



Spring Immunology Symposium 2025

COMMUNICATING IMMUNOLOGY

OCTOBER 1ST - 3RD 2025

Location and time:

October 1st - 8:30 AM-6:00 PM: Auditorio Principal, Centro de Innovación Anacleto Angelini, 1st Floor. Av Vicuña Mackenna, Macul, Santiago.

October 2nd - 8:30 AM-7:00 PM: Salón de Honor, Padre Hurtado, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, 2 Floor. Av. Libertador Bernardo OHiggins 340, Santiago, Chile

October 3rd - 8:30 AM-13:00 PM: Auditorio Manuel José Irarrázabal, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, 1 Floor. Av. Libertador Bernardo OHiggins 340, Santiago, Chile

REGISTRATION LINK:

<https://forms.office.com/r/jyGR1RHuK6>

Organized by: School of Biological Sciences, Communications and Medicine - Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile; Institute of Biomedical Sciences - Universidad de Chile; Faculty of Marine Sciences and Biological Resources - Universidad de Antofagasta; Millennium Institute on Immunology and Immunotherapy; Biomedical Research Consortium Chile; Group MIMCYT-FCB.

Overview

The Spring Immunology Symposium has been held for over 10 years with the support of the Millennium Institute on Immunology and Immunotherapy and other institutions, bringing together outstanding national and international scientists in the fields of immunology, infectious diseases, and biomedical sciences.

Annually held in Santiago, Chile, with more than 250 attendants, this symposium covers basic to translational scientific perspectives and approaches, bringing together scientists, universities, and high school students from Chile and abroad.

Scientific Organizing Committee:



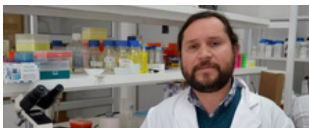
Dr. Alexis Kalergis

Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile



Alexis Cruz

PhD(c), Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile



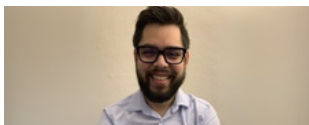
Dr. Christian Palavecino

Universidad Central



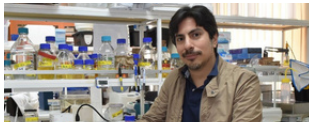
Dr. Gabriel Bastías

Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile



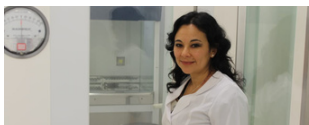
Dr. Hernán Peñaloza

Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile



Dr. Leandro Carreño

Universidad de Chile



Dr. Margarita Lay

Universidad de Antofagasta



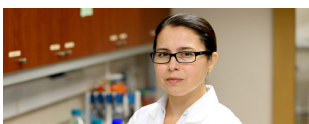
Dr. Pablo González

Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile



Dr. Sergio Godoy

Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile



Dr. Susan Bueno

Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

Scientific Organizing Committee:



Omar Vallejos

PhD(c), Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile



Catalina Andrade

PhD(c), Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile



Abel Soto

PhD(c), Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile



Gerardo Ortiz

PhD(c), Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

Program

OCTOBER 1st

8:00 – 8:30

Registration and Reception

Registration and Credentials issuance.

8:30 – 09:30

Welcome Remarks

Welcoming words from authorities, event organizers, the Millennium Institute on Immunology and Immunotherapy, and Clinical-Molecular Biomedical Research Consortium.

Investigation and Biomedical Transfer I (9:30–11:00)

9:30 – 10:00

Dr. Susan Bueno.

From basic to applied biomedical sciences in the diagnosis and prevention of respiratory tract infections.

Full Professor, School of Biological Sciences, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. Millennium Institute on Immunology and Immunotherapy. Santiago, Chile.

10:00 – 10:30

Dr. Mohammad Arabpour

SNA01 a Novel RSV-Neutralizing Antibody with Enhanced Resilience to Clinical Mutations

Strategic R&D Lead, Vaccines & Immunotherapy. Sinovac Life Science Co.

10:30–11:00

Dr. Alexis Kalergis.

Scientific basis for vaccine-induced immunity that prevents acute illness and cognitive impairment caused by respiratory viruses.

Full Professor and Director, School of Biological Sciences and School of Medicine, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. Millennium Institute on Immunology and Immunotherapy. Santiago, Chile.

11:00 – 11:30

Coffee Break

Investigation and Biomedical transfer II (11:30–13:00)

11:30 – 12:00

Dr. Janet Lee

Stabilizing the Early Provisional Matrix in Lung Injury.

Chief, Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, Selma and Herman Seldin Distinguished Professor in Medicine, Professor of Pathology and Immunology, Washington University, Saint Louis, MO, USA

12:00–12:30

Dr. Pablo González.

cGMP capacities in Chile for vaccine production.

