



2025 Antibodies and Complement meeting: B cells, antibodies, complement function & therapeutics

Venue: Sheraton hotel Catania. Catania, Sicily, Italy. May 26-30, 2025

GENERAL AGENDA

Overall agenda (detailed program is below):

The conference will be organized from May 26 till May 30, 2025. One half day (Day 1, day of arrival), three full days (Days 2, 3 and 4) and last day, which is the day of departure (Day 5).

On May 26, 2025 (day 1), the day of the arrival, we start at the afternoon with a Plenary Lecture, 2 invited speakers and a short talk, both from the antibody and complement field. The three speakers (Plenary and 2 Invited) are leaders in the fields of antibodies and complement. After the opening session, all participants are invited to the welcome reception and joined dinner for networking.

On May 27, 2025 (day 2), we start with a morning session on germinal centers and antibody development. All participants will share lunch and will have time for networking. We will hold “Lunch with Speakers” where invited speakers will be meeting trainees and established researchers. During the break between lunch and the afternoon session, we will hold a workshop on challenges of women in science, that will encourage discussion to address the old and new barriers for women in the academia and industry world. In the afternoon, we have a session on Antibodies from patients, followed by 5 flash talks from Poster Session 1. There will be approximately 2 hours (6pm-8pm) for poster viewing, networking and informal discussion, following which all participants can continue discussing their ideas over dinner that will close the day.

On May 28, 2025 (day 3), we have a morning session on Antibody-induced Complement activity. Lunch will start earlier, at 12:15. From 1pm to 5pm there will be free time. Participants will be proposed to register and pay for a marvelous common excursion to the Etna Vulcano if they wish. This informal time together will foster informal interactions between participants of all seniority. In the afternoon session, from 5pm, we will discuss the role of Complement-mediated responses and drugs followed by 5 flash talks from Poster Session 2. There will be approximately 2 hours (6pm-8pm) for poster viewing, networking and informal discussion, following which all participants can continue for dinner that will close the day.

On May 29, 2025 (day 4), the morning session is dedicated to AI and novel approaches for improving antibodies and complement drugs. All participants will share lunch. We will hold “Lunch with Speakers” where invited speakers will be meeting trainees and established researchers. Alternatively, we will hold “Lunch with Editor” where the editors of *The Journal of Experimental Medicine* and of *Science Translational Medicine* will meet with scientists. During the break between lunch and the afternoon Session 7, we will hold a “Career Table: From postdoc to independence” available for early career researchers. 4 established panelists each will share their story and the participants will be encouraged to discuss and ask questions. The last conference session at the afternoon session focuses on Autoimmunity, inflammation and cancer. We conclude day 4 with a gala dinner for all participants and subsequent party (with music & dancing).

On May 30, 2025 (day 5), is departure. All participants will depart the venue before noon.

Day	Time	Program category	Speaker name and topic of talk
		INTRODUCTION	The organizers
MAY 26	17:00-19:30	SESSION	Session 1: OPENING SESSION. ANTIBODIES AND COMPLEMENT
		Introduction from discussion leaders	Discussion leaders TBD
		Keynote	Michel Nussenzweig , Rockefeller University, USA – Human monoclonal antibodies in the clinic
		Invited lecture	Carola Vinuesa , Francis Crick Institute, London, UK – Autoimmunity and antibodies in SLE
		Invited lecture	Suzan Rooijackers , UMC Utrecht, NL – Complement in infection and immunity
		Short talk	selected from abstracts (15')
	20:00-22:00	DINNER	WELCOME RECEPTION and DINNER
MAY 27	9:00-12:30	SESSION	Session 2: GERMINAL CENTERS AND ANTIBODY DEVELOPMENT
		Introduction from discussion leaders	Discussion leaders TBD (one postdoc, one PI)
		Invited lecture	Facundo Batista , Ragon Institute, USA – New approach towards germline-targeting vaccines
		Invited lecture	Ziv Shulman , Weizmann Institute, Israel – Mucosal Immunity: how to make it?
		Short talk	Selected from abstract (15')
		Coffee break	
		Invited lecture	Adrian Ho , CHUGAI, Japan – Long lasting neutralization of C5 and C1s by optimized pH-dependent recycling antibodies
		Invited lecture	Hugo Mouquet , Institut Pasteur, Paris, France – Antibodies isolated from HIV-1 infected individuals
		Short talk	Selected from abstract (15')
	12:30-13:30	LUNCH	“Lunch with Speakers” / networking event
	13:30-15:00	FREE TIME	
	14:30-15:30	POWER HOUR	<i>Women in Science: old and new challenges</i>
	15:30-16:00	Coffee break	
	16:00-18:15	SESSION	Session 3: ANTIBODIES FROM PATIENTS
		Introduction from discussion leaders	Discussion leaders TBD (one postdoc, one from industry)
		Invited lecture	Laura Walker , Moderna, USA – Characterization of human antibodies following yellow fever vaccine
		Invited lecture	Qiao Wang , Fudan university, China – Fortuitous somatic mutations during antibody evolution
		Invited lecture	Alex Sigal , Africa Health Research Institute, Durban, South Africa – Antibody response to SARS-CoV-2 subvariant in South Africa
		Flash Talks	Five 5-minutes selected talks from Posters of Poster Session 1
	18:30-20:00	POSTER SESSION 1	Posters and Networking with coffee and wine
	20:00-22:00	DINNER	

