



ICA 2025

International Conference on Anti-Infectives

20–22 May 2025

Saarland University

Aula, Campus UdS, Building A.3.3



Speakers

Wilfred van der Donk (University of Illinois)
Chris Willis (University of Bristol)
Pierre Stallforth (Hans Knöll Institute, Leibniz HKI)
Ian Gilbert (University of Dundee)
Simone Moser (University of Innsbruck)
Shampa Das (University of Liverpool)
Geert-Jan Boons (University of Georgia)
Yi Tang (University of California)

Olivia Merkel (University of Munich)
Mohammad R. Seyedsayamdost (Princeton University)
Aránzazu del Campo (Saarland University, INM)
Kelly Chibale (University of Cape Town)
Claudia Zampaloni (F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd)
Till Strowig (Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research)
Achim Hörauf (University of Bonn, DZIF)
Gianni Panagiotou (Hans Knöll Institute, Leibniz HKI)

Dear participant,

The ICA2025 is just a few weeks ahead and we would like to update you on some important information regarding the program, logistics, and registration.

Time Frame: The three-day symposium will start at 1 pm on May 20th and will end on May 22nd at around 4 pm! Please contact us well in advance of the event if you need further guidance or other arrangements for personal reasons.

Conference Location: Aula and Innovation Center, Campus UdS, Building A.3.3 of Saarland University. The registration desk will be located in the Innovation Center, the conference is located in the Aula.

Short talk presentation: The presentation time slot is 20 min in total and should include some minutes for Q&A (recommend 15 min talk + 5 minutes question). Please plan the time of your talk accordingly as we have a very strict time plan due to the many exciting contributions.

The presentation system is equipped with a Windows PC and HDMI port. The preferred slide format is 16:9. To ensure a smooth transition between sessions, we kindly ask that you send your presentation in advance and/or bring it on a USB stick. If you have videos in your presentation, please make sure that you provide the interlinked videos for a smooth presentation. Presentations should be submitted in the morning or no later than the break before your session begins. Otherwise we cannot guarantee that your presentation is correctly being displayed.

Poster presentation: Poster should be printed in A0, portrait format (Hochformat)! Poster are displayed through the meeting. The poster sessions will take place in the Innovation Center A2.1 of the UdS next to the Aula A3.3 throughout the symposium. Poster boards are numbered (even/odd). As we will award poster prizes, we kindly ask you to be present at your poster in those slots that are assigned to you. We kindly ask you to remove your posters by Thursday 4.30 pm in the afternoon!

Directions: The Innovation Center A2.1 and Aula A3.3 are located near the bus station "Universität Campus" (e.g. bus line from HBF Saarbrücken: e.g. 124, 102). If you are coming by bus from the city centre, i.e. with line 101 or 102, please get off at the "Universität Campus" bus stop. We recommend that you use the public transport app [SaarVV](#) or [Google Navigation](#) to find your way to the Aula building A3.3 on the university campus.

Entering the campus by car and parking: Parking is strictly controlled on the University campus (you need to pay for the parking time on campus). Please park your car in one of the car parks of the University. Please note: Vans are not allowed in the car park!

General: The reception desk on Tuesday will be located at the Innovation center, but will move to the Aula on Wednesday and Thursday. Please be there in time before the start of the program. Your registration does include meals and coffee breaks, but does NOT include travel insurance and accommodation. Please ensure that you have your own insurance policy before travelling.

We are looking forward to welcome you in Saarbrücken!

The ICA2025 organization team

HIPS **HELMHOLTZ**
Institute for Pharmaceutical Research Saarland



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More Information at: <https://www.helmholtz-hips.de/en/ica-2025/>

Program

20th May

Tuesday

11.00 – **Arrival & Registration**
13.00 Innovation Center and Aula Saarland University, Germany

13.00 – **Rolf Müller** (Scientific Director of the Helmholtz-Institute for Pharmaceutical Research Saarland)
13.15 **Elena Yorgova-Ramanauskas** (State Secretary for Economic Affairs, Innovation, Digital and Energy)

13.15 – **Mo Seyedsayamdost** (Princeton University, USA)
13.45 New Therapeutic Modalities Enabled by Low-Dose Antibiotics

13.45 – **Florian Hubrich** (Saarland University, Germany)
Expanding the prenylated ribosomal peptide diversity for drug development
14:30 **Ronald Garcia** (HIPS, Germany)
Discovering the myxobacterial diversity and their biosynthetic treasure

14.30 – **Simone Moser** (University of Innsbruck, Austria)
15.00 Small Molecules, Big Impact: Identification of Bioactive Natural Products

15.00 – **Short Coffee Break – Aula**
15.30

15.30 – **Yi Tang** (University of California, USA)
16.00 Peptide Natural Product Discovery from Fungi

