

Date	Time	Session	Speaker	Affiliation	Title
Tuesday 1 September 2026	15:30	Registration at the Alte Mensa			
		Opening Session			
	18:00	Welcome	Jochen C. Rink, Miquel Vila-Farré	Max Planck Institute for Multidisciplinary Sciences	Opening remarks
	18:10	keynote speaker	Christoph Bleidorn	Georg-August-Universität Göttingen	Phylogenetic systematics and the animal tree of life
	19:00	Welcome dinner and scientific exchange			
	20:00 - 21:00	Poster session			
Wednesday 2 September 2026		Planarian Cell Biology I	Chair: Blair Benham-Pyle		
	09:00	invited speaker	Peter Reddien	Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research	Stem cell choices in planarian regeneration
	09:45	invited speaker	Hanh Vu	European Molecular Biology Laboratory	Yin and Yang: what can planarian flatworms teach us about life history trade-offs
	10:30		Jordi Solana	University of Exeter	Which cell types respond when a planarian is cut? A single-cell study
	10:45		Leonard Drees	Max Planck Institute for Multidisciplinary Sciences	Characterization of a novel invertebrate DNA sensor with ancient roots in bacterial immune defense
	11:00	Coffee break			
		Planarian Cell Biology II	Chair: Hanh Vu		
	11:30	invited speaker	Phil Newmark	Morgridge Institute for Research	Chromosome elimination in the male germline of <i>Schmidtea polychroa</i>
	12:15	invited speaker	Blair Benham-Pyle	Baylor College of Medicine	Signals and constraints shaping planarian plasticity across regeneration, damage, and aging
	13:00		Uri Weill	Northeastern University London	Heterologous tissue transplants reveal competition amongst the somatic pluripotent stem cells of planarians
	13:15		Shuchang Hu	European Molecular Biology Laboratory	To be or not to be a cyst: comparative analysis of two distinct regeneration modes in planarian <i>Phagocata velata</i>
	13:30	Conference group photo and lunch break			
		Parasite Cell Biology I	Chair: Uriel Koziol		
	15:30	invited speaker	James J. Collins III	University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	You complete me: a uniquely schistosome love story
	16:15	invited speaker	Tania Rozario	University of Georgia	Conflicts and constraints on the regeneration potential of the tapeworm <i>Hymenolepis diminuta</i>
	17:00		Inés Guamaschelli	Universidad de la República	Comparative proteomics reveals a conserved core of tegumental proteins in cestodes
	17:15		Christoph Gero Grevelding	Justus Liebig University Giessen	Shedding new light on the male-female interaction of schistosomes: the first scRNA-seq analysis of a platyhelminth organ uncovered a RAR-family nuclear receptor in <i>Schistosoma mansoni</i> ovaries essential for meiosis progression
	17:30	Coffee break			
		Parasite Cell Biology II	Chair: Simone Häberlein		
	18:00	invited speaker	Klaus Brehm	University of Würzburg	Rewriting the body plan: host signals and body axis plasticity in the development of <i>Echinococcus</i>
	18:45	invited speaker	Uriel Koziol	Universidad de la República	Massive elimination of somatic nuclei and extreme metamorphosis of the oncosphere of <i>Hymenolepis microstoma</i>
	19:30	Finger food buffet and scientific exchange			
	20:00 - 21:00	Poster session			
Thursday 3 September 2026		Macrostomum Biology	Chair: Jordi Solana		
	09:00	invited speaker	Richard N. Hall	Stowers Institute for Medical Research	Multiplexed screening of genome editing techniques in <i>Macrostomum</i>
	09:45	invited speaker	Eugene Berezikov	European Research Institute for the Biology of Ageing	Identifying somatic neoblast markers in the flatworm <i>Macrostomum lignano</i>
	10:30		Peter Ladurner	University of Innsbruck	Temporary bioadhesion in flatworms
	10:45		Matthew Voas	National Cancer Institute	Development of a Cre/loxP-based method of cell lineage analysis to assay neoblast potency in <i>Macrostomum lignano</i>
	11:00	Coffee break			
		Flatworm Genomics I	Chair: Richard N. Hall		
	11:30	invited speaker	Jeremias Brand	University of Basel and MPI for Multidisciplinary Sciences	Stepwise loss of recombination preceded the origin of asexuality in <i>Schmidtea mediterranea</i>
	12:15	invited speaker	Christopher Laumer	The Natural History Museum	Microtubellarian genomics, one worm at a time
	13:00		Ignacio Tenaguiillo-Arriola	University of Barcelona and Biodiversity Research Institute	No sex? No problem! High intraindividual genetic variability in ancient asexual freshwater planarians
	13:15		Ulf Jondelius	Swedish Museum of Natural History	Hox genes in Xenacoelomorpha
	13:30	Genome lunch			
		Flatworm Cell Biology	Chair: Tania Rozario		
	15:30	invited speaker	Ludwik Gasiorowski	University of Warsaw	Excessive feeding induces development of a colony-like body plan in paratamous flatworms
	16:15	invited speaker	Simone Häberlein	Justus Liebig University Giessen	Spatial omics of parasitic flatworms – from cell biology to drug discovery
	17:00		Steffen Werner	Wageningen University and Research	Generalized feedback control in stem cell systems - planarians as a case study
	17:15		George Wendt	UT Southwestern Medical Center and MPI for Evolutionary Biology	Evidence of ancient horizontal gene transfer in the human parasite <i>Schistosoma mansoni</i>
	17:30	Coffee break			
	18:00	Poster session			
	20:00	Conference social -Bullerjahn			
	22:00	After Party -Nautibar			
Friday 4 September 2026		Taxonomy and Systematics I	Chair: Marta Álvarez-Presas		
	09:00	invited speaker	Lukas Schärer	University of Basel	Exploring the taxonomical foundations of the genus <i>Macrostomum</i> - a current look at the past
	09:45		Miquel Vila-Farré	Max Planck Institute for Multidisciplinary Sciences	Surveying overlooked planarian diversity within the Mediterranean biodiversity hotspot: the Croatian karst and the Vjosa Basin
	10:30		Ronald Sluys	Naturalis Biodiversity Center	In memoriam: Masaharu Kawakatsu
	10:45		Alejandro Catalá Jimenez	University of Basel	Measuring $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ in low-biomass flatworms: a denitrifier method approach
	11:00	Coffee break			
		Taxonomy and Systematics II	Chair: Jeremias Brand		
	11:30	invited speaker	Marta Riutort	University of Barcelona	<i>Dugesia</i> evolution and other stories: from single gene-based systematics to genomics
	12:15		Aoi Tsuyuki	University of Tsukuba	Hide and seek on corals: unveiling hidden diversity of marine flatworms associated with a variety of corals from Japan
	12:30		Srishti Arya	Natural History Museum and Queen Mary University of London	Phylogenomics for the masses: the utility of transcriptome skimming in limno-terrestrial Platyhelminth taxonomy
	12:45		Vitor Milanese	University of São Paulo	Highly endemic and unknown: more than 50 undescribed species of land flatworms (Geoplanidae) found in a patch of the Brazilian Atlantic Forest
	13:00		Marta Álvarez-Presas	University of Barcelona	Functional traits associated with invasiveness in terrestrial planarians: a comparative study of invasive and native species
	13:15	Concluding remarks			
	13:30	Lunch break			
	15:30-20:00	Collection tour and BBQ			
Saturday 5 September		Taxonomic Satellite Symposium			
	09:00	Opening	Lukas Schärer	University of Basel	