

8th IAAASS

Pula (CA)
21-25/09/2026

Innovative Approaches for identification of Antiviral Agents
Summer School

Program

Program

2026.09.21 - Monday		
15:45	Shuttle from Hotel Flamingo to the Research Park	
16:00	Welcome Coffee and registration	Main Hall
16:30	Opening Remarks Enzo Tramontano	Auditorium
	OMAVIR presentation Federico Forneris	
Plenary Lecture Chair Enzo Tramontano		
16:45-17:30	Serendipity and deep understanding in drug discovery process: the real case of the discovery of the First in Class HIV integrase inhibitor	Vincenzo Summa UNINA
17:30-18:15	Contemporary challenges in structure-based drug discovery: from Alphafold to experimental structural biology revolutions	Federico Forneris UNIPV
18:30	Shuttle from Research Park to the Hotel Flamingo	
20:00	Dinner	
2026.09.22 - Tuesday		
8:40	Shuttle from Hotel Flamingo to the Research Park	
	Plenary Lecture Chair Vincenzo Summa	Auditorium
9:00-9:45	Giving Viruses a Hard Time: Antiviral Effects of Metabolic Modulators	Pierre-Olivier Vidalain CIRI Lyon
9:45-10:15	Overcoming the Permeability Trap: A Multicistronic Cell-based Assay for Orthoflavivirus NS3 Protease Inhibitor Discovery	Dominik Kiemel Hoffmann-La Roche
10:15-11:00	Selected talks – session I	
O.1	Exploring the AXL Receptor and aryl hydrocarbon receptor axis in viral infections	Miguel Angel Pelaez
O.2	Membrane permeable nucleotide-based prodrugs targeting the macrodomain (Mac1) of SARS-CoV-2	Maximilian Sandmann
O.3	Targeting rhinovirus IRES as new approach for antivirals	Stefano Giunta
11:00	Coffee Break	
	Plenary Lecture Chair Kathie Seley-Ratke	Auditorium
11:30-12:15	Lipophilic nucleotides as tools in Medicinal Chemistry and Chemical Biology	Chris Meier University of Hamburg
12:15-13:30	Poster session I - odd numbers	Workshop Room
13:30-14:30	Lunch	

2026.09.22 - Tuesday

Plenary Lecture <i>Chair Damian Young</i>		Auditorium
14:30-15:15	Industrial and Academic Small Molecule Therapeutics Discovery	Timothy Spicer University of Florida
15:15-16:00	From Treatment to Prevention: Monoclonal Antibodies as Antivirals and Passive Immunization Tools	Alberto Cagigi IVI Stockholm
16:00-16:30	Selected talks – session II	
O.4	Pomalidomide targets the IKZF1/3 axis to modulate CD4+ T-cell differentiation and reduce HIV-1 infection	Matteo Centazzo
O.5	Analysis of the Unfolded Protein Response as a novel antiviral target against Sandfly Fever Naples virus and Toscana virus	Francesca Palma
16:45	Shuttle from Research Park to the Hotel Flamingo	
18:30	Discussion Groups	
20:00	Dinner	

2026.09.23- Wednesday - OMAVIR FOCUS

8:40	Shuttle from Hotel Flamingo to the Research Park	
Plenary Lectures <i>Chair Federico Forneris</i>		Auditorium
9:00-9:45	Data driven drug discovery workflows to identify novel small molecule based anti-infectives, experiences from EU-OPENSOURCE and Fraunhofer	Philip Gribbon Fraunhofer-Institut
9:45-10:30	Profiling cellular dynamics during viral infection by proteomics	Christian Munch University Hospital Frankfurt
10:30	Coffee Break	
11:00-11:45	Decoding the Host Response: Transcriptomics for the Discovery of Novel Therapeutic Targets in Viral and Virus-Associated Diseases	Nicole Grandi UNICA
11:45-12:30	Comprehensive Atomic-Scale 3D Viral-Host Protein Interactomes to Identify Novel Antiviral Targets	Luis M Schang Cornell University
13:00-14:30	Lunch	
Public/private synergies in viral research		Auditorium
Talks from Industrial partners <i>Chair Nicole Grandi</i>		
15:00-15:30	Ilaria Carli IRBM Pomezia	Integrated Approaches to Antiviral Drug Discovery: From Viral Biology to Lead Optimization
15:30-16:00	Carmine Talarico Dompé Pharmaceuticals	Computational Antiviral Discovery at Scale: Lessons from the EXSCALATE Platform
16:00-16:30	Selected talks – session III	
O.6	The conserved proteomic fingerprint of infection illuminates novel broad-spectrum antivirals targeting host factors	Irene Silva Ruiz
O.7	Multimomics Profiling Reveals Distinct and Overlapping Immune Activation Signatures and HERV Modulation via RIG-I and IFNAR Pathways	Sante Scognamiglio
16:45	Shuttle from Research Park to the Hotel Flamingo	
20:00	Dinner	