Max Crüsemann (Goethe Universität Frankfurt, Germany)
Ribosomal pentapeptide nitration for nonribosomal peptide antibiotic precursor biosynthesis
Chengzhang Fu (HIPS, Germany)
Novel genome mining approach development and biosynthesis study of natural products from bacteria
16.00 – **Heiner Weddelling** (University of Basel, Switzerland)
17.30 Structural and mechanistic investigation of the key enzyme orchestrating backbone rearrangement in rishirilide biosynthesis
Eveline Vriens (VIB-KU Leuven, Belgium)
Molecular basis for diene isomerization in the oximidine trans-AT polyketide synthase

17.30 – **Wilfred van der Donk** (University of Illinois, USA)
18.00 Mode of Action and Inhibition of the Enterococcal Cytolysin

18.15 – **Reception with Posters – Innovation Center UdS**
20.30 *Presenter of odd-numbered posters should be available.*

21st May

Wednesday

9.00 – Till Strowig (HZI, Germany)
Microbiome Editing to promote decolonization of MDR Enterobacteria from the gut

10.00 Gianni Panagiotou (HKI, FSU Jena, Germany)
Metabolic Crossroads: The Gut Microbiome in Infection Dynamics

10.00 – Sanjay Kumar Srikakulam (Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg, Germany)
10.20 Advancing drug discovery and translational research with Galaxy

10.20 – Short Coffee Break – Aula
10.45

10.45 – Pierre Stallforth (HKI, FSU Jena, Germany)
11.15 Natural Products from Interacting Microorganisms and Ancient Microbiomes

Jesko Köhnke (Leibniz Universität Hannover, Germany)
 α -conotoxin binding at nicotinic acetyl choline receptors reveals general features of peptide antagonism

11.15 – Franziska Fries (HIPS, Germany)
12.15 The Natural Product Antibiotic Corramycin is a DNA Gyrase Inhibitor

Martina Hrast Rambaher (University of Ljubljana, Slovenia)
Novel bacterial topoisomerase inhibitors with broad spectrum activity

12.15 – Lunch with Posters – Innovation Center
14.00 *Presenter of even-numbered posters should be available.*

14.00 – Chris Willis (University of Bristol, UK)
14.30 Exploring and Exploiting Polyketide Biosynthetic Pathways

Steffen Leusmann (HIPS, Germany)
Lead generation for catechols as glycomimetic LecA inhibitors of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*

14.30 – Thanigaimalai Pillaiyar (Eberhard Karls University Tübingen, Germany)
15.30 Covalent Dipeptide Inhibitors Targeting SARS-CoV-2 Mpro and Its Variants with Antiviral Activity

Thomas Böttcher (University of Vienna, Austria)
Targeting *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* via its toxin-antitoxin system

15.30 – Coffee Break (Aula) – All posters (Innovation Center)
16.30

16.30 – Geert-Jan Boons (University of Georgia, USA)
17.00 Chemo-Enzymatic Synthesis of Complex Glycans to Examine Receptor Specificities of Pathogens of Zoonotic Concern

Ahmed Amin (Saarland University, Germany)
Development of Pathoblockers Targeting Elastase (LasB) for the Treatment of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* lung and eye infections

17.00 – Sidra Eisa (HIPS, Germany)
18.00 Benzimidazole derivatives as antimalarial agents: Design, Synthesis and Structure-Activity relationship studies

Annabelle Varrot (CERMAV-CNRS, France)
Towards dual-target glycomimetics against two bacterial lectins to fight *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*-*Burkholderia cenocepacia* infections

18.00 – Shampa Das (University of Liverpool, UK)
18.30 Challenges with demonstrating the efficacy of novel antibiotics

