A BioCity Turku Research Program collaboration

Microbiome Meets Multi-Omics

Towards Functional and Mechanistic Insight

19–20 November
2026 · Turku, Finland



Day 1 Thursday 19 November

Session 1
Microbiome in Health and Disease
Chair: Leo Lahti

13:40–13:45	Welcome and opening remarks	Organising Committee
13:45–14:15	*Bifidobacterium* in the early-life microbiome: linking microbial metabolism to health	**Asst. Prof. Urvish Trivedi** · Section of Microbiology, Department of Biology, University of Copenhagen, Denmark
14:15–14:35	Infant gut development holds its pace across early-life exposures	**Dr. Shuai Ji** · Postdoctoral Researcher, Vatanen Group, University of Helsinki
14:35–14:50	Exploring maternal microbiota and metabolism: links to subsequent health outcomes	**Dr. Noora Houttu and Janina Hieta, MSc** · Early Nutrition and Health Research Group, University of Turku
14:50–15:05	Decoding emerging microbial lipids: what we still need to learn from our microbes	**Ifrat Tammana** · Gut Microbiomics Research Group, University of Turku
15:05–15:30	Coffee break	
15:30–15:50	Microbiome analysis as a tool for clinical innovation	**Johanna Maukonen, D.Sc. (Tech.)** · Global Director, Clinical Innovation & Translation, IFF, Kantvik
15:50–16:30	Keynote Integrative microbiome research infrastructures	**Prof. Hauke Smidt** · Complex Microbial Ecosystems Group, Laboratory of Microbiology, Wageningen University & Research, the Netherlands
16:30–18:00	Networking and poster session	All participants · Snacks and drinks served
19:00–21:00	Conference dinner	Invited speakers and organisers

Venue
Lecture Hall Laurén 2 (MED D1016)
Medisiina D, Kiinamyllynkatu 10, Turku

Organisers
BioCity Turku research programs Microbes and Immunity Research Program (MIRP) and Computational and Molecular Methodologies for Life Sciences (CompLifeSci), with Microbe Centre Turku (Mikrobikeskus)

Registration
Register here
eve.utu.fi/event/481/registrations/462
Please register before 5 November 2026

Day 2 Friday 20 November

Session 2
Big-Data-Driven Functional Discovery in the Microbiome
Chair: Santosh Lamichhane

09:00–09:15	Welcome to Day 2 & Introduction to Microbe Centre Turku, University of Turku and Wellbeing Services County of Southwest Finland	Organising Committee and Antti Hakanen, Director of Microbe Centre · University of Turku and Wellbeing Services County of Southwest Finland
09:15–09:45	Pan-repository reanalysis of public metabolomics data in microbiome studies	**Senior Researcher Yasin El Abiead (PhD)** · Computational Mass Spectrometry, Institute of Analytical Chemistry, BOKU University, Austria
09:45–10:05	Systemic metabolic responses to dietary perturbations: a multi-omics approach	**Dr. Ambrin Farizah Babu** · TCSMT Postdoctoral Researcher, Hanhineva Lab, Department of Life Technologies, University of Turku
10:05–10:25	The virome–microbiome axis in human health and disease	**Prof. Heli Harvala and team** · Institute of Biomedicine, University of Turku
10:25–10:50	Coffee break	
10:50–11:10	Microbiome–metabolome–exposure interactions: the INITIALISE project	**Prof. Matej Orešič** · School of Medical Sciences, Örebro University, Sweden, and Turku Bioscience Centre, University of Turku
11:10–11:30	Finnish population-level gut microbiome research: the FINRISK cohort	**Prof. Teemu Niiranen** · Department of Internal Medicine, University of Turku
11:30–11:50	Microbiome cohort studies at the Centre for Population Health Research (POPC)	**Docent Juha Mykkänen** · Centre for Population Health Research, University of Turku
11:50–13:00	Lunch and networking	

Session 3
Towards Functional Mechanisms in Microbiomes
Chair: Eveliina Munukka

13:00–13:30	From food to function: investigating gut microbiota–host interactions	**Dr. Valeria Iannone** · School of Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Eastern Finland
13:30–14:00	Extracellular vesicles and the microbiome	**Prof. Terhi Ruuska-Loewald** · University of Oulu and Oulu University Hospital
14:00–14:30	Metaproteomic insights into rumen microbial activity	**Assoc. Prof. Velma T. E. Aho** · Department of Biology, University of Turku
14:30–15:00	Flash talks	**Speakers to be announced**
15:00–15:15	Closing remarks	Organising Committee

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Contact Adj. Prof. Santosh Lamichhane
Academy Research Fellow, Institute of Biomedicine, University of Turku
santosh.lamichhane@utu.fi