2026.09.24 - Thursday		
8.40	Shuttle from Hotel Flamingo to the Research Park	
Plenary Lectures Chair Philip Gribbon		Auditorium
9:00-9:45	The quest for broad-spectrum antivirals to counter the hemorrhagic fever viruses	Brian Gowen Utah State University
9:45-10:30	Targeting conserved viral targets: integrating CADD, medicinal chemistry and virology for broad-spectrum antiviral discovery	Simona Distinto UNICA
10:30-11:00	Selected talks – session III	
O.8	Metabolic Vulnerabilities as Antiviral Targets in HSV-1 Infection	Beatrice Braga
O.9	Identification and Characterization of a First-in-Class Broad-Spectrum SARS-CoV-2 NSP13 Helicase Inhibitor with a High Genetic Barrier to Resistance	Roberta Emmolo
11:00	Coffee Break	
Plenary Lecture Chair Brian Gowen		Auditorium
11:30-12:15	Development of Pan-viral Nucleoside Analogues	Kathie Seley-Radtke University of Baltimore
12:15-13:15	Poster session II - even numbers	Workshop Room
13.30-14.30	Lunch	
Plenary Lecture Chair Elias Maccioni		Auditorium
14:30-15:15	An overview of direct-acting antivirals approved in the last 10 years by US FDA	Oriana Tabarrini University of Perugia
15:15-16:15	Selected talks – session IV	
O.10	Design, Synthesis, and Biological Evaluation of Novel Indole-Based Noncovalent Inhibitors of SARS-CoV-2 PLpro	Alessia Alberico
O.11	Whole-Genome Analysis of LSDV Isolates from the 2019 and 2023 Outbreaks in Israel Points to Undetected Circulation and Recombination Events	Praveen Verma
O.12	Viral inhibition through structure targeting the frameshifting element of SARS-CoV-2	Fatima Zahra Lissane Eddine
O.13	Mapping druggable targets in the replication cycle of mammarenaviruses	Lotte De Haes
16.30	Shuttle from Research Park to the Hotel Flamingo	
18:30	Discussion Groups	
20:00	Dinner	

2026.09.25 - Friday		
8:40	Shuttle from Hotel Flamingo to the Research Park	
Plenary Lectures <i>Chair Angela Corona</i>		Auditorium
9:00-9:45	Targeting host kinases as an antiviral approach	Valeria Cagno CHUV Lausanne
9:45-10:30	Innovative DNA-Encoded Library Technologies to Develop Antiviral Compounds	Damian Young Baylor College of Medicine
10:30	Coffee Break	
Plenary Lectures <i>Chair Luis Shang</i>		Auditorium
10:30- 11:15	Blocking dimerization as a novel strategy to inhibit coronavirus replication	Reuben Harris UTH San Antonio
11:15-12:30	Selected talks – session IV	
O.14	Antiviral lipopeptides targeting distinct sites in the measles virus fusion protein show nanomolar potency in vitro and protection in a ferret model	Kim Johanna Handreck
O.15	Ebola virus wild-type, mutant, and bat-endogenous ortholog VP35 induce biomolecular condensates of different morphology and composition by dsRNA-dependent and -independent interferon antagonism	Marianna Camasta
O.16	Investigating Mechanisms Underlying Cell Death Induction by a Tributyltin Molecule in HTLV-1 Infected Cells Dependent or Not on IL-2 as a Growth Factor	Evariste Molimbou
12.30-14.30	Lunch	
Round Table <i>Chair Reuben Harris</i>		Auditorium
14:30-16:30	Round table: perspectives about life in research Vincenzo Summa Philip Gribbon Alberto Cagigi Valeria Cagno Kathie Seley-Ratke Timothy Spicer	
16:30	Shuttle from Research Park to the Hotel Flamingo	
18:00	Not only science: networking activities ☺	
20:00	Closing dinner	

