

From Innovation on Diagnostics to Host Directed Therapies in Invasive Fungal Disease

18 – 20 November 2026, Braga (Portugal)

Wednesday, November 18

13.00 Registration

14.00-14.10 Welcome addresses

Cristina Cunha¹, Agostinho Carvalho¹, Frank van de Veerdonk²

¹ [University of Minho, Braga. Portugal]

² [Radboud University Medical Center, Nijmegen. The Netherlands]

14.10-17.20 Session 1. Emerging Fungal Threats

14.10-14.40 Keynote lecture

Martin Hoenigl

[Medical University of Graz, Graz. Austria]

Impact of Climate Change on Fungal Diseases: from the Pathogen to the Host

14.40-15.00 Invited lecture

Sofia Costa de Oliveira

[University of Porto, Porto. Portugal]

Pathogenesis of Emerging Fungal Infections

15.00-15.30 Selected talks, Session A

15.30-16.00 Coffee break

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16.00-16.30 Keynote lecture**Joost Wauters**

[University Hospitals Leuven, Leuven. Belgium]

Advancing Diagnosis and Optimizing Treatment of Viral-Fungal Pathogenesis

16.30-16.50 Invited lecture**Sandra Paiva**

[University of Minho, Braga. Portugal]

From Fungal Pathobiology to Emerging Diagnostic and Therapeutic Strategies

16.50-17.20 Selected talks, Session B

17.20 Poster session and Welcome reception

21.00 Networking and Social Hour – Pint of Science

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Thursday, November 19

09.30-12.00 Session 2. Host-Directed Therapies: New Strategies Against Fungal Disease

09.30-10.00 Keynote lecture

Frank van de Veerdonk

[Radboud University Medical Center, Nijmegen. The Netherlands]

Novel Immunotherapy Approaches For Fungal Disease

10.00-10.30 Selected talks, Session C

10.30-11.00 Coffee break

11.00-11.30 Keynote lecture

Georgios Chamilos

[University of Crete, Heraklion. Greece]

Novel mechanisms regulating fungal phagosome biogenesis in health and disease

11.30-12.00 Selected talks, Session D

12.00-14.00 Lunch

14.00-16.00 Round Table Session 1. Fungal Diseases in Focus: Diagnostic Gaps, Therapeutic Challenges, and Policy Needs

14.00-14.15 Introduction lecture

Yuri Vanbiervliet

[University Hospitals Leuven, Leuven. Belgium]

Challenges for management of invasive mould infections

14.15-14.30 Introduction lecture

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Rosanne Sprute

[University of Cologne, Cologne. Germany]

Innovation in Fungal Disease Management: From Barriers to Breakthroughs

14.30-14.45 Introduction lecture

Sarah Dellière

[Institut Pasteur, Paris. France]

Challenges and opportunities in Host-based diagnosis of fungal diseases

14.45-16.00 Round table

Agostinho Carvalho¹ (moderator), Yuri Vanbiervliet², Rosanne Sprute³, Sarah Dellière⁴, Martin Hoenigl⁵

¹ [University of Minho, Braga. Portugal]

² [University Hospitals Leuven, Leuven. Belgium]

³ [University of Cologne, Cologne. Germany]

⁴ [Institut Pasteur, Paris. France]

⁵ [Medical University of Graz, Graz. Austria]

16.00-16.30 Coffee break

16.30-17.30 Round Table Session 2. Doenças Fúngicas nas Políticas de Saúde Pública: Do Conhecimento Científico à Ação Estratégica (in Portuguese)

Tiago Ramalho¹ (moderator), Joana Laranjinho², Eduarda Ruiz Pena³, Paula Sampaio⁴, Agostinho Carvalho⁴, Patient representatives

¹ [Jornal Público. Portugal]

² [ULS Braga, Braga. Portugal]

³ [ULS Matosinhos, EPE – Hospital Pedro Hispano, Matosinhos. Portugal]

⁴ [University of Minho, Braga. Portugal]

17.30 Award ceremony

19.30 Congress dinner

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Friday, November 20

09.30-11.50 Session 3. Translating Fungal Research into Innovation: From Discovery to Application**09.30-10.00 Keynote lecture****Carol A. Munro***[University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen. United Kingdom]*

Novel Antibody-Based Immunotherapies for Invasive Fungal Infections

10.00-10.30 Keynote lecture**Mark Gresnigt***[Leibniz Institute for Natural Product Research and Infection Biology, Jena. Germany]*

Organ-on-chip models to study host-pathogen interactions of mucosal and invasive candidiasis

10.30-11.00 Coffee break**11.00-11.30 Selected talks, Session C****11.30-11.50 Invited lecture****Bruno Almeida***[University of Minho, Braga. Portugal]*

IPLEXMED: The Journey of a Spin-Off in Infection Diagnostics

11.50 Closing remarks and departure**Cristina Cunha***[University of Minho, Braga. Portugal]*

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