas**
professor, Laboratory Animal Centre**13:40 – 14:00** MITF mutant mice as a novel model of Parkinson's disease **Miriam A. Hickey**
associate professor, Department of Pharmacology**14:00 – 14:20** Individual Post-application Activity Test (iPAT) as an additional tool for assessing student learning in a team-based learning setting **Ave Minajeva**
associate professor, Department of Pathological Anatomy and Forensic Medicine**14:20 – 14:50** *Coffee break*

Session IV: Panel discussion
moderated by

14:50 – 16:00 How to communicate scientific knowledge to people

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 2026

8:40 – 9:00 Registration and coffee

Session V: Metabolic pathways in health and disease
moderated by **Katyayani Singh**

9:00 – 9:20 Shared genetic links between mood and metabolism
Mari-Anne Philips
associate professor, Department of Physiology

9:20 – 9:40 Reprogramming redox balance: insights from hypothermia and beyond
Kattri-Liis Eskla
associate professor, Department of Physiology

9:40 – 10:00 Remote ischemic preconditioning – is it beneficial?
Kadri Eerik
PhD student/junior research fellow, Institute of Clinical Medicine and Department of Biochemistry, BSMI; Endothelial Centre of UT
Teele Kasepalu
research fellow; Institute of Clinical Medicine

10:00 – 10:20 Metabolomic profiling of anemia
Triin Paabo
PhD student/junior research fellow, Department of Biochemistry

10:20 – 10:50 *Coffe break*

Session VI: Management of infections
moderated by **Kristi Huik**

10:50 – 11:20 Optimised treatment for viral infections
Anne-Grete Märtson
Leiden Academic Centre for Drug Research (LACDR), Leiden University, the Netherlands

11:20 – 11:40 SARS-CoV-2 dynamics and factors influencing incidence in Estonia
Hiie Soeorg
University College London, London, UK

11:40 – 12:00 Bioinformatics and Applied Genomics Unit research highlights: viral genomics and host–pathogen interactions
Dimitris Tremoulis
PhD student, Department of Microbiology, Hellenic Pasteur Institute, Athens, Greece

12:00 – 12:20 A tool for individualised vancomycin dosing in the ICU: development of the tool and clinical trial results
Hanna Kadri Laas
PhD student/junior research fellow, Department of Microbiology

12:20 – 13:00 *Lunch*

Session VII: Immunological insights
moderated by **Aili Tagoma**

13:00 – 13:20 Exploring immune repertoires to understand disease mechanisms in monogenic autoimmunity
Alexandra Elsakova
PhD student/junior research fellow, Department of Biomedicine

13:20 – 13:40	The role of interferon-alpha in thymocyte development	Grette-Ly Mäesalu BSc student, Department of Biomedicine
13:40 – 14:00	Aging, health, and immune response: insights from an Estonian Biobank cohort	Martti Vanker PhD student/junior research fellow, Department of Biomedicine
14:00 – 14:20	Coffe break	
Session VIII: Advances in reproductive medicine moderated by Radko Avi		
14:20 – 14:40	Recurrent fetal malformations: what genomics revealed	Laura Kasak lecturer, Department of Biomedicine
14:40 – 15:00	Female reproduction and embryo implantation from biomarkers to advanced <i>in vitro</i> models	Alberto Sola-Leyva research fellow, Celvia CC
15:00 – 15:20	Chromatinopathy-linked genes as a novel potential cause of male infertility	Anna-Grete Juchnewitsch PhD student/junior research fellow, Department of Biomedicine
15:20 – 15:30	Concluding words	

Teaduspäevade korraldamist toetab Eesti doktorikooli arsti- ja terviseteaduste, veterinaaria haru. Projekti "Ülikoolide koostöö doktoriõppe edendamisel" (2021-2027.4.04.24-0003) kaasrahastab Euroopa Liit.