



International Symposium on Tick-Borne Pathogens and Disease ITPD 2026

Organised by the
Austrian Society for Hygiene, Microbiology and Preventive Medicine (ÖGHMP)
and under the auspices of the
ESCMID Study Group for Lyme Borreliosis (ESGBOR)

March, 22 - 25, 2026

Venue
Vienna Marriott Hotel, Austria

Programme



ÖGHMP
Österreichische Gesellschaft
für Hygiene, Mikrobiologie und
Präventivmedizin



ESCMID
MANAGING INFECTIONS
PROMOTING SCIENCE

ÖGHMP

Austrian Society for Hygiene, Microbiology and Preventive Medicine and

ESGBOR

ESCMID Study Group for Lyme Borreliosis

www.itpd-tickborne.com

Epidemiology of Tick-borne encephalitis



Encephalitis (TBE) is an infection of the central nervous system (CNS) caused by the tick-borne encephalitis virus (TBEV)¹, which can be found in distinct areas across Europe and in parts of Asia²

Incidence rates of TBE^{3,4}

Subregions in large political regions may have higher risk levels

- High incidence** – estimated incidence ≥5 cases per 100,000 per year
- Medium incidence** – estimated incidence >1 and <5 cases per 100,000 per year
- Low incidence** – estimated incidence <1 case per 100,000 per year
- No data



Annual number of reported TBE cases



4,294
reported cases across Europe by the ECDC in 2023⁵

Areas with TBE endemicity and the number of reported cases have increased, with numbers nearly doubling between 2015 and 2020^{5,6}



Number of reported TBE cases from 2015 - 2023 by European Union (EU) and European Economic Area (EEA) member states.

Transmission and prevention

TBEV can be transmitted rapidly from the saliva of an infected tick after a bite, or in rare cases through consumption of unpasteurized milk and milk products^{1,7}

There is no causative treatment for TBE. According to the World Health Organization, vaccination⁸ is considered the most effective prevention measure,⁹ although tick bite prevention methods also play an important role.

Risk factors

Some environments, activities, or occupations increase the risk of contact with ticks, such as:^{10,11}



Hiking/walking/running



Spending time in a yard



Having pets that go outside



Occupations outdoors



Camping or staying overnight in a cabin/vacation home

Seasonality

Ticks become most active when temperatures reach 5-7°C, from early spring to late fall. Most TBE cases occur during warmer months due to increased tick activity and more time spent outdoors^{1,12}



Under-diagnosis and under-reporting

TBE can be difficult to diagnose and is often mistaken for summer flu, especially in its early phase or in children, who may have milder or non-specific symptoms.^{13,14} TBE is also thought to be underreported by available surveillance systems^{6,15}



References

1. Lindquist L, et al. Tick-borne encephalitis. Lancet 371:9627 (2008): 1861-71.
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Tick-borne encephalitis (TBE) – geographic distribution. Available from: [Areas at Risk for Tick-borne Encephalitis | Tick-borne Encephalitis Virus | CDC](#) (Accessed: July 2025).
3. Angulo F, et al. Publicly available surveillance data on tick-borne encephalitis in Europe, 2023. Ticks and Tick-borne Diseases 15:6 (2024): 102388.
4. Halsby K, et al. Incidence of tick-borne encephalitis in unvaccinated populations across Europe (2020-2023). International Journal of Infectious Diseases 160 (2025).
5. European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. Surveillance Atlas of Infectious Diseases. Available from: <https://atlas.ecdc.europa.eu/public/index.aspx> (Accessed: February 2026).
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8. Pfizer Austria PSME SmPC.
9. World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe & European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. Tick-borne encephalitis in Europe. Available from: https://www.euro.who.int/data/assets/pdf_file/0010/246169/Fact-sheet-Tick-borne-encephalitis-Eng.pdf (Accessed: July 2025).
10. Nygren TM, et al. Tick-borne encephalitis risk increases with dog ownership, frequent walks, and gardening: A case-control study in Germany 2018-2020. Microorganisms 10:4 (2022): 690.
11. Haemig P, et al. Forecasting risk of tick-borne encephalitis (TBE): Using data from wildlife and climate to predict next year's number of human victims. Scandinavian Journal of Infectious Diseases 43:5 (2011): 366-72.
12. Dautel H, et al. Winter activity of Ixodes ricinus in a Berlin forest - International Journal of Medical Microbiology 298:S1 (2008): 50-54.
13. Halsby K, et al. Clinical spectrum and dynamics of sequelae following TBEV infection. Open Forum Infectious Diseases 12:6 (2025).
14. Schrey K, et al. Evaluation of under-testing and under-diagnosis of tick-borne encephalitis in Germany. BMC Infectious Diseases 15: Sundein M, et al. Pediatric tick-borne infections of the central nervous system in an endemic region of Sweden: A prospective evaluation of clinical manifestations. European Journal of Pediatrics 171:2 (2012): 347-52.



