

**13<sup>TH</sup>**  
**WORLD**  
**CONGRESS**

International Society  
of **m**icrobiota

# TARGETING MICROBIOTA

TOWARDS CLINICAL REVOLUTION

# PROGRAM



**NOVEMBER**  
**4-5, 2026**



**MÁLAGA,**  
**SPAIN**

# 13th World Congress Targeting Microbiota 2026

November 4 - 5, 2026 – Málaga, Spain

## Microbiota Science Is Changing. What Comes Next?

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

It is a great pleasure and honour to welcome you to the 13th World Congress on International Society of Microbiota 2026

We have learned enormously about the composition of the microbiota and its associations with health and disease. Now we need to go further.

- **What is really causal?**
- **Which microbial signals and metabolites matter most?**
- **Can microbiome biomarkers become useful in clinical practice?**
- **How can we move from microbiome profiling to prevention and treatment?**
- **What can precision nutrition really achieve?**
- **Can targeting the microbiota contribute to healthy ageing and the prevention of chronic diseases?**

But knowing who is there is no longer enough.

We now need to understand what microbes are doing, how they communicate with the host, which effects are truly causal, and how we can use this knowledge to improve human health.

And perhaps the most important question:

**How do we bring microbiota science into medicine?**

These questions will be at the heart of the **13th World Congress on Targeting Microbiota**, taking place in **Málaga, Spain, on November 4–5, 2026**.

Our program is built around three major steps: FUNCTION → CAUSALITY → TRANSLATION

Our ambition is to bring together researchers, clinicians, young scientists, innovators, journal editors and industry to exchange ideas, challenge existing concepts and build new collaborations.

I warmly invite you to join us in Málaga, share your latest research and help us shape the next chapter of microbiota science.

We look forward to welcoming you personally.



**Prof. Alain Stintzi**  
President, International Society of Microbiota  
University of Ottawa, Canada

# Day 1 – Understanding Microbial Ecosystems and Human Biology

Wednesday, November 4, 2026

8h20 Welcoming of attendees & Badge Distribution

9h00 **Opening Remarks**

9h15 **Presidential Keynote**



**Shaping the Future of Microbiota Medicine: From Mechanisms to Prevention**  
*Alain Stintzi, University of Ottawa, Canada*

## Session 1 – Function What Is the Functional Microbiome?

*From Microbial Ecosystems to Host Regulation*



9h45 **Smoking, Microbiota and Immunity: Solving a 40-Year Clinical Paradox**  
*Hiroshi Ohno, RIKEN Center for Integrative Medical Sciences, Japan*



10h15 **Beyond the Gut: Microbiota-Derived Bile Acids in Tissue Immunity and Inflammation**  
*Tomasz Wypych, Nencki Institute of Experimental Biology PAS, Poland*

**10h45 Coffee Break, Networking and Poster Sessions**



11h30 **Uncovering the Roles of Gut Fungi using Shotgun Sequencing Data**  
*Virginia Pedicord, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom*



12h00 **From Gut to Gametes: Microbial Metabolites Shaping Male Fertility**  
*Cristian O'Flaherty, McGill University, Canada*

**12h30 Lunch Break, Networking, Group Photo**

## Session 2 – Causality Can We Move from Correlation to Causality?

*Mechanisms, Prediction and Systems Biology*



14h00 **Human Microbiome in Parkinson's Disease:  
Identifying Causal Molecules for Early Diagnostics and Targeted Interventions**  
*Paul Wilmes, University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg*

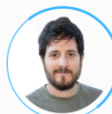


14h30 **From Population Science To Personalised Nutrition:  
Microbial Metabolites As The Functional Link Between Diet, The Gut Microbiome And Health**  
*Cristina Menni, King's College London, UK & University of Milan, Italy*



15h00 **Digital Microbiology and Next-Generation Sequencing:  
Harnessing Clinical Metagenomics for Precision Medicine**  
*Ashley Rooney, University of Zurich, Switzerland*

**15h30 Coffee Break, Networking and Poster Sessions**



16h15 **Can a Microbial Metabolite Extend Health and Lifespan? The Butyrate–Mitochondria Connection**  
*Enrique Gabandé Rodríguez, CBM Severo Ochoa, Spain*

16h45 Short Oral Presentations (10 Minutes)

18h00 End of Day 1

19h30 **Speakers' Dinner**



## Day 2 – Translating Microbiota Science into Medicine

Thursday, November 5, 2026

8h30 Welcoming of attendees

9h00 **Vice-President Keynote**



**The Next Frontier in GeroMedicine: Programming the Microbiome for Healthy Longevity**  
*Soheil Saeedi, University of Zurich, Switzerland*

### Session 3 – Translation

#### Can We Translate Microbiota Science into Precision Medicine?

*From Prevention and Healthy Longevity to Therapeutic Intervention*



9h30 **Early-Life Microbiota: Shaping Immunity, Lifelong Health and Disease Risk**  
*Mercedes Gomez de Agüero Tamargo, Universität Würzburg, Germany*



10h00 **Maternal-Fetal Microbiome Profiling and Precision Medicine:  
From Biomarker Discovery to Clinical Translation**  
*Souhaila Al Khodor, Sidra Medicine, Qatar*

#### 10h30 Coffee Break, Networking, Poster Presentation



11h15 **Harnessing the Gut Microbiome to Unlock Anti-Tumor Immunity**  
*Ze'ev Ronai, Cedars-Sinai Health Sciences University, USA*



11h45 **From Mucosal Inflammation to Malignancy:  
Deciphering the Microbiome at the Crossroads of IBD and Colorectal Cancer**  
*Michael Scharl, University of Zurich, Switzerland*

12h15 Short Oral Presentations

#### 12h35 Lunch, Networking & Poster



14h00 **Can the Microbiome Become a Standard Component of Precision Oncology?**  
*Meriem Messaoudene, University of Montreal, Canada*

14h30 – 15h50 **8 Selected Short Orals × 10 min**

15h50 – 16h20 **Microbiota Innovations 2026**  
*Focus: Emerging Therapeutics, Diagnostics, AI, Phages and Precision Nutrition*

16h20 – 16h50 Closing Strategic Round Table - *Can Microbial Ecosystems Reshape the Medicine of Tomorrow?*

16h50 – 17h05 Awards & Closing Remarks

