

SY Stem

PROGRAMME

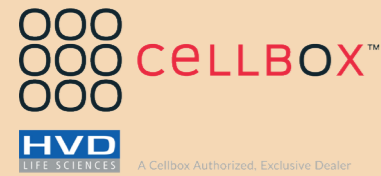
11 – 13 March 2026
Vienna, Austria

Symposium for the next generation of
stem cell researchers



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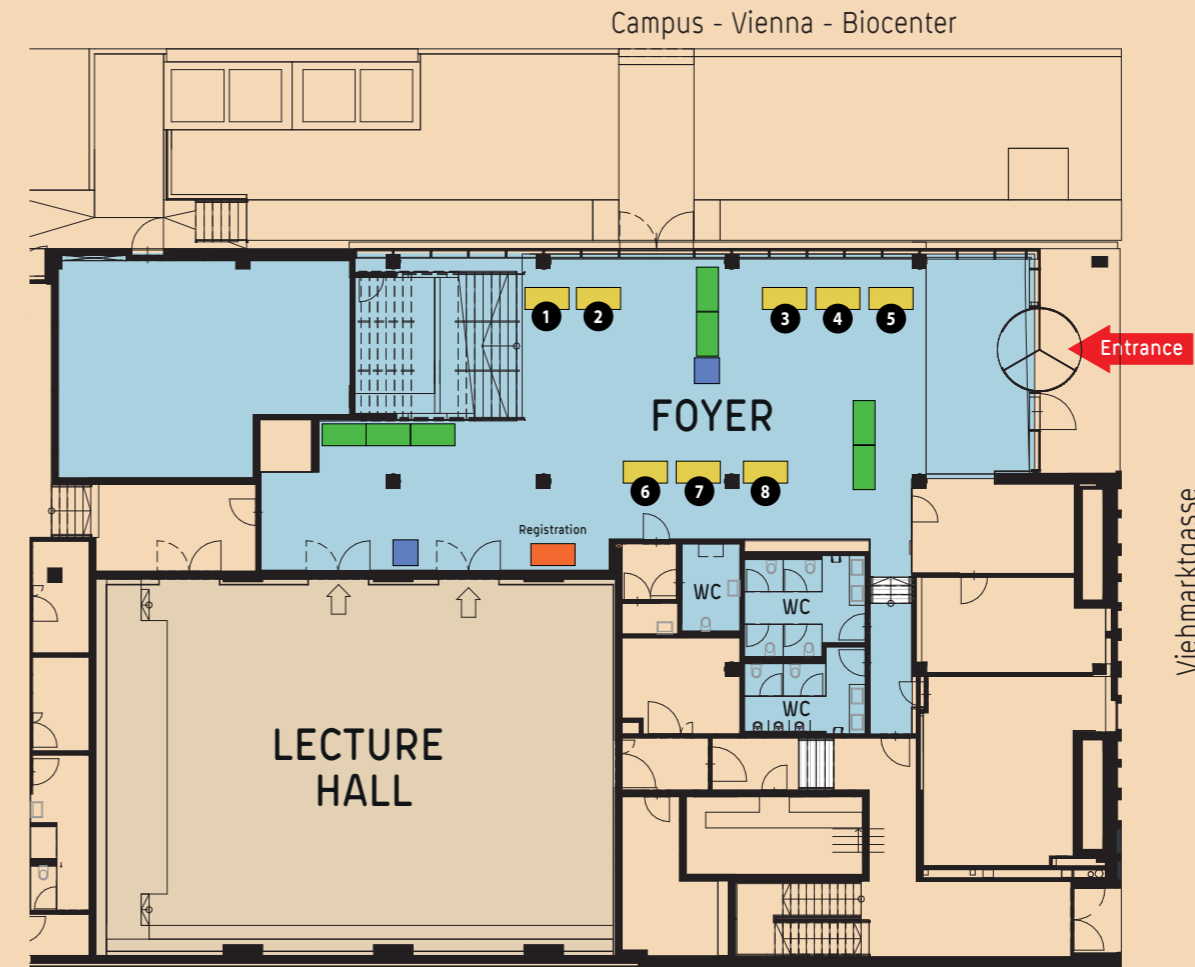


Seeing beyond

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Venue



- | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Reception/information desk | EXHIBITORS: 1 TargetMol EU | 5 CliniSciences |
| Buffet | 2 Tissue Gnostics | 6 Biotechne |
| Water for refill | 3 Enantis | 7 Szabo Scandic |
| | 4 STEM CELL Technologies | 8 HVD Life Science |

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Programme

DAY 1 - Wednesday, March 11

- 09:30 **Panel talk**
- 11:00 **Registration & welcome get together**
- 12:00 **Welcome & introduction**

Keynote lecture I

- 12:15 **Marianne Bronner (California Institute of Technology)** Gene regulatory subcircuits controlling neural crest stem cell fate along the body axis
- 13:15 *lunch break*

