



האגודה הישראלית
למיקרוביולוגיה
ISRAEL SOCIETY FOR
MICROBIOLOGY

THE ANNUAL
CONFERENCE 2026

6.9.2026

BEN GURION
UNIVERSITY

MORNING PLENARY SESSIONS
BUILDING 72 / 73 - SONNENFELDT AUDITORIUM

08:00 - 09:15 REGISTRATION & COFFEE, POSTERS HANGING & EXHIBITION

09:15 - 09:30 OPENING CEREMONY

09:30 - 10:30 Keynote Lecture :
INVASION AND EVASION, THE STEALTH OF LISTERIA
Prof. Marc Lecuit, MD, PhD (Institute Pasteur, Paris, France)

10:30 - 11:00 COFFEE BREAK, VISIT THE EXHIBITION & POSTER VIEWING BUILDING 41

SESSION I - 11:00 - 12:30

BUILDING 72 / 73
SONNENFELDT AUDITORIUM

Host-Microbe
Interactions

Chairs: Yiska Weisblum (HUJI),
Raya Faigenbaum-Romm (WIS)

BUILDING 35
HALL 002

Food, Agricultural &
Animal Microbiology

Chairs: Elisa Korenblum (ARO),
Dor Russ (TAU)

BUILDING 35
HALL 003

Applied & Environmental
Microbiology

Chairs: David Zeevi (WIS),
Matan Oren (Ariel U)

11:00 - 11:20 FINDING THE BALANCE IN
PATHOGEN-PHAGE-HOST
INTERACTIONS

Anat Herskovits (TAU)

MOLECULAR MECHANISMS OF
PLANT MICROBIOME ASSEMBLY:
FROM BACTERIAL GENES TO
HOST SPECIFICITY

Dor Russ (TAU)

SYNERGISTIC CO-INFECTIONS BY
VIRUSES AND BACTERIA DURING
ALGAL BLOOM DEMISE

Constanze Kuhlisch (WIS)

11:20 - 11:40 BIOMARKERS FOR CONGENITAL
CMV PROTECTION AND
PATHOGENESIS

Dana Wolf (HUJI)

CILIATE PROTOZOA AS
ORGANIZERS OF THE RUMEN
MICROBIAL ECOSYSTEM

Elie Jami (ARO)

BUILDING A COMPREHENSIVE
MAP OF HYDROCARBON
UTILIZATION IN BACTERIA

Lianet Noda Garcia (HUJI)

11:40 - 12:00 FROM MICROBIAL INTERACTIONS
TO ECOSYSTEM FUNCTION IN
SEARCH OF ECOLOGICAL
PRINCIPLES THAT GOVERN GUT
MICROBIOMES

Itzhak Mizrahi (BGU)

COMPUTATIONAL METABOLIC
MODELING APPROACHES FOR
CELLULAR AGRICULTURE AND
SUSTAINABLE FOOD
PRODUCTION

Marina de Leeuw (ARO)

ECOLOGICAL AND METABOLIC
ADAPTATIONS OF MARINE
ALCANIVORACEAE TO
ANTHROPOGENIC
HYDROCARBONS: FROM LOCAL
INSIGHTS TO A GLOBAL
PERSPECTIVE

Matan Oren (Ariel U)

12:00 - 12:15 MODELING RESPIRATORY
INFECTIONS USING
PATIENT-DERIVED APICAL-OUT
AIRWAY ORGANOID

Sharon Amit (SMC)

REPURPOSING THE GALACTOSE
UTILIZATION PATHWAY OF
LACTIC ACID BACTERIA FOR
VALORIZATION OF LACTOSE-RICH
DAIRY SIDE STREAMS INTO
D-TAGATOSE USING E. COLI

Itamar Yadid (Tel-Hai)

TRACING TROPHIC LINKS
BETWEEN SOIL PREDATORS AND
ENTERIC BACTERIA IN
AGRICULTURAL SOILS

Qian Li (BGU)

12:15 - 12:30 STANDALONE BACTERIAL
GASDERMINS FUNCTION AS
ANTI-PHAGE IMMUNE EFFECTORS

Barak Madhala (WIS)

ROOT WARRIORS AND FRUGAL
METABOLIZERS: FUNCTIONAL
ARCHITECTURE OF THE GLOBAL
RHIZOSPHERE AND SOIL
MICROBIOMES

Moshe Alon (HUJI)

