"la Caixa" Foundation

Breakthrough Conferences
on biomedicine and health

Persistent Antibody Responses in Health and Disease

9 – 11 December 2026, Barcelona (Spain)

Wednesday, December 9

15.00 h *Registration*

16.00 – 16.30 h *Introduction and welcome*

16.30 – 17.30 h **Opening Keynote lecture**

Carola Vinuesa
The Francis Crick Institute, London. United Kingdom

17.30 – 20.00 h **Session 1. B cell response and fate decisions**

17.30 – 18.00 h **Nuria Martínez-Martín** - "Uncovering new layers of germinal center regulation"
Centro de Biología Molecular Severo Ochoa, Madrid. Spain

18.00 – 18.30 h **Mauro Gaya** - "A Pulmonary Niche for Long-Lived Plasma Cells"
Centre d'Immunologie de Marseille-Luminy, Marseille. France

18.30 – 19.00 h **Oliver Bannard** - "B Cell Clonal Selection in Germinal Centres"
University of Oxford, Oxford. United Kingdom

Selected short talks

19.00 – 19.15 h Ester Marina-Zárate - "GC-TFH subsets preferentially occupy specialized niches within the germinal center"
La Jolla Institute for Immunology, La Jolla. USA

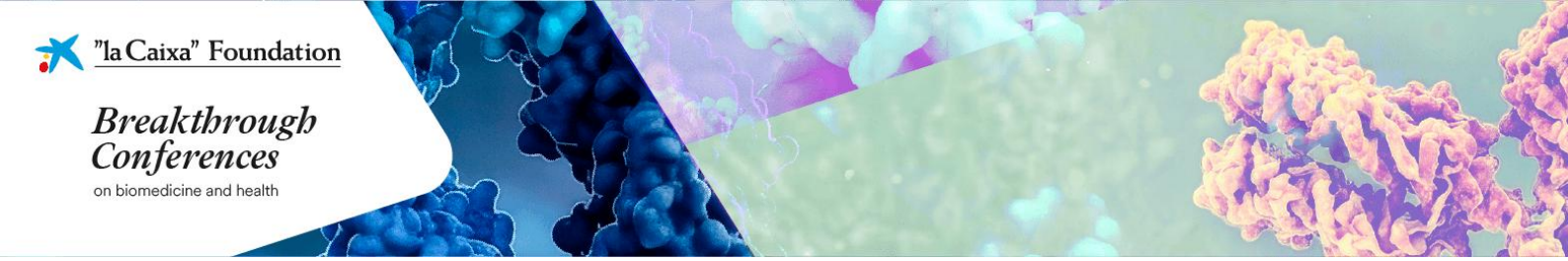
19.15 – 19.30 h Belén Seco Estrada - "Deciphering B and CD4 T cell metabolic communication as a driver of the immune response"
Centro de Biología Molecular Severo Ochoa, Madrid. Spain

19.30 – 19.45 h Rocío Moreno Palomares - "miR-28 Regulates Germinal Center Duration and Antigen-Specific B Cell Selection"
Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Madrid. Spain

20.00 h *Welcome cocktail*

Thursday, December 10

09.00-10.30 h	**Session 2. Non-canonical B cell responses**
09.00 – 09.30 h	**Joan Yuan** - "Weaning induced imprinting of B cell memory" *Lund University, Lund. Sweden*
09.30 – 10.00 h	**Claudia Mauri** – "Double-negative B cells at the crossroads of immune regulation and tertiary lymphoid structure maturation in cancer" *University College London, London. UK*
	Selected short talks
10.00 – 10.15 h	Anna Vallduriola Martin - "IL-10 experience imprints long-lived regulatory memory in early-life B-1 cells" *University College London, London. UK*
10.15 – 10.30 h	Cristian G. Beccaria - "Hepatic Tertiary Lymphoid Structures Enable Local Adaptive Immune Responses in HBV-Replicating Liver" *IRCCS San Raffaele Scientific Institute, Milan. Italy*
10.30 – 11.00 h	*Coffee break*
11.00 - 12.30 h	**Session 3. Atherosclerosis antibodies**
11.00 – 11.30 h	**Christoph Binder** - "The role of IgM antibodies in atherosclerosis" *Medical University of Vienna, Vienna. Austria*
11.30 – 12.00 h	**Almudena R. Ramiro** - "Auto-reactive antibody responses in atherosclerosis" *Centro Nacional de Investigaciones Cardiovasculares, Madrid. Spain*
	Selected short talks
12.00 – 12.15 h	Florentina Porsch – "Vaccination against oxidation-specific epitopes reveals subclassdependent antibody effects in atherosclerosis" *Medical University of Vienna, Vienna. Austria*
12.15 – 12.30 h	Irene Raposo-Gutiérrez - "anti-ALDH4A1 autoreactive B cells accumulate as age associated B cells and expand in atherosclerosis" *Centro Nacional de Investigaciones Cardiovasculares, Madrid. Spain*
12.30 – 13.30 h	*Lunch*



