



Global Virtual Symposium On Leishmaniasis & Trypanosomiasis

Join the meeting: To be updated

Meeting ID: To be updated; Passcode: To be updated

Thursday April 23, 2026 • Virtual

Time zone: Eastern Time

09:00 - 09:05 Welcome and Introduction to LeishSymposium-2026

09:05 - 09:35 **Kwang-Poo Chang**, *Rosalind Franklin University, IL, USA*
Trypanosomatid Protozoa with Endosymbiotic Bacteria: Their Potential for Effective Vaccine Production and Delivery

09:35 - 10:05 **Hira L. Nakhasi**, *Center for Biologics Research and Evaluation (CBER), FDA, MD, USA*
Recent Advances in Leishmania Vaccine Development and Tools for Detection and Surveillance

10:05 - 10:35 **Sima Rafati**, *Pasteur Institute of Iran, Iran*
Extracellular Vesicles of *Leishmania tarentolae* as a Potential Tool for Vaccine Development and Immunotherapy

10:35 - 11:05 **Shyam Sundar**, *Banaras Hindu University, India*
Post-Kala-Azar Dermal Leishmaniasis - Threat to VL Elimination in the Indian Subcontinent, Diagnosis, and Treatment

11:05-11:15 Discussions

11:15 - 11:25 Break

11:25 - 11:55 **Mitali Chatterjee**, *Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education & Research, India*
Molecular monitoring of Post kala azar Dermal Leishmaniasis

11:55 - 12:25 **Abhay Satoskar**, *The Ohio State University, OH, USA*
Rebirth of Leishmanin antigen Skin Test (LST) for Surveillance and Assessing Vaccine Immunogenicity

12:25 - 12:55 **Sara Zimmer**, *University of Minnesota Medical School, MN, USA*
Leishmania Mitochondrial Gene Expression is Linked to Host Survival

12:55 - 13:25 **Marcelo Santos da Silva**, *University of São Paulo, Brazil*
Perturbations in the Inositol Pyrophosphate Pathway Impair Telomere Length Homeostasis in *Leishmania*

13:25 - 13:35 Discussions

13:35 - 13:45 Break

13:45 - 14:15 **Alex Córdoba-Aguilar**, *National Autonomous University of Mexico, Mexico*
Chagas Control: Experiences from Field Conditions

- 14:15 - 14:45 **Sigrid Roberts**, *Pacific University, OR, USA*
Decoding Polyamine Metabolism in *Leishmania*: Functions and Vulnerabilities
- 14:45 - 15:15 **Herbert Leonel de Matos Guedes**, *Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ), Brazil*
TBA
- 15:15 - 15:45 **Phillip Yates**, *Oregon Health & Science University, OR, USA*
Genome-Scale Inducible Overexpression and RNAi Library Screens in *Leishmania* Species
- 15:45 - 16:15 **Mayke Alencar**, *University of São Paulo, Brazil*
Energy Metabolism Mathematical Models of Lifecycle Stages of Parasites
- 16:15 - 16:45 **Delphine Autheman**, *University of York, United Kingdom*
Advancing Vaccine Discovery for Animal African Trypanosomiasis
- 16:45-17:15 **Nicola Baker**, *University of York, United Kingdom*
TBA

Future Directions

- 17:45-18:00 **Emerging Trends, Challenges, and Opportunities in *Leishmania* and *Trypanosoma* Research and Control**

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- 18:00-18:10 **Summary, Feed back and Closing Remarks**
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