MAY 28	8:30-11:30	SESSION	Session 4: ANTIBODY- INDUCED COMPLEMENT ACTIVITY
		Introduction from discussion leaders	Discussion leaders TBD (one postdoc, one PI)
		Invited lecture	Jordan Dimitrov , Centre de Recherche des Cordeliers, Paris, France – Antibodies and complement in bats versus humans
		Invited lecture	Rick Kapur , Sanquin Research, Amsterdam, NL – Antibodies and Complement-partners in crime in transfusion reactions
		Short talk	Selected from abstract (15')
		Coffee break	
		Invited lecture	Doryen Bubeck , Imperial College, London, UK– Complement membrane attack complex in anti-bacterial defense
		Invited lecture	Babak Javid , UCSF, USA – Effector functions in antibodies against mycobacterium tuberculosis
		Short talk	Selected from abstract (15')
	11:45-13:00	LUNCH	“Lunch with Speakers” / “Lunch with Editor” networking event
	13:00-17:00	FREE TIME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Free activity: walking to town to discover Catania and the seaside - Activity with fee: bus + organized tour to mountain Etna (to be paid individually by participants)
	17:00-17:30	Coffee break	
	17:30-19:00	SESSION	Session 5: COMPLEMENT MEDIATED RESPONSES AND DRUGS
		Introduction from discussion leaders	Discussion leaders TBD (one postdoc, one from industry)
		Invited lecture	Wioleta Zelek , Cardiff University School of Medicine, UK – Complement targeting in neuroinflammation
		Invited lecture	Anna Blom , Lund Faculty of Medicine, Sweden – Effector functions of intracellular complement
		Flash Talks	Five 5-minutes selected talks from Posters of Poster Session 2
	19:00-20:30	POSTER SESSION 2	Posters and Networking with coffee and wine
	20:30-22:00	DINNER	
MAY 29	09:00-12:30	SESSION	Session 6: AI AND ANTIBODY ENGINEERING: NEW APPROACHES FOR ENHANCED FUNCTION
		Introduction from discussion leaders	Discussion leaders TBD (one postdoc, one PI)
		Invited lecture	Esther Breij , GenmAb, NL – Hexa-antibodies
		Invited lecture	Rony Dahan , Weizman Institute, Israel - BiCER – new approach for T cell-Dendritic cell activation with bi-specific antibodies
		Talk	Selected abstract (15')
		Coffee break	
		Invited lecture	Brien Hie , Stanford, USA – Replaced by the machine: Efficient evolution of human antibodies from general protein language model
		Invited lecture	Edward F. Patz , Duke School of Medicine, USA – Therapeutic complement factor H targeting with an antibody from cancer patient who controlled the disease
		Talk	Selected abstract (15')

	12:30-13:30	LUNCH	“Lunch with Speakers” or “Lunch with the Editor” / networking event
	13:30-15:00	FREE TIME	
	15:30-16:30	Career Table	“From postdoc to independence” networking event
	16:30-17:00	Coffee break	
	17:00-19:45	SESSION	Session 7: INFLAMMATION, AUTOIMMUNITY AND CANCER
		Introduction from discussion leaders	Discussion leaders TBD (one postdoc, one PI)
		Invited lecture	Leendert Trouw , UMC Leiden, NL – The role of anti-C1q autoantibodies in SLE
		Invited lecture	Jose Villadangos , University of Melbourne, Australia – Marginal Zone B cells in inflammation
		Talk	Selected abstract (15’)
		Coffee break	
		Invited lecture	Silvia Rossi Paccani , GSK Sienna, Italy – Novel Cancer Immunotherapies
		Talk	Selected abstract (15’)
		Concluding remarks	Organizers
	20:00-22:00	GALA DINNER	GALA DINNER
	22:00-00:00		Networking in the conference area
MAY 30	Before noon	DEPARTURE	