

Respiratory Genomics Conference Programme **St Martins House Conference Centre, Leicester, UK**

Tuesday 4th November 2025

Please scan the QR code below to view an interactive google map of key information to assist with your stay in Leicester (including emergency information):



8.30 - 9.15 Arrival Refreshments and Networking (Kempe and Newton)

Closet space is available in each of these rooms for coats and luggage. Self-service tea and coffee stations are also available. If you need to take a call during the conference, please feel free to use these rooms, or the main reception seating area. Wi-Fi information is available at the reception desk.

Please feel free to share your time with us on social media:

BlueSky: @resp25.bsky.social

X: @RespGen25

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9.15 - 9.30 Welcome and introduction - Jacqui Shaw, Professor of Translational Cancer Genetics, NIHR Leicester Biomedical Research Centre Cancer Theme Lead (The Grand Hall)

Session 1: Decoding the Genetic Architecture of Lung Function (Chair: Professor Ian Hall, University of Nottingham and Co-chair: Dr Livia Delpiano, University of Cambridge) (The Grand Hall)

9.30 - 10.05 Progress and challenges in respiratory genomics discovery - Dr Catherine John, University of Leicester

10.05 - 10.20 Association of rare variants with lung function identifies new genes, functional exonic variants, and allelic series to inform functional genomics and drug development - Dr Nick Shrine, University of Leicester

10.20 - 10.35 Characterisation and prioritisation of genome-wide association signals for efficient translation into experimental models of lung biology - Dr Samuel Moss, University of Leicester

10.35 - 10.50 Exploring the Genetic Architecture of Lung Function Traits Using UK Biobank Whole-Genome Sequencing Data - Dr Chiemela S. Odoemelum, University of Leicester

10.50 - 11.20 Refreshments, Exhibitors and Networking (The Grand Hall, Kempe and Newton)

Session 2: Integrative and Functional Genomics Approaches (Chair: Professor Ian Sayers, University of Nottingham and Co-chair: Dr Beatriz Guillen Guio, University of Leicester) (The Grand Hall)

11.20 - 11.55 Using longitudinal cohort data to explore respiratory genetics across the lifecourse - Professor Erik Melén, Karolinska Institutet

11.55 - 12.10 Integrative analysis of single-cell chromatin accessibility and GWAS statistics to prioritize enhancers and partition trait heritability in lung development - Professor Michael Cho, Harvard Medical School

12.10 - 12.25 The coding variant landscape of alternative isoforms - Dr Simon Biddie, University of Edinburgh

12.25 - 12.40 Pharmacogenetic modification of lung function decline - Professor Lies Lahousse, Ghent University & Erasmus Medical Center

Wellcome Trust Fellowship Opportunities

12.40 - 12.55 Early and Mid-Career Fellowship and Grant Opportunities with Wellcome Trust - Dr Urszula Pawlicka-Deger, Research Manager in the Discovery Research programme

12.55 - 13.55 Lunch (The Grand Hall)

Kempe and Newton rooms are open and available if you'd like a space to enjoy your lunch

Session 3: From Early Origins to Cellular Mechanisms (Chair: Professor Emma Rawlins, Gurdon Institute, University of Cambridge and Co-chair: Dr Richard Allen, University of Leicester) (The Grand Hall)

13.55 - 14.30 Early origins of obstructive lung diseases: the role of CC16 - Professor Stefano Guerra, University of Arizona

14.30 - 14.45 Spontaneous remission of asthma is associated with an increase in ciliated cells and loss of hillock-like cells – Tessa Gillett, University Medical Center Groningen

14.45 - 15.00 Mechanical regulation of alveolar cell fate during lung development - Dr Federica Michielin, University College London, Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health

15.00 - 15.35 Pluripotent stem cells in the era of respiratory genomics: from disease models to regenerative therapies - Professor Darrell Kotton, Boston University and Boston Medical Center

15.35 - 15.50 Refreshments and Networking (Kempe and Newton)

Session 4: Poster Viewing (Kempe and Newton Rooms)

15.50 - 17.30 Presenters to be available to discuss their posters

18.30 Conference Drinks Reception and Dinner - St Martins House Conference Centre (The Grand Hall)

20.30 After Dinner Speech – Professor Ivan Browne, OBE, introduced by Professor Henrietta O'Connor



Wednesday 5th November

8.30 - 9.15 Arrival Refreshments and Networking (Kempe and Newton Rooms)

9.15 - 9.30 Welcome and introduction (The Grand Hall)

Session 5: Interstitial Lung Disease Mechanisms and Modelling (Chair: Professor Louise Wain, University of Leicester and Co-chair: Dr Rachel Clifford, University of Nottingham) (The Grand Hall)

9.30 - 10.05 Studying mechanisms in familial pulmonary fibrosis using organoid models - Dr Jennifer Dickens, University of Cambridge)

10.05 - 10.20 Polygenic risk scores improve patient prioritization for genetic testing in idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis - Dr Aitana Alonso González, Hospital Universitario Nuestra Señora de Candelaria

10.20 - 10.35 Genome-wide association studies of fibrosis to identify shared mechanisms of fibrosis across 12 organ systems - Dr Ebrima Joof, University of Leicester

10.35 - 10.50 Lung tissue metabolite quantitative trait loci in COPD and IPF - Dr Junsun Yu, Harvard Medical School

10.50 - 11.20 Refreshments, Networking and Poster Viewing (Kempe and Newton Rooms)

Session 6: Multi-Omics and Disease Pathogenesis (Chair: Dr Joo-Hyeon Lee, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and Co-chair: Medb Wills, University of Cambridge) (The Grand Hall)

11.20 - 11.55 Integration of multi-omics to dissect COPD pathogenesis - Professor Francesca Polverino, Baylor College of Medicine

11.55 - 12.10 Multi-ancestry Polygenic Risk Scores for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease improve transferability across diverse populations - Dr Jing Chen, University of Leicester

12.10 - 12.25 Genetic determinants in the development of severe asthma among Finnish patients – Professor Tarja Laitinen, University of Helsinki

12.25 - 12.40 Genome-wide association study of acute exacerbations of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease - Dr Alex Williams, University of Leicester

12.40 - 13.40 Lunch (The Grand Hall)

Kempe and Newton rooms are open and available if you'd like a space to enjoy your lunch

Session 7: Global Perspectives and Translational Genomics (Chair: Professor Martin Tobin, University of Leicester and Co-chair: Hayley Power, University of Leicester) (The Grand Hall)

13.40 - 14.15 - LMIC Nepal - Professor Om Kurmi, Coventry University and Professor Ian Hall, University of Nottingham

14.15 – 14.30 Improving representation of African-ancestry populations in genetic association studies of lung function traits - Dr Emmanuel Adonyo, University of Leicester

14.30 - 15.05 Harnessing Genomic Diversity to Advance Health Equity - Professor Amadou Gaye, Meharry Medical College



15.05 - 15.35 Refreshments and Networking (Kempe and Newton Rooms)

15.35 - 16.00 Award of Conference Prizes

16.00 - 16.15 Summary and Conference Close

We hope you have enjoyed the conference. If you need to get in touch with us following the conference, please email respiratorygenomics@leicester.ac.uk