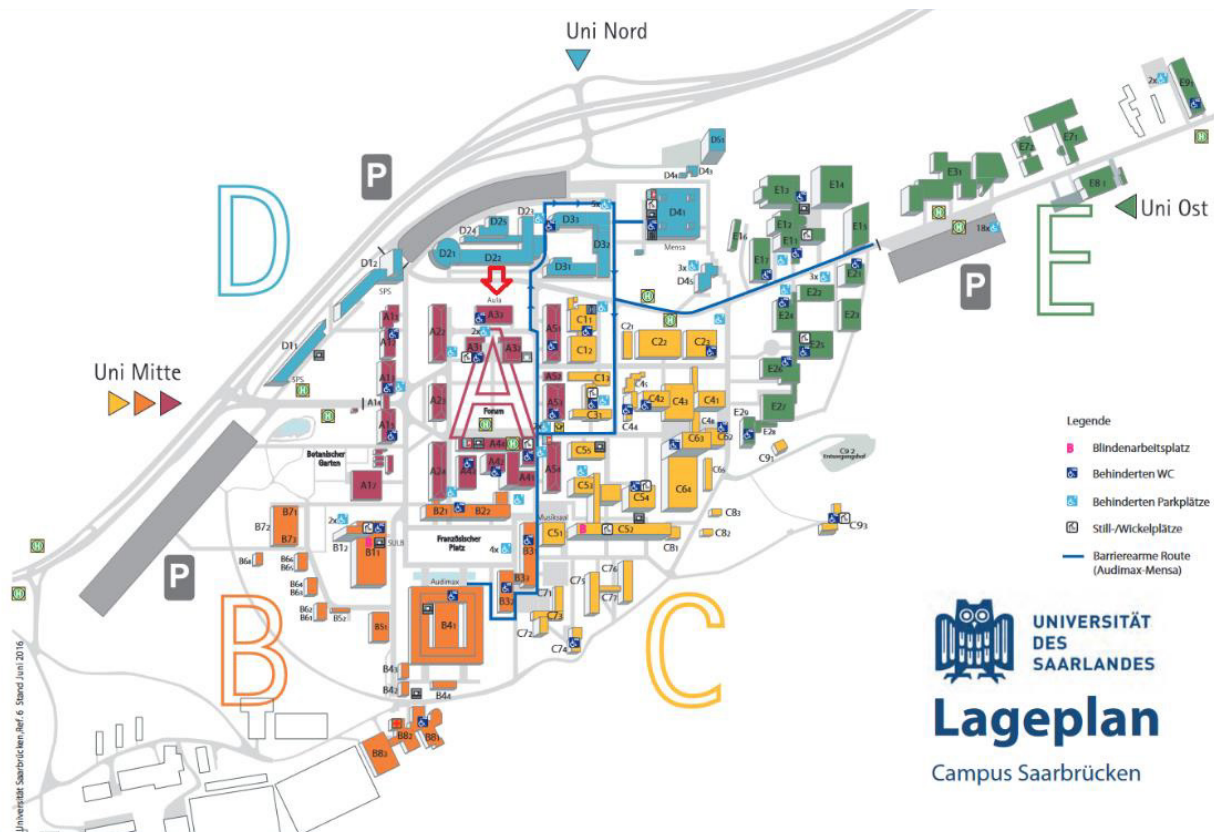
18.30 – Saarländischer Abend
OPEN END (In front of HIPS building, E8 1)

22 nd May		Thursday
9.00 – 9.30	Ian Gilbert (University of Dundee, UK) Drug Discovery for Neglected Infectious Diseases	
9.30 – 10.10	Michaela Prothiwa (University Antwerp, Belgium) Chemical Profiling of Virulence-Related Bacterial Enzymes	
10.10 – 10.40	Tania Szal (Fraunhofer ITMP, Germany) Disrupting Resistance: A Novel Inhibitor Targeting Antimicrobial Efflux	
10.10 – 10.40	Claudia Zampaloni (F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd., Switzerland) From Discovery to Development: The Journey of the Novel Antibiotic Zosurabalpin	
10.45 – 10.10	Coffee Break – Aula	
11.15 – 11.45	Kelly Chibale (University of Cape Town, South Africa) Cell-based medicinal chemistry progression of antimalarial chemotypes	
	Sabryna Junker (Saarland University, Germany) Advancing targeted protein degradation strategies against bacterial pathogens	
11.45 – 12.45	Sari Rasheed (HIPS, Germany) Targeting DnaN in Mycobacterium tuberculosis: the development of Mycoplanecins as a promising therapeutic class	
	Han-Yi Huang (EPFL Lausanne, Switzerland) MB1: a compound targeting of Pseudomonas aeruginosa surface attachment	
12.45 – 13.45	Lunch – Aula	
13.45 – 14.45	Achim Hörauf (DZIF, University Bonn, Germany) Antibiotics in parasitology - from preclinics to clinical studies	
	Olivia Merkel (LMU Munich, Germany) Inhaled dry powder RNA formulations for antiviral therapy	
14.45 – 15.30	Sangeun Lee (Saarland University, Germany) Biodynamers: Dynamic Proteins to Enhance Antibiotic Potency	
	Mariia Nesterkina (HIPS, Germany) Thermotropic liquid crystals in transdermal delivery of antitubercular drugs	
15.30 – 16.00	Lara Luana Teruel Enrico (Aránzazu del Campo, INM, Saarland University, Germany) Smart material design and applications	
16.00 – 16.15	Prices for Poster and Talks, Final words & Departure	

Location: Saarland University, Aula and Innovation Center, Campus UdS, Building A.3.3



Travel APP: For accurate time schedules and to check the best connections, download the Saarfahrplan App! It is certainly better than its rating and shows you the current bus times and their delays.



Bus services to Saarbrücken campus: To get from Saarbrücken HBF to university campus, take either bus number **102** (to 'Dudweiler-Dudoplatz') or bus numbers **112** or **124** (to 'Universität'). These services run very frequently.

Buses also run to the university from the districts of Saarbrücken, St. Ingbert and Neunkirchen. A shuttle bus organized by AStA runs between the Saarbrücken and Homburg university campuses.

Bus stops on campus: Universität Botanischer Garten, Universität Campus, Universität Mensa, Universität Busterminal