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Welcome

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

on behalf of the Austrian Society of Hygiene and Preventive Medicine (ÖGHMP) and the ESCMID Study Group for Lyme Borreliosis (ESGBOR), it is our pleasure to inform you about the upcoming International Symposium on Tick-Borne Pathogens and Disease, ITPD 2026. The ITPD 2026 is a joint activity between ESGBOR and ÖGHMP.

The ITPD symposium, established by Professor Gerold Stanek in 2017, addresses topics related to ticks, tick-borne pathogens, and associated diseases within both research and clinical contexts.

We are looking forward to welcoming you to Vienna and experiencing a scientifically rewarding and personally enriching symposium.

Mateusz Markowicz, Franc Strle, Michiel Wijnveld, Birgit Willinger
The Organisers of the ITPD2026



Symposium Committees

Organisers

Mateusz Markowicz, Franc Strle, Michiel Wijnveld, Birgit Willinger

Scientific Committee

Alice Raffetin (FR), Anna Henningsson (SE), Sally Mavin (UK), Joppe Hovius (NL), Per-Eric Lindgren (SE), Michael Reiter (AT), Margarida Ruivo (AT), Anna-Margarita Schötta (AT), Franc Strle (SL), Klemen Strle (USA), Johanna Strobl (AT), Michiel Wijnveld (AT), Olaf Kahl (DE), Maria Kazimirova (SK), Reto Lienhard (CH), Hena Comic (AT), Randi Eikeland (NO), Klaus-Peter Hunfeld (DE), Hein Sprong (NL), Georg Duscher (AT), Nathalie Boulanger (FR), Gábor Földvári (HU), Volker Fingerle (DE)

Social Programme Committee

Margarida Ruivo, Anna-Margarita Schötta, Hena Comic

Symposium Secretariat & Registration

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Exhibition & Sponsorship



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General Information / Venue

ITPD2026 takes place at the Vienna Marriott Hotel

Parking 12a, 1010 Vienna, Austria

The hotel is situated right next to Stadtpark. This park, opened in 1862 as Vienna's first publicly accessible park, features several statues of renowned Viennese artists, writers and composers across its 28 acres.

Arrival by public transportation

The hotel is located near both metro stops Stubentor (Line U3) and Stadtpark (Line U4), and is also close to the Landstrasse station (Wien Mitte/The Mall), where the (CAT) trains from the airport arrive.

Networking Event on Tuesday 24th

Networking event (incl. food and drinks)
Hotel Marriott - Parking Restaurant

Social Programme on Monday 23rd

Pub Quiz starting at "Centimeter bei den Stadtbahnbögen" at 20:00. Tram tickets and one drink (Hausbier, Schankweine, non-alcoholic) included.
Participants are responsible for paying for food and additional drinks.

Social Programme on Wednesday 25th

Vienna exploration: starting at 14:00, finish at 16:00 and no later than 17:00.
Dress for the weather and bring comfortable shoes.



General Information / Registration

The symposium registration area is located on the first floor of the hotel next to the exhibition area.

Registration Fees (in EURO)

Regular Participant	€ 600.–
MD in training	€ 500.–
ÖGHMP member	€ 500.–
Student	€ 350.–
Accompanying person	€ 175.–
Networking Event	€ 60.–
Social Programme Monday	€ 10.–
Social Programme Wednesday	€ 10.–

Payment

Please note that all onsite payments should be made in cash or by credit card (Visa, MasterCard and Maestro will be accepted). EURO (€) only.

Unfortunately, we cannot accept traveller's cheques, other credit cards, Euro cheques or other currencies.

Opening hours – Registration

Sunday, 22 March	12.00 – 18.30
Monday, 23 March	08.00 – 18.30
Tuesday, 24 March	08.00 – 18.30
Wednesday, 25 March	08.00 – 12.00

Liability

The symposium organisers cannot accept responsibility for personal accidents and damage to the private property of the symposium and exhibition participants or accompanying persons.