Associate Professor, School of Biological Sciences, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. Millennium Institute on Immunology and Immunotherapy. Santiago, Chile.

12:30–13:00

ANID-FOVI Sponsored Lecture: Dr. Alba Grifoni

Focusing on conserved immunogenic regions results in broad breadth of beta-coronavirus virus T cell recognition.

Research Assistant Professor, Center for Vaccine Innovation, La Jolla Institute for Immunology (LJI), San Diego, CA, USA

13:00 – 14:30

Cocktail

Program

OCTOBER 1st

Molecular Biomarkers of Health and Disease (14:00–15:45)

14:30 – 15:00

Dr. Ferdinand von Meyenn.

Epigenetic Clocks and how they record and predict your health.

Assistant Professor. Lead of the Laboratory of Epigenetics, Nutrition and Metabolism, Department of Health Sciences and Technology (HEST), ETH Zurich, Switzerland.

15:00 – 15:30

Dr. Claudia Riedel.

Linking gestational hypothyroxinemia to inflammatory mechanisms: Implications for offspring health

Full Professor, Faculty of Biological Sciences and Faculty of Medicine, Universidad Andrés Bello. Millennium Institute on Immunology and Immunotherapy. Santiago, Chile.

15:35 – 16:00

Dr. Paz Reyes

Revolutionizing Flow Cytometry: Step into the Future of Science with BD FACSDiscover S8

Field Applications Specialist. BD LifeScience

16:00 – 16:15

PhD Student Abel Soto.

Role of pseudouridine synthase 7 over the replication cycle of HSV-1 in a neuronal cell line.

PhD student in Biological Sciences, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. Millennium Institute on Immunology and Immunotherapy. Santiago, Chile

16:15 – 16:30

Coffee Break

Advances in critical care Immunology (16:00–18:00)

16:30 – 17:00

Dr. Matthew Rosengart.

A Light recipe to enhance circadian immunity in sepsis.

Professor of Surgery, Section of Acute and Critical Care Surgery, Division of General Surgery, Washington University, Saint Louis, MO, USA.

17:00 – 17:30

Dr. Flavio Salazar.

From Neutrophils to T Cells: Mechanisms of Protective Immunity Induced by the TRIMELVax Melanoma Vaccine.

Full Professor, Faculty of Medicine, University of Chile

17:30 – 18:00

Dr. Alejandro Bruhn.

ePRONE: A randomized clinical trial of extended prone positioning in acute respiratory distress syndrome.

Full Professor, Department of Intensive Medicine, Director of Research and Postgraduate, School of Medicine, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile.

18:00 – 18:30

Dr. Leandro Carreño

NKT cell modulation for the treatment of inflammatory diseases.

Associate Professor and Alternate Director, Millennium Institute on Immunology and Immunotherapy, FOCIS Center of Excellence, Immunology Program, Institute of Biomedical Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, University of Chile

Program

OCTOBER 2nd

8:00 – 8:30

Registration and Reception

Registration and Credentials issuance.

Scientific Communication Research (8:30–10:30)

8:30 – 9:00

Dr. Claudia Lagos.

Ethics of care when thinking about communicating and reporting science, particularly vaccines.

Departamento de Comunicación Social, Universidad de Chile.

9:00 – 09:30

MA. Macarena Rojas.

Inhabiting knowledge: Scientific communication as a situated and political practice.

Comunicación de la Ciencia, Periodismo & Medio Ambiente, Universidad Católica – Universidad San Sebastián.
Presidenta ACHIPEC y Directora Ejecutiva EVE.

09:30 – 10:00

Greet Hendrickx and Emilie Karafillakis

Vaccine confidence and communication

Centre for the Evaluation of Vaccination (CEV), Vaccinopolis, University of Antwerp, Belgium (remote).

10:00 – 10:30

Dr. Cristian Huepe

Unveiling Vaccine-Related Narratives and Interactions in Social Media Networks.

Adjunct Professor, Northwestern University, Chicago, USA & SoL-UC Chile.

10:30 – 11:00

Coffee Break

Virology Insights (11:00–12:45)

11:00 – 11:30

Dr. Marcelo López Lastra

Subversion of host RNA-Binding proteins by viral mRNA; the role in protein synthesis.

Full Professor, Department of Infectious Diseases and Pediatric Immunology, School of Medicine, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile.

11:30 – 12:00

ANID-FOVI Sponsored Lecture: Dr. Christiane Wobus.

Intestinal Organoids: A new frontier in studying enteric viruses.

Associate Professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology. Chair Institutional Biosafety Committee, University of Michigan, USA.

12:00 – 12:30

Dr. Ricardo Soto-Rifo

The complexity of immune activation during active HIV-1 replication in human microglia.

