

35th BioCity Symposium

VISION, EXPANDED

27-28 August 2026 in Mauno Koivisto Centre, BioCity, Turku, Finland

THURSDAY, 27 AUGUST: IMAGING TECHNOLOGIES AND CLINICAL TRANSLATION

08.30 **Gunilla Widén**, Rector of Åbo Akademi University
Opening words and announcement of the Elias Tillandz publication prize

KEYNOTE LECTURE

09.00 **Harry Hu**, Mayo Clinic Jacksonville, Florida, USA
Metrology in quantitative MRI: Considerations and applications in measuring organ fat and adipose tissue

09.30 Q&A

SESSION I — CLINICAL AND QUANTITATIVE IMAGING

Chairs: Pasi Kankaanpää and Dado Tokic

09.40 **Vera Schrauwen**, German Diabetes Center, Germany
Application of MRI and MRS techniques in metabolic research

10.10 Q&A

10.20 **Syeda Zaidi**, Turku PET Centre, Finland
Perirenal fat: What cold reveals about a hidden fat depot

10.35 POSTER SESSION A with coffee, tea and exhibition

11.35 **Ambrin Babu**, University of Turku, Finland
Beyond what we see: Revealing hidden layers of metabolism

11.50 **Esben Søndergaard**, Steno Diabetes Center Aarhus, Aarhus University Hospital, Denmark
Metabolic PET imaging in cardiometabolic disease

12.20 Q&A

12.30 LUNCH and exhibition

SESSION II — AI, COMPUTATIONAL IMAGING AND IMAGE ANALYSIS

Chairs: Guillaume Jaquemet and Sujan Ghimire

13.30 **Ricardo Henriques**, Instituto de Tecnologia Química e Biológica António Xavier, Portugal
Seeing more with less: Towards the gentle gaze of molecules with AI-enhanced microscopy

14.00 Q&A

14.10 **Assaf Zaritsky**, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel
Enabling non-invasive, multiplexed, long-term observation of cellular processes via label-free live imaging and in silico labeling

14.40 Q&A

14.50 **Leena Latonen**, University of Eastern Finland, Finland
Transforming cancer histopathology with AI-based virtual staining

15.05 POSTER SESSION B with coffee, tea and exhibition

16.05 **Chris Bühling**, Turku BioImaging, Finland
Imaging intelligence for agricultural and environmental innovation

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- 16.20 **Karolina Punovuori**, MultivisionDx Oy; University of Helsinki, Finland
Bringing spatial biology from discovery to clinic
- 16.50 Q&A
- 17.00 First symposium day ends

FRIDAY, 28 AUGUST: DYNAMIC BIOLOGICAL IMAGING, DISEASE MECHANISMS AND SYSTEMS PHYSIOLOGY

KEYNOTE LECTURE

- 09.00 **Samantha Stehbens**, The University of Queensland, Australia
The mechanobiology of metastasis: Integration of bioengineering and live-cell imaging to understand tumour cell survival and invasion
- 9.30 Q&A

SESSION III — CELL DYNAMICS, MECHANOBIOLOGY AND DISEASE MECHANISMS

Chair: **Pekka Ruusuvuori**

- 09.40 **Mathilde Mathieu**, Turku Bioscience Centre, Finland
Durotaxis regulation in metastatic breast cancer cells
- 09.55 **Jörg Renkawitz**, LMU München, Germany
How mechanobiology shapes immune cell function
- 10.25 Q&A
- 10.35 POSTER SESSION with coffee, tea and exhibition
- 11.45 **Sujan Ghimire**, Åbo Akademi University, Finland
Characterization of pancreatic cancer cell arrest and extravasation
- 12.00 **Teemu Ihalainen**, Tampere University, Finland
Imaging ions in action: Probing cellular function
- 12.30 Q&A

SESSION IV — VESSELS, NEURONS AND ORGANISM-LEVEL IMAGING

Chairs: **Kirsi Virtanen** and **Mueez U-Din**

- 12.40 **Sinem Karaman**, University of Helsinki, Finland
Now you see me, now you don't: Visualizing adipose tissue capillary loss in obesity
- 13.10 Q&A
- 13.20 LUNCH and exhibition
- 14.10 **Jenny Pessa-Eronen**, Åbo Akademi University, Finland
Tracking breast cancer progression with longitudinal intravital imaging
- 14.25 **Subhojit Roy**, University of California San Diego, USA
Who goes there? Unexpected dynamic events in neurons
- 14.55 Q&A
- 15.05 **Afra Haque**, University of Turku, Finland
Rare disease signatures and phenotypic drug screens by longitudinal imaging of iPSC-derived models
- 15.20 **Sally Eldeghaidy**, University of Nottingham, UK
Nutritional neuroimaging in obesity and diabetes: Sensory-brain-gut interactions
- 15.50 Q&A
- 16.00 **Klaus Elenius**, BioCity Turku Scientific Director
Closing remarks

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