

Wednesday, January 14, 2026



13:30-14:00 **Registration**

14:00-14:15 **Welcome Address**

Luka Cicin-Sain and Isabelle Bekerredjian-Ding
(Speakers DGfI AK Vakzine)
Josef Penninger (Scientific Director of HZI)

14:15-15:00 **Keynote Talk**

Chair: Isabelle Bekerredjian-Ding

Cristina Cassetti

Senior Scientific Advisor to CEPI, WHO and the Biotechnopole of Siena
Building vaccine research programs for epidemic/pandemic preparedness and response - Lessons learned in the last 20 years

Session I: Monitoring of Vaccine Responses

Chair: Isabelle Bekerredjian-Ding

15:00-15:20 Yannic Bartsch, Twincore Hannover
Antibody Fc effector functions induced by vaccination are associated with protection from respiratory syncytial virus

15:20-15:40 Najat Bdeir, HZI Braunschweig
Reverse mutational scanning of SARS-CoV-2 spike BA.2.86 identifies epitopes contributing to immune escape from polyclonal sera

15:40-16:00 Estel Collado Camps, University of Tübingen
High throughput screening of drug-vaccine interactions on human tonsil organoids

16:00-16:20 Claudia Teufel, University of Tübingen
Lymphoid-tissue-on-chip to recapitulate human adaptive immune responses and to predict drug-immune-cell interactions in vitro

16:20-16:40

Coffee Break

Session II: Immune Protection

Chair: Christof Geldmacher

16:40-17:00 Lara Kelchtermans, KU Leuven
CD4+ T cell mediated immunity protects from lethal challenge in a mouse model of Sudan virus infection

17:00-17:20 Angelika Riemer, DKFZ Heidelberg
A silica nanoparticle-based therapeutic vaccine for treatment of HPV16 E6/E7-positive tumors in MHC-humanized mice

17:20-17:40 Julie Sheldon, Twincore Hannover
Efficacy assessment of multiple HCV vaccine candidates and platforms

17:40-18:00 Casper Silvis, MDC, HZI Braunschweig
Host Receptor Evasion via Rational Design of Coronavirus Vaccines and Beyond

18:10-18:45 General Assembly of the Study Group Vaccine

19:00 – 22:00 Social Evening (for everyone else) with pizza, beverages and an interactive pub quiz (best teams will be awarded)

19:30 Speakers Dinner (invited guests)

Thursday, January 15, 2026



09:00-09.45	Keynote Talk	Chair: Thomas Pietschmann
Ulrike Protzer Technical University of Munich / Helmholtz Munich <i>TherVacB - a targeted therapeutic vaccine to cure HBV infection</i>		

Session III: Proteins and Vectors		Chair: Thomas Pietschmann
09:45-10:05	Yeranddy Aguiar Alpizar, KU Leuven <i>Immunological and transcriptomic profile of chimeric live-attenuated Zika vaccine linked to protection in non-human primates</i>	
10:05-10:25	Tuba Barut, University of Bern <i>Rational Genome Recoding and Functional Attenuation Enable Development of a Stable and Efficacious Live-Attenuated Coronavirus Vaccines</i>	

10:25-10:55 **Coffee Break**

Session III: Proteins and Vectors		Chair: Michael Muehlebach
10:55-11:15	Björn Corleis, FLI Greifswald-Riems <i>Intranasal vaccination with Venezuelan Equine Encephalitis virus replicon particles encoding M. tuberculosis antigens induces distinct mucosal immune responses compared to BCG</i>	
11:15-11:35	Daniel Last, MPI Magdeburg <i>Glycoengineering of Protein Subunit Vaccines: Impact on Functional Properties</i>	
11:35-11:55	Matthias Tenbusch, Universitätsklinikum Erlangen <i>Adenoviral vector oropharyngeal spray immunization elicits mucosal immunity and protects against heterologous SARS-CoV-2 infection</i>	

11:55-13:00 **Lunch**

Session IV: Antigen Mapping

Chair: Angelika Riemer

13:00-13:20	Maja Cokaric Brdovcak, University of Rijeka <i>Development of novel monoclonal antibodies targeting viral proteins</i>
13:20-13:40	Sven Hammerschmidt, University of Greifswald <i>Expanding the Immunological Toolbox: Monoclonal Antibodies for Pneumococcal Protein Research</i>
13:40-14:00	Calvin Hon, Charité Berlin <i>A systematic high-throughput mapping and validation of John Cunningham virus T-cell epitopes</i>
14:00-14:20	Isabel Poschke, DKFZ Heidelberg <i>ESPEC-SUIT - A versatile and robust platform to identify and track antigen-specific T-cell receptors in patients</i>

14:20-14:30

Short Break

14:30-15:30

Keynote Talk

Chair: Luka Cicin-Sain

Leander Grode
SLS Europe, Hannover
Turning your own Discoveries into Ground-breaking Businesses

15:30-16:00

Coffee Break

16:00-16:45 One Minute Presentation of Posters

16:45-18:30 Poster Session

18:30

Dinner for all

Friday, January 16, 2026



09:00-09:45	Keynote Talk	Chair: Luka Cicin-Sain
Carlos Alberto Guzmán Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research, Braunschweig <i>Quo Vadis? – Translation & Reverse-Translation in Vaccinology</i>		

Session V: Technological Innovation / mRNA		Chair: Kai Dallmeier
09:45-10:05	Melina Hardt, FLI Greifswald-Riems <i>Sheep T cell responses to Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever virus and Nairobi Sheep Disease Virus after vaccination and infection</i>	
10:05-10:25	Verena Krähling, Philipps-Universität Marburg <i>Comparative evaluation of mRNA-based vaccine candidates against Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus</i>	
10:25-10:45	Julia Rudert, HZI Braunschweig <i>New nanoparticle-based SARS-CoV-2 mRNA vaccine for mucosal application induces potent long-lasting humoral and cellular immune responses</i>	

10:45-11:10 **Coffee Break**

Session V: Technological Innovation / mRNA		Chair: Sven Hammerschmidt
11:10-11:30	Christine Rückert, CureVac SE, Tübingen <i>Development of an LNP platform for mRNA-based cancer immunotherapy</i>	
11:30-11:50	Katharina Walther, Paul-Ehrlich-Institut Langen <i>Testing the immunomodulatory effects of lipid nanoparticles and mRNA of novel vaccines</i>	
11:50-12:10	Christine Wuebben, University Hospital Bonn <i>Development of a very short RIG-I ligand based on G-tetrad-mediated interaction</i>	

12:10-12:40 **Wrap-up and Presentation awards for talks**
(Luka Cicin-Sain)

12:40 **Farewell / Departure**