13.30-15.00 h	**Session 4. Atherosclerosis B cell responses**
13.30 – 14.00 h	**Amanda Foks** - "Age-associated B cell immunity in atherosclerosis" *Leiden University, Leiden. The Netherlands*
14.00 – 14.30 h	**Dimitris Tsiantoulas** - "The functions of B cells in myocardial infarction-accelerated atherosclerosis" *Medical University of Vienna, Vienna. Austria*
	Selected short talks
14.30 – 14.45 h	Jill de Mol - "The aging Tfh–B-cell axis in atherosclerosis: from immune activation to spatial remodeling" *Leiden University, Leiden. The Netherlands*
14.45 – 15.00 h	Meritxell Nus - "Sex-specific roles of Aif1 in tuning T follicular helper cell responses during atherosclerosis" *University of Cambridge, Cambridge. UK*
15.00 – 15.30 h	*Coffee break*
15.30 - 17.00 h	**Session 5. Plasma cells**
15.30 – 16.00 h	**Celine Delaloy** - "IL-2 Signaling in B cells: Linking Plasma Cell Differentiation to Anti-inflammatory responses" *Université de Rennes, Rennes. France*
16.00 – 16.30 h	**Dinis Calado** - "Booster vaccination improves the durability of antibody-secreting plasma cells" *The Babraham Institute, Cambridge. UK*
	Selected short talks
16.30 – 16.45 h	Amalie Grenov - "Autoantibody origins in lupus and upon recurrence post CAR-T therapy" *The Francis Crick Institute, London. UK*
16.45 – 17.00 h	Santiago F Gonzalez - "Immune-complex architecture determines activating versus inhibitory FcγR-mediated vaccine responses" *Institute for Research in Biomedicine, Bellinzona. Switzerland*
17.00 – 18.30 h	**Networking activity.**
	Invited speakers' visit to the CaixaResearch Institute. Guided CosmoCaixa tour for conference attendees.
18:30 – 19.30 h	**Round table.** "Lupus — From the Patient to Research and Back Again". *(*) Open to the general public and featuring participation from patient associations.*
	Carola Vinuesa. *The Francis Crick Institute, London. UK* **Cristina Solé.** *Vall d'Hebron Research Institute, Barcelona. Spain* **Laura Belver.** *Josep Carreras Leukaemia Research Institute, Barcelona. Spain*
20.00 h	*Speakers' dinner*

Friday, December 11

09.00 – 11.00 h	**Session 6. Persistent human antibody responses**
09.00 – 09.30 h	**Hedda Wardemann** - "Intramolecular epitope valency controls B cell affinity maturation upon malaria vaccination" *German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), Heidelberg. Germany*
09.30 – 10.00 h	**Marta Rizzi** - "Defects in Memory B Cell Formation and Antibody Secretion: Lessons from Inborn Errors of Immunity" *University of Freiburg, Freiburg. Germany. Medical University of Vienna, Vienna. Austria*
10.00 – 10.30 h	**Josep Dalmau** - "Anti-NMDA Receptor Encephalitis: Patients, Models, and Insights from CAR T-Cell Therapy" *IDIBAPS and CaixaResearch Institute, Barcelona. Spain*
	Selected short talks
10.30 – 10.45 h	Eva Piano Mortari - "Systemic and Mucosal B-Cell Memory in Response to Vaccine and Infection" *Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital, Rome. Italy*
10.45 – 11.00 h	Ana Martínez-Riaño – "Costimulation of follicular regulatory T-cells with CD137 agonists disrupts B-cell responses following vaccination and in cancer-associated tertiary lymphoid structures" *Centro de Investigación Médica Aplicada (CIMA), Pamplona. Spain*
11.00 – 13.30 h	*Poster session + Lunch*
13.30 – 14.30 h	**Closing Keynote Lecture**
	Michel Nussenzweig *Rockefeller University, New York. USA*

**Invited talks will be 20 plus 10-minute discussion.*

***Short talks will be 10 minutes plus 5-minute discussion. Speakers for short talks will be selected from submitted abstracts.*