vetmeduni

9TH COMPARATIVE MEDICINE SYMPOSIUM 2026

JUNE 24 & 25, 2026

Scientific Programme

Organizing Committee:

Dagmar Gotthardt
Florian Grebien
Sabine Lagger
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Anja Natzler
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Comparative Medicine Symposium 2026

We warmly welcome you to this year's scientific meeting, dedicated to presenting cutting-edge research from the Vetmeduni and the Vienna Life Science Region. This meeting provides students with a unique opportunity to engage with a diverse range of scientific advances spanning cell biology, infectious diseases, cancer research, and One Health approaches. Our program is designed to balance basic, translational, and industrial research, with a particular emphasis on technological, methodological, and therapeutic innovations. In addition to the scientific sessions, we are pleased to offer dedicated "Career Models beyond Academia" panels, providing insights into diverse professional paths. We hope this platform will not only inspire but also support the next generation of researchers in their professional journeys.

We look forward to stimulating discussions, new ideas, and the strengthening of our scientific community through this meeting.

We thank the speakers for making the meeting attractive and we hope you can join us on June 25th for the Networking event at the Vetmeduni with the Master students and organizers.

Organizational Information: Coffee & Lunch – Foyer of Banquet Hall; Chairs and speakers please be in time

Comparative Medicine Symposium 2026 – Scientific Programme

First Day, Wednesday 24.06.2026

09:15 – 09:30 Opening Ceremony – Rectorate of Vetmeduni (VR Marchetti-Deschmann) and Organizers

Session 1: Innovations in Cancer Biology: From Metabolism to Precision Medicine (Chair: Heidi Neubauer)

09:30 – 10:10 Keynote: Eleni Tomazou (CCRI): "*Precision Medicine Approaches for Tumors with Low Mutational Burden: Focusing on Pediatric Tumors*"

10:10 – 10:40 Saverio Tardito (Meduni Wien): "*Rethinking our Approach to Cancer Metabolism to Deliver Patient Benefits*"

10:40 – 11:10 Agnieszka Witalisz-Siepracka (KLU): "*Immunomodulatory Effects of Triple-Negative Breast Cancer on NK Cells*"

11:10 – 11:40 Coffee Break

Session 2: Comparative Perspectives in Biology and Clinical Applications (Chair: Sabine Lagger)

11:40 – 12:10 Jasmine Loveland (Vetmeduni): "*Evolutionary Innovation in Hormone Regulation as a Driver of Phenotypic Diversity*"

12:10 – 12:40 Markus Zeitlinger (Meduni Wien): "*Determination of Tissue Pharmacokinetics In-Vivo, from Animal to Human Volunteers and Patients*"

12:40 – 13:10 Jule Michler (Vetmeduni): *"Beyond the Barrier: Comparative Perspectives on Skin Models and Repair"*

13:10 – 14:10 Lunch Break

Session 3: AI, Ethics, and Beyond: Navigating the Future of Biomedicine (Chair: Caroline Lassnig)

14:10 – 14:40 Christof Bertram (Vetmeduni): *"Reading AI Papers Beyond the Hype – A Microscopy Image Analysis Perspective"*

14:40 – 15:10 Svenja Springer (Vetmeduni): "*When Veterinary Medicine Meets Ethics: Empirical Insights into the Chances and Challenges of Companion Animal Practices*"

Session 4: RNA, Ribosomes, and Receptors: Unraveling Gene Expression and Infection (Chair: Dagmar Gotthardt)

15:10 – 15:40 Sebastian Glatt (Vetmeduni): *"tRNAslational Control of Eukaryotic Gene Expression"*

15:40 – 16:00 Coffee Break

16:00 – 16:30 Pavel Kovarik (MPL): *"Balancing Immune Responses by mRNA Decay"*

16:30 – 17:00 Isabella Moll (Uni Wien): "*Specialized Ribosomes: A New Layer of Regulation in Bacterial Infection?*"

17:00 – 17:30 Peter Steinberger (Meduni Wien): "*Interrogating Ligand-Receptor Interactions Using Cellular Biosensors - TCR Recognition, CAR Signaling and Beyond*"

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Second Day, Thursday 25.06.2026

Session 5: Cellular Homeostasis & Physiological Regulation (Chair: Florian Grebien)

09:15 – 09:55 Keynote: Martin Hetzer (ISTA): *"The Role of Protein Homeostasis in Lifelong Cell Maintenance"*

09:55 – 10:35 Keynote: Christoph Bock (CeMM): *"Single-cell Biology, Causality at Scale & Cell Therapy"*

10:35 – 11:00 Coffee Break

Session 6: Tissue Regeneration Across Systems (Chair: Birgit Strobl)

11:00 – 11:30 David Hercher (LBI Traumatology): "*Models of Regeneration in the Nervous System and What to Do With Them"*

11:30 – 12:00 Janina Burk-Luibl (Vetmeduni): *"Cell-Based Tendon Therapy - from Stall to Bench to Bedside?"*

Session 7: Career Models Beyond Academia I - Public Health & Science Communication (Chair: Laura Andeßner-Angleitner)

12:00 – 12:20 Georg Machat (AGES): *"Jobs Beyond Academia: Insights into a Regulatory Career"*

12:20 – 12:40 Conny Schneider (LBI Traumatology): *"Lost in Translation? Science Communication as Two-Way Street"*

12:40 – 13:40 Lunch Break

Session 8: Career Models Beyond Academia II: Industry and Research Funding (Chair: Ergisa Çela and Anja Natzler)

13:40 – 14:00 Barbara Maurer (Böhringer Ingelheim): *"From Lab to Patient and Back - Working in Experimental Medicine"*

14:00 – 14:20 Elisabeth Straka (Jannsen): *"A Career in Medical Affairs: Between Family, Leadership and Pharma"*

14:20 – 14:40 Eva Lidia Wysocki (FWF): *"From Talking Fish to Career Funding – an Intersectoral Career Path"*

14:40 – 15:20 Keynote (Chair: Katarzyna Sitnik)

Marta Rizzi (Meduni Wien): *"To B or not to B: B Cell Fate Decisions in Health and Disease"*

15:20 – 15:30 Closing Remarks

15:30 Drinks and Networking

Organizational Information: Coffee & Lunch – Foyer of Banquet Hall; Chairs and speakers please be in time

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We thank Till Rümenapf for his support and financial contribution.

Arrival at the Vetmeduni: Link

Banquet Hall (Festsaal)

www.vetmeduni.ac.at

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