Full Professor, Instituto de Ciencias Biomédicas, Facultad de Medicina, Universidad de Chile.

12:30 – 12:45

Gerardo Ortiz

Role of Heat Shock Factor 1 in Herpes simplex virus infection

PhD student in Biological Sciences, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. Millennium Institute on Immunology and Immunotherapy. Santiago, Chile

Program

OCTOBER 2nd

12:45 – 14:00

Lunch Break

Programa Ciencia Frontera (Frontier Science Program) (14:00–15:45)

14:00 – 14:30

Dr. Hilde Harb.

Photodynamic Therapy – a light and oxygen-based strategy for the control of infection and cancer
Assistant Professor, Facultad de Física, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

14:30 – 14:45

PhD Student Catalina Andrade

IL-6 neutralization prevents blood–brain barrier permeability and behavioral alterations due to respiratory infection by the human metapneumovirus.

PhD student in Biological Sciences, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. Millennium Institute on Immunology and Immunotherapy. Santiago, Chile

14:45 – 15:15

Dr. Ignacio Bordeu

Self-organisation in living matter: from cells to organs.

Assistant Professor, Departamento de Física, Facultad de Ciencias Físicas y Matemáticas, Universidad de Chile.

15:15 – 15:45

Dr. Hernán Peñaloza

Uncovering novel mechanisms that guide the production of IL-10 by lung neutrophils during acute pulmonary bacterial infection.

Assistant Professor, Facultad de Ciencias Biológicas y Facultad de Medicina, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile.

15:45 – 16:00

Coffee Break

Viral Pathogenesis and Vaccines (16:00–18:00)

16:00 – 16:30

VRI-Sponsored Lecture Dr. Nicholas Luckas

Early life Immunity: Viral Infections, Allergy, and Microbiome.

Professor of Research Pathology, Scientific Director, Mary H. Weiser Food Allergy Center, University of Michigan Medical School, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA.

16:30 – 17:00

Dra. Bárbara Pahud

The role of maternal vaccination and the research experience of RSVpreF and the hexavalent Group B Streptococcus vaccine

Director of Pfizer

17:00 – 17:30

Dr. Mauricio Caballero

The Shifting Landscape of RSV Disease Among Children in Argentina.

Director del Centro Infantil de Medicina Traslacional (CIMeT), Universidad Nacional de San Martín, Argentina.

17:30 – 18:00

Gabriela Olivares

Biopatents: Protection of inventions associated with living organisms through patents

Patent Specialist, Carey

Program

OCTOBER 3rd

8:00 – 8:30

Registration and Reception

Registration and Credentials issuance.

Bacterial pathogenesis (8:30-10:15)

8:30 – 9:00

Dr. Eric Brown

Starving bacteria to find new antibiotics.

Distinguished University Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Biomedical Sciences, McMaster University, Canada.

9:00 – 9:15

PhD Student Omar Vallejos.

Role of Carbon Monoxide-Producing Probiotics in Reducing the Severity of Inflammatory and Infectious Diseases.

PhD student in Biological Sciences, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. Millennium Institute on Immunology and Immunotherapy. Santiago, Chile.

9:15 – 9:45

Dr. Masanori Toyofuku.

Explosive cell lysis as a mechanism for the biogenesis of bacterial membrane vesicles and biofilms

Associate Professor, Faculty of Life and Environmental Sciences, University of Tsukuba, Japan.

9:45 – 10:15

Dr. Gerardo Cárcamo.

Deciphering the Role of Human-Derived Extracellular DNA in Biofilm Formation and Antibiotic Tolerance of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*.

Assistant Professor, Facultad de Ciencias Biológicas y Facultad de Medicina, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile.

10:15 – 11:00

Coffee Break

(Mis) Communicating health issues (11:00-13:00)

11:00 – 11:15

Dr. Sergio Godoy.

The IA-induced “pathological loop” and other communicational pathologies in health communication.

School of Communications UC; Dr Miguel A. Carrasco, Co- Researcher “Google vs. Doctor” Project UC/UACH; Dr Gabriel Bastias, School of Public Health UC.

11:15 – 11:30

Dr. Rayen Condeza / Coordinator of the Extension Area of the Department of Family Medicine at the UC School of Medicine.

Communicating health in Chile: family doctor's perceptions of the media.

School of Medicine UC, Dr. Jorge Lopez, School of Medicine UC, Dr. Rayen Condeza, School of Communications UC, Abelardo Araya, National Institute of Statistics (INE).

11:30 – 11:45

PhD Student Alexis Cruz

Promoting trust in vaccination: the case of S-VR.

PhD student in Communications, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. Millennium Institute on Immunology and Immunotherapy. Santiago, Chile.

11:45 – 12:30

Q & A

Program

OCTOBER 3rd

12:30

Closing remarks and Cocktail