GAS AND BRINE SEEPAGE FUEL
PRODUCTIVITY, INTERACTIONS,
AND ADAPTATION IN THE DEEP
SEA

Maxim Rubin Blum (IOLR, HU)

12:30 - 13:30 LUNCH, VISIT THE EXHIBITION & POSTER VIEWING BUILDING 41

13:30 - 14:00 GENERAL ASSEMBLY BUILDING 41

SESSION II - 14:00 - 15:30

BUILDING 72 / 73
SONNENFELDT AUDITORIUM

Microbial Ecology
and Evolution

Chairs: Laura Steindler (HU),
Max Kolton (BGU)

BUILDING 35
HALL 002

Microbial Pathogenesis
and Clinical Microbiology

Chairs: Einat Bleiberg Vitner (IIBR)
Biana Bernshtein (TAU)

BUILDING 35
HALL 003

Eukaryotic Microbiology
& Parasitology

Chairs: Shulamit Michaeli (BIU),
Ofri Levi (Tel-Hai)

14:00 - 14:20 FROM PERTURBATION TO
PREDICTION: A COMPUTATIONAL
PERSPECTIVE ON THE ECOLOGY
OF THE GUT MICROBIOME

Elhanan Borenstein (TAU, UW, SFI)

FROM ANTIVIRAL TO
IMMUNOMODULATORY:
GLYCOSPHINGOLIPID TARGETING
IN ENCEPHALITIS REVEALS A
LINK TO REGULATORY T CELLS

Einat Vitner (IIBR)

EXPLORING THE COMPLEXITIES
OF FUNGAL-DRUG INTERACTIONS

Judith Berman (TAU)

14:20 - 14:40 FINDING BIOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES
IN RHIZOSPHERE COMPLEXITY:
WHAT RHIZOSPHERE
MICROBIOMES REVEAL ABOUT
HOST GENOTYPE,
ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES, AND
PLANT ADAPTATION

Elisa Korenblum (ARO)

UNEXPECTED EFFECTS OF
ANTIBIOTICS ON HOST IMMUNITY

Roi Avraham (WIS)

A LARGE NUMBER OF CAP
BINDING PROTEINS IN
LEISHMANIA ARE RESPONSIBLE
FOR MULTIPLE ROLES IN THE
PARASITE CELL

Michal Shapira (BGU)

14:40 - 15:00 BREACHING THE DIATOM
FRUSTULE: ALTEROMONAS
MACLEODII TRIGGERS
PROTOPLAST EMERGENCE AND
PROGRAMMED NECROTIC-LIKE
CELL DEATH IN THE OCEANIC
DIATOM THALASSIOSIRA ROTULA

Uri Alcolombri (HUJI)

IN VIVO ENGINEERED B CELLS
SECRETE HIGH TITERS OF
BROADLY NEUTRALIZING
ANTI-HIV ANTIBODIES IN MICE

Adi Barzel (TAU)

THE ROLE OF ANTI-SENSE
NON-CODING RNAs IN
REGULATING GENE EXPRESSION
AND THE DEVELOPMENTAL
CYCLE OF TRYPANOSOMATIDS

Shulamit Michaeli (BIU)

15:00 - 15:15 REVERSIBLE INHIBITION OF VIRAL
LIFE CYCLE IN RESPONSE TO
ELEVATED TEMPERATURE IN A
BLOOM FORMING ALGA

Noa Shima (WIS)

ANANDAMIDE EXERTS
ANTIFUNGAL ACTIVITY AGAINST
NON-ALBICANS CANDIDA
SPECIES BY DISRUPTING
MEMBRANE INTEGRITY

Goldie Wolfson (HUJI)

HOST IMMUNE CELL MEMBRANE
DEFORMABILITY GOVERNS THE
UPTAKE ROUTE OF
MALARIA-RELATED
EXTRACELLULAR VESSELS

Daniel Alfandari (WIS)

15:15 - 15:30 NUTRIENT ENVIRONMENTS
SHAPE AMINO ACID
AUXOTROPHY AND
CROSS-FEEDING

Jonathan Friedman (HUJI)

KLEBSIELLA PNEUMONIAE
BIOFILM FORMATION
FACILITATES BLOODSTREAM
INFECTION PATHOGENESIS AND
PREDICTS SURVIVAL IN HUMAN
SERUM

Shiri Navon-Venezia (AU)

DECIPHERING THE REDOX CODE
OF EUKARYOTIC
MICROORGANISMS

Dana Reichmann (HUJI)

15:30 - 16:00 COFFEE BREAK, VISIT THE EXHIBITION & POSTER VIEWING BUILDING 41

SESSION III - 16:00 - 17:30

BUILDING 72 / 73
SONNENFELDT AUDITORIUM

Microbiome, Genomics &
Computational
Microbiology

Chairs: Yishay Pinto (BIU),
Tali Magory-Cohen (Migal/Tel-Hai)

BUILDING 35
HALL 002

Virology and
Phage Biology

Chairs: Moshe Dessau (BIU),
Netanel Tzarum (HUJI)

BUILDING 35
HALL 003

Structure, Function and
Physiology in the
Microbial World

Chairs: Shai Zilberzwige-Tal (WIS),
Iris Grossman-Haham (BGU)

16:00 - 16:20 THE GUT AS A SOCIAL ARCHIVE:
BACTERIA AND VIRUSES
RECONSTRUCT SOCIAL HISTORY
ACROSS TIMESCALES

Amiyaal Ilany (TAU)

UNDERSTANDING ANTIVIRAL
IMMUNITY IN BACTERIA AND
BEYOND

Rotem Sorek (WIS)

GASDERMINS AND THE ANCIENT
ROOTS OF INNATE IMMUNITY

Tanita Wein (WIS)

16:20 - 16:40 GENOMIC INSIGHTS INTO THE
ORIGIN AND TRANSMISSION
DYNAMICS OF A CIRCULATING
VACCINE-DERIVED POLIOVIRUS
TYPE 3 OUTBREAK IN ISRAEL

Neta Zuckerman (CVL)

THE PARASITE WITHIN:
MYCOVIRUS CONTROL OF
FUNGAL STRESS AND VIRULENCE

Neta Shlezinger (HUJI)

ROBUST LIGHT HARVESTING
PROPERTIES UPON CHROMATIC
ACCLIMATION IN PURPLE
BACTERIA

Dvir Harris (Technion)

16:40 - 17:00 METATRSCRIPTOMICS
RESOLVES ACTIVITY STATES OF
HUMAN GUT PHAGES

Yishay Pinto (BIU)

STRUCTURE OF AN
INSECT-RESTRICTED VIRUS
ENVELOPE PROTEIN SUGGESTS A
PRIMORDIAL CLASS II FUSOGEN

Alex Rouvinski (HUJI)

STRUCTURAL STUDIES OF A
COLOSSAL SURFACE LAYER FROM
HYPERTHERMOPHILIC ARCHAEA

Ido Caspy (MRC LMB)

17:00 - 17:15 DECODING GUT MICROBIAL
MECHANISMS TO POTENTIATE
CANCER IMMUNOTHERAPY

Shahaf Yosef (BIU)

RAF-1 MEDIATES A LATE ENTRY
STEP OF THE SANDFLY-BORNE
TOSCANA VIRUS

Yarden Moalem (TAU)

A-TO-I MRNA EDITING IN
BACTERIA CAN AFFECT PROTEIN
SEQUENCE, DISULFIDE BOND
FORMATION, AND FUNCTION

Liron Didi Moens (BGU)

17:15 - 17:30 SHIFTING IGA REPERTOIRES IN
THE FIRST YEAR OF LIFE: INFANT
MUCOSAL IMMUNITY ACROSS
DIETARY INTERVENTIONS

Lior Levy (BGU)

TARGETING CDK12/13-CYCLIN K
INDUCES HIV GENE ACTIVATION
AND LATENCY REVERSAL WHICH
IS MEDIATED BY P-TEFB

Praveen Kumar Murugavelu (BGU)

SEASONAL PATTERNS OF
PROTEORHODOPSIN DIVERSITY,
EXPRESSION, AND
PHOTOHETEROTROPHIC
ACTIVITY IN THE EASTERN
MEDITERRANEAN SEA

Tzipora Peretz (HU)

17:30 - 18:00 CLOSING CEREMONY – Awards and ISM Election Results BUILDING 72 / 73

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Dr. Livnat Afriat-Jurnou (TAU)

Prof. Meital Gal-Tanamy (BIU)

Prof. Moshe Dessau (BIU)

Dr. Yael Litvak (HUJI)



The Shmunis School of Biomedicine and
Cancer Research
The George S. Wise Faculty of Life Sciences
Tel Aviv University