SESSION 1: Developmental plasticity

- 14:15 **Stefanie Grosswendt (Berlin Institute of Health & Max Delbrück Center)** Cell communication uncovered in single-cell resolved neighborhoods
- 14:45 **Chloe Roffay (IMP - Research Institute of Molecular Pathology)** Uncovering the forces driving specification and morphogenesis of extraembryonic amnion during human gastrulation
- 15:00 **Irene Zorzan (Babraham Institute)** New approaches to study the regulators of human trophoblast development
- 15:30 *break*
- 16:00 **Undine-Sophie Deumer (University of Cambridge)** Ability of committed progenitor cells to rewire their fate under homeostatic conditions
- 16:15 **Mekayla Storer (Cambridge Stem Cell Institute)** At the tip of Regeneration – Insights from tissue mechanics and the extracellular matrix
- 16:45 **Luis Miguel Cerron Alvan (Max Perutz Labs)** Wt1 acts as a rheostat switch to guide early post-implantation fate and has isoform specific lineage-inductive potential
- 17:00 *break*
- 17:30 **Noelia Anton-Bolaños (University Medical Center Utrecht)** Mirroring Human Brain Development and Disease Using Brain Organoids as Avatars
- 18:00 **Giulio Di Minin (CRO National Cancer Institute)** Be Happy (and Haploid): The Role of Cell Size and Metabolic Constraints in Haploid Stem Cell Stability
- 18:15 **POSTER SESSION I**
- 20:00 *Symposium Dinner [on site]*

DAY 2 - Thursday, March 12

SESSION 2: Signaling and Patterning

- 09:00 **Lucie Zilova (Centre for Organismal Studies)** Development Without Constraints: Organoids as Testbeds for Alternative Developmental Pathways
- 09:30 **Amy Wilkinson (Babraham Institute)** Investigating the role of transcription factors in anteroposterior patterning of human post-implantation epiblast
- 09:45 **Tiago Rito (University of Hong Kong)** In vitro embryology and tissue design: tuning axial progenitors to make the human backbone.
- 10:15 *break*
- 10:45 **Anastasios Balaskas (Max Planck Institute for Molecular Genetics)** An advanced head-to-tail mouse gastrulation model with hypoxia-mediated neural patterning
- 11:00 **Gavin Schlissel (Stanford University)** Extracellular Hedgehog diffusion, and evolution of novel morphogen gradients
- 11:30 *break*
- 12:00 **Vikas Trivedi (EMBL-Barcelona)**
- 12:30 **Irene Amblard (Imperial College London)** CDX factors instruct neural crest regionalisation programmes
- 12:45 *group picture & lunch*

SESSION 3: Neurodevelopment and neurodegeneration

- 14:00 **Evgenia Salta (Netherlands Institute for Neuroscience)** Single-cell molecular mapping of human adult hippocampal neurogenesis in Alzheimer's disease
- 14:30 **Elisa Gabassi (University of Innsbruck)** Aged human brain organoids capture hallmarks of neural ageing and reveal PHF2 and ZNF93 as regulators of LINE-1 repression
- 14:45 *break*
- 15:15 **Eduardo Leyva Díaz (Instituto de Neurociencias de Alicante)** Dissecting neuronal identity: from worms to vertebrates
- 15:45 **Irene Varela (Institute of Science and Technology Austria)** Beyond inside-out: Tracing the Origins of Projection Neuron Fate and Diversity in the Mouse Neocortex
- 16:00 **POSTER SESSION II**
- 18:00 **end of sessions - free evening for attendees**



DAY 3 - Friday, March 13

SESSION 4: Automation

- 09:00 **Ewa Ozga (University of Edinburgh)** Array-CNCC: precise aggregation and arrayed plating facilitate quantitative phenotyping of human cranial neural crest cells and craniofacial disease modelling
- 09:15 **Athina Patra (Leiden University Medical Center)** OtoNeurons in a Dish: Generating Spiral Ganglion Neurons from Human Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells
- 09:30 **Daniel Paull (The Jackson Laboratory / The New York Stem Cell Foundation)** Scaling biology at the intersection of automation, stem cells, and AI
- 10:00 *break*

SESSION 5: Stem cell models for human health

- 10:45 **Eleonora Conti (Human Technopole)** Human trigeminal ganglion organoids enable modelling of host-virus interactions of herpesviruses
- 11:00 **Margherita Turco (Friedrich Miescher Institute for Biomedical Research)** Organoid Systems as a Window into Women's Reproductive Health
- 11:30 *break*
- 12:00 **Nicole Amberg (Medical University of Vienna)** Regional dynamics of tumor initiation in neural stem cells upon oncogenic germline mutations/tumor predisposition syndromes
- 12:15 **Johannes Bargehr (Cambridge Stem Cell Institute)** Immune niche conditioning in cardiac repair
- 12:45 *lunch*
- 13:45 **Elisa Laurenti (Cambridge Stem Cell Institute)** Why do human haematopoietic stem cells lose function ex vivo?
- 14:15 **Francesco Boccellato (University of Oxford)** A YAP1–DKK1–Wnt mechanochemical circuit defines the human gastric regenerative niche
- 14:30 *break*

Keynote lecture II

- 15:00 **Lorenz Studer (Sloan Kettering Institute)** Developing human PSC-based cell therapies for CNS and PNS disorders
- 16:00 **Closing remarks**

