

DAY 1 – OCTOBER 8, 2026

TIME	PROGRAMME
08:30 – 09:00	REGISTRATION & WELCOME COFFEE
09:00 – 09:30	Opening Session Welcome by Marcus Altfeld and Tal Pacht Welcome Addresses by: • Senatorin Maryam Blumenthal, Präses der Behörde für Wissenschaft, Forschung und Gleichstellung, Hamburg • Prof. Dr. Petra Arck, Vice-Dean for Research, University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf
9:30 – 11:00	Session 1: Sex Differences in Infections Chairs: Barbara Honecker & Cliona O'Farrelly • Keynote Talk: Sabra Klein, Johns Hopkins University • Juliana Gonçalves (NOVA University, Portugal): Long-term sex differences in symptoms and immune profile in long COVID • Sabrina Leddy (Leibniz Institute of Virology, Germany): Sex-biased immune regulatory networks in CD4⁺ T cells are associated with HIV-1 control • Laura Ramirez Finn (Institute Pasteur, France): Understanding the early immune response between the sexes during urinary tract infection • Marta Araujo (University of Minho, Portugal): Sex-dependent lipid remodeling determines the response to cPLA2 inhibition during visceral leishmaniasis
11:00 – 11:30	COFFEE BREAK & NETWORKING WITH REFRESHMENTS
11:30 – 12:30	Session 2: Temperature- and cycle-dependent regulation of immunity Chairs: Maria Pujantell & Helena Soares • Keynote Talk: Tal Pecht, University of Bonn • Niamh Kenny (Trinity College, Ireland): Immune dysregulation in endometriosis-associated infertility: insights from bioinformatic analysis and menstrual blood immune profiling • Elizabeth Maloney (Institute Pasteur, France): Differences in body temperature drive sex-specific immune responses
12:30 – 12:45	GROUP PICTURE
12:45 – 14:30	LUNCH & POSTER SESSION
14:30 – 16:00	Session 3: Impact of sex chromosome effects Chairs: Lara Buer & Tal Shay • Keynote Talk: Lars Forsberg, Uppsala University • Amy L. Roberts (King's College London, UK): Diminished sex hormone levels influence the risk of skewed X chromosome inactivation in ageing females • Miriam Bollmann (University of Gothenburg, Sweden): Untangling sex chromosome effects on human antiviral immunity through 46XX/46XY mosaicism • Nila H. Servaas (Amsterdam UMC, Netherlands): Examining exhaustion: X chromosome inactivation dynamics shape sex-biased T cell exhaustion • Alisier Malard (Charité Universitätsmedizin, Germany): Estrogen-independent Estrogen Receptor β signaling maintains X chromosome inactivation and prevents lupus-associated escape from inactivation in Th17 polarized cells
16:00 – 16:30	COFFEE BREAK & NETWORKING
16:30 – 17:30	Session 4: Sex-specific regulation of immunity Chairs: Michael Brehler & Camila Consiglio • Tal Shay (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel): Transcriptional sexual dimorphism in mouse T cells • Dhifaf Sarhan (Karolinska Institutet, Sweden): Host FPR2 limits immunotherapy response through sex dependent macrophage niches in pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma • Dakyung Lee (University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, Germany): Sex differences and the role of androgens in murine cholangiocytes • Joan Escrivà-Font (Lund University, Sweden): Androgen signaling drives the pro-reparative immune transition during COVID-19 recovery
17:30 – 18:00	Themis & Institut Pasteur present “Closing the Sex & Gender Gap in Biomedical Research: A European Framework for Scientific, Regulatory, and Institutional Change”
17:30 – 20:00	POSTER SESSION & FINGER FOOD RECEPTION

DAY 2 – OCTOBER 9, 2026

TIME	PROGRAMME
08:30 – 09:00	ARRIVAL & MORNING COFFEE
09:00 – 10:30	Session 5: Gender-affirming hormone therapy and transgender health Chairs: Dorothee Schwinge & Marcus Altfeld • Keynote Talk: Richard Saffery, University of Melbourne • Barbara Honecker (Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine, Germany): Modulation of monocyte immune responses by sex hormones during gender-affirming hormone therapy • Mario A. Duque-Villegas (Leibniz Institute of Virology, Germany): Downregulation of complement proteome during feminizing gender-affirming hormone therapy • Anthony Willems (Ghent University, Belgium): Divergent innate and humoral immune responses to 4CMenB vaccination in transgender individuals receiving gender-affirming hormone therapy
10:30 – 11:00	COFFEE BREAK
11:00 – 12:45	Session 6: Sex-Specific Immunity from Health to Healthy Aging and Disease Chairs: Hanna Lotter & Molly Ingersoll • Chun-Chi Chang (Lund University, Sweden): From hormones to host defense: immune adaptation following Androgen deprivation therapy • Jamie Sugrue (Institut Pasteur, France): Pathway-specific sex differences in type I interferon responses in humans • Johannes U Mayer (University Medical Center Mainz, Germany): The SAGE-Immune clock: determining sex-specific patterns of immune cell aging in healthy individuals • Dimitrios Nikolaos Kapiris (University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, Germany): Interactions between lung microenvironment and immune responses in the sex-specific manifestation of asthma • Sneha Kanungo (University of Bonn, Germany): Sex shapes obesity-associated immune transcriptional signatures in a Tanzanian cohort • Keynote Talk: Darragh Duffy, Institute Pasteur
12:45 – 13:00	Closing Remarks & Feedback Session
13:00 – 14:00	NETWORKING LUNCH