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Poster List

Poster number	Author		Title
P1	Eva	Armendariz Burgoa	CD169/Siglec-1 Blockade as a Host-Directed Antiviral Strategy Against Respiratory Syncytial Virus
P2	Marta Maria	Cara	Comprehensive PBMC Transcriptomic Analysis Reveals Profound SARS-CoV-2-Driven Remodeling of Immune Gene Expression and HERV Activation
P3	Saili	Chabukswar	Dynamic Regulation of Human Endogenous Retroviruses During Trophoblast Differentiation: Implications for Placental Function
P4	Michelle	Foti	Optimization of a West Nile Virus Replicon Platform for Antiviral Drug Screening
P5	Stefania	Maloccu	Identification of Nsp15 inhibitors restoring interferon-dependent antiviral activity against SARS-CoV-2
P6	Paolo	Malune	Cross-family inhibition of viral RdRp: urea-based non-nucleoside inhibitors active against SARS-CoV-2 and Zika virus
P7	Salvatore	Nieddu	Novel Small-Molecule Inhibitors of NS2B-NS3 Protease as Antiviral Candidates Against Zika and West Nile Viruses
P8	Alessia	Onali	Identification of novel viral helicase inhibitors through integrated computational and synthetic approaches
P9	Sara	Piras	Metabolic pathway alteration in flavivirus infection: exploitation to find potential therapeutic targets
P10	Elena	Soddu	Characterization of Recurrent Locus-Specific Endogenous Retroviral Transcriptional Modulation in Viral-Associated Hepatocellular Carcinoma
P11	Giuliana	Lingua	Untargeted metabolomics and antiviral bioassays reveal anti-DENV-1 activity in cultivated <i>Baccharis crispa</i>
P12	Nolwenn	Steffen	Development of two classes of non-toxic broad-spectrum antivirals
P13	Luiza	Leme	Envelope Protein N154 Glycosylation Contributes to the Fitness and Pathogenesis of St. Louis Encephalitis Virus
P14	Xander	Vyncke	Establishment of MPXV clade Ia, Ib, and IIb infection models in CAST/EiJ mice for antiviral evaluation
P15	Julie	Rodriguez	Development of therapeutic antibodies against Orthoflaviviruses
P16	Miriam	Raso	Novel Thiazole- and Oxazole-Based Benzamides Targeting Influenza A/H1N1 Viral Fusion
P17	Giuseppe	Ruggieri	Targeting SARS-CoV-2 Main Protease: Rational Design of Nitrogen-Based Inhibitors with Improved Potency and Antiviral Activity
P18	Zoltan	Kopasz	Antiviral Activity Against Wild-Type Lloviu Cuevavirus in a Bat-Derived Cell Model
P19	Krisztina Rebeka	Leiner	Targeting Alphaviruses: Comparative Evaluation of Three Novel Compound Groups
P20	Erika	Plicanti	PS1097 downregulates RTN3 and exhibits potent antiviral activity, are these effects mechanistically linked?

Poster number	Author		Title
P21	Mariia	Sokulska	Targeting viral RNA G-quadruplexes by antisense oligonucleotides – a promising antiviral strategy?
P22	Tomás Isaac	Gomez	The Natural Anthraquinone Alizarin Represses Gene Expression and Viral Replication in Acyclovir-Sensitive and Resistant HSV-1
P23	Fabiano	Brillo	Evaluation of the impact of epigenetic inhibitors (epidrugs) targeting key epigenetic regulators on Oropouche Virus replication
P24	Ginevra	Bugani	Cidofovir Effect on Monkeypox Virus Infection in a Human Epithelial Cell Model
P25	Cosmina	Mija	Antiviral Effects of Tecovirimat and Cellular Ultrastructural Changes in Human Bronchial Epithelial Cell Line Following Monkeypox Virus Infection
P26	Noemi	Cafà	Antibacterial and Antiviral Screening of Plant Part-Derived Extracts
P27	Nicoletta	Capuano	Structure–Activity Relationship (SAR) and Repurposing of Degarelix Peptides as Antiviral Agents
P28	Emma	Bettini	In vitro evaluation of novel SARS-CoV-2 PLpro inhibitors: identification of high-potency candidates against the Delta variant
P29	Arianna	Maggiora	Inhibition of human Protein Disulfide Isomerase A3 (PDIA3) activity hinders herpesvirus replication
P30	Domiziana	Porporato	Targeting Oxysterol-Binding Protein (OSBP) as a Novel Strategy to Inhibit Herpes Simplex Virus 2 (HSV-2) Replication: First Structure-Activity Relationship Study of Antiviral Cholenamide Derivatives
P31	Cyril	Tsopmedjio Namba Nzanguim	Machine Learning-Assisted Ligand-Based Virtual Screening for the Discovery of Potential Anti-Dengue Virus Compounds
P32	Simeon	Dimitrov	Biological Evaluation of Novel Shikimic Acid Derivatives as Potential Antimicrobial and Antiviral Agents
P33	Yee-Chen	Liu	Defining conserved sites of vulnerability on the influenza B HA using human monoclonal antibodies
P34	Antonietta	Mollo	Discovery and Structural Characterization of a Novel Chemical Class Targeting SARS-CoV-2 Papain-like protease (PLpro)
P35	Anastasia	Ferraro	Synthesis and Characterization of potent Coronavirus Mpro Inhibitors: from design to In Vivo antiviral and adaptive immune response studies
P36	Belle Li	Ling	A TBMB-Conjugated Bicyclic Peptide Phage Display Platform for Antiviral Ligand Discovery
P37	Jia Xuan	Yeoh	Humanized Camelid Single Domain Antibody-Based Synthetic VH Phage Display Platform for Rapid Biologic Discovery
P38	Nicolas	Tardiota	Repurposing HIV antiretroviral for Nonlentiviral Orthoretroviruses (NLO)
P39	Claudia	Cabiddu	Specific HERV Loci Differentially Expressed in Multiple Sclerosis Patients: Identification of Potential Biomarkers and Therapeutic Targets