General Information/ Presentations and Poster

Presentations

Presentations will be given in the 'Ballsaal' (lecture room) of the hotel.

Language

The official language of the symposium is English.

Speakers Information

You will have the opportunity to present your work in 10 minutes plus 5 minutes discussion. The presentation should be prepared in PowerPoint (16:9 format only). Make sure to provide your presentation on a USB stick at the lecture hall in a timely manner.

Poster Presentations

Posters will be on display at Ballsaal A and Palais Coburg I-III .

You will have the opportunity to present your work in **3 minutes**, followed by a **2-minute discussion** in a guided poster session. Please make sure to prepare your poster in **A0 format** in portrait layout. The date and time of the relevant presentation will be shown with the poster number and is also in the programme.

The posters will be presented in the order in which they are printed in the programme.

Poster discussions

You will have the opportunity to present your work in 3 minutes, followed by 2 minutes discussion in a guided poster session. The date and time of the relevant presentation will be shown with the poster number and is also in the programme.

The posters will be presented in the order in which they are printed in the programme.

Abstracts

All abstracts are available in the online programme.

The programme can be accessed by scanning this QR code:





General Information/Code of Conduct

We will uphold this code during our symposium and all meetings.

We expect cooperation from all participants to help create a safe environment for all.

1. All attendees should ensure that the environment is safe and non-threatening for everyone, regardless of gender, gender identity and expression, age, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, race, ethnicity, or religion (or lack thereof).
2. We do not tolerate harassment, discrimination, or bullying of attendees, volunteers, or staff in any form. This includes offensive verbal comments, sexual language and imagery (at events or on social media and other online platforms), deliberate intimidation, stalking, following, harassing, unsolicited photography or recording, sustained disruption of talks or other events, inappropriate physical contact, and unwelcome sexual attention. Recognising that there may sometimes be a power imbalance, all attendees and members must not abuse their relative position of power or inappropriately take advantage of a relationship where a power imbalance exists.
3. These policies apply in every area of the venue, at social events related to the event (regardless of venue), and to all participants and staff in any role.
4. Participants who violate these rules may be removed from the event at our discretion and may not be eligible for a refund or reimbursement of expenses.

If you are experiencing harassment, discrimination, or bullying, or if you notice someone else is, or if you have any other concerns or questions, please reach out to a member of our local organising team or the conference secretariat at the registration desk. The local organising team can be recognised by their blue conference badge.



OPENING AND WELCOME

Chair: *Mateusz Markowicz (Vienna, Austria), Franc Strle (Ljubljana, Slovenia), Michiel Wijnveld (Vienna, Austria)*

15:00 **Opening**
Michiel Wijnveld (Vienna, Austria), Mateusz Markowicz (Vienna, Austria)

FEATURE SESSION 1: BORRELIA GENOMICS

Chair: *Michiel Wijnveld (Vienna, Austria)*

15:15 **Borrelia genomics – an overview and update on developments** F1
Gabriele Margos (Oberschleissheim, Germany)

15:35 **First insights into comparative genomics:
The wild, wild west of Borrelia plasmids** F2
Sabrina Hepner (Oberschleissheim, Germany)

15:55 **Genomic highlights supporting similarities and differences in the
transmission cycles of relapsing fever and Lyme disease spirochetes** F3
Tom Schwan (Hamilton, United States)

16:15 - 16:30 Discussion

16:30 - 17:00 BREAK

FEATURE SESSION 2: TICK ECOLOGY AND GENOMICS

Chair: *Michiel Wijnveld (Vienna, Austria)*

17:00 **Water management of Ixodes ricinus as part of its ecophysiology:
challenges and solutions** F4
Olaf Kahl (Berlin, Germany)

17:25 **Habitat fragmentation and the abundance of Ixodes Ricinus** F5
Andrea Springer (Hannover, Germany)

17:40 **New insights in tick biology:
Comparative analyses of tick genomes** F6
Hein Sprong (Bilthoven, Netherlands)

18:00 - 18:15 Discussion

GEROLD STANEK PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH ON TICK-BORNE DISEASES

Chair: *Judith Stanek (Vienna, Austria)*

18:15 **Award Ceremony**
Presentation by the Awardee

WELCOME RECEPTION AT THE EXHIBITION AREA



SESSION 1: TICK RESEARCH

- Chair: *Adnan Hodžić (Vienna, Austria)*
- 08:45 **Tracing the evolution of *Ixodes ricinus* through nuclear and mitochondrial genomics** 01
Davide Sasseria (Pavia, Italy)
- 09:00 **Bacterial reprogramming of tick metabolism impacts vector fitness and susceptibility to infection** 02
Joao Pedra (Baltimore, United States)
- 09:15 **Retrotransposon blood meal analysis of larval *Ixodes ricinus* demonstrates the importance of terrestrial mammals as key hosts in UK woodlands** 03
Holly Broadhurst (Salford, United Kingdom)
- 09:30 **Long-term seasonality assessment of three tick species in a deciduous forest, Hungary** 04
Domonkos Adorján Köves (Budapest, Hungary)

09:45 - 10:15

BREAK

SESSION 2: TICK-BORNE PATHOGENS

- Chair: *Hein Sprong (Bilthoven, Netherlands)*
- 10:15 **Immune-mediated microbial interference governs *Borrelia* colonization of the tick gut** 05
Adnan Hodžić (Vienna, Austria)
- 10:30 **Unfolding *Borrelia*-Human interactions using AlphaFold** 06
Davide Sasseria (Pavia, Italy)
- 10:45 **Targeted volume imaging reveals early vascular interactions of Lyme disease pathogen in skin** 07
Martin Strnad (České Budějovice, Czech Republic)
- 11:00 **Fast-track *Borrelia* genomics: complete genomes from ticks within one week** 08
Sophie Melis (Pavia, Italy)
- 11:15 **Optimising Transformation Efficiency in low-passage *Borrelia* isolates – Unravelling the role of the restriction-modification system** 09
Margarida Ruivo (Vienna, Austria)
- 11:30 **Transovarial transmission of *Babesia ovis* in *Rhipicephalus bursa*, confirmed by multi-generational experiments** 010
Mehmet Can Ulucesme (Elazig, Turkey)

11:45 - 12:45

LUNCH BREAK



GUIDED POSTER SESSION 1: SURVEILLANCE

12:45 - 14:15, PALAIS COBURG I-III

Chair: *Sabrina Hepner (Oberschleissheim, Germany)*

- P1** **Hyalomma in the haystack:
five years of citizen science-driven tick monitoring in Hungary**
Éva Szabó (Budapest, Hungary)
- P2** **Sympatric Ixodes inopinatus and Ixodes ricinus from Northwestern
Tunisia are associated with similar pathogens and endosymbionts**
Hein Sprong (Bilthoven, Netherlands)
- P3** **Transovarial distribution of human pathogens in Ixodes ricinus**
Patrik Dinnetz (Huddinge, Sweden)
- P4** **Ticks and Tick-borne Pathogens in High-Footfall Areas in
Luxembourg: Closing one of Western Europe's Surveillance Gaps**
Aleksandra Krawczyk (Esch-sur-Alzette, Luxembourg)
- P5** **Tick-borne pathogen profiles of invasive Dermacentor reticulatus
from Luxembourg**
Patrick Reteng (Esch-sur-Alzette, Luxembourg)
- P6** **Orthonairovirus issykkulense:
An overlooked zoonotic pathogen in Europe**
Kriszta Lilla Szabadi (Budapest, Hungary)
- P7** **Distribution of tick-borne pathogens throughout Czech regions**
Eva Richtrová (Prague, Czech Republic)
- P8** **Monitoring of Rickettsia sp. in questing ticks in Slovakia**
Lenka Minichová (Prague, Czech Republic)
- P9** **Ticks and Tick-Borne Pathogens in Lithuanian Urban Landscapes:
A Growing Public Health Concern**
Jana Radzijeuskaja (Kaunas, Lithuania)
- P10** **Monitoring tick-borne encephalitis foci in Slovakia**
Mária Kazimírová (Bratislava, Slovakia)
- P11** **Surveillance of ticks and tick-borne pathogens in urban and
suburban localities in Belgrade city, Serbia and correlation with
measured climatic factors**
Ratko Sukara (Belgrade, Serbia)



- P12** **Spiroplasma ixodetis** in ticks removed from humans in Sweden and the Åland Islands, Finland: Prevalence, co-existence with other pathogens, and risk of human exposure
Malin Lager (Jönköping, Sweden)
- P13** **Urban Microhabitats as Reservoirs for Tick-Borne Pathogens: Evidence of a High-Diversity Borrelia Focus in Sarajevo**
Lejla Usanovic (Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- P14** **Genetic Diversity of Borrelia burgdorferi sensu lato Species in Human Clinical Samples: Insights from Serbia**
Valentina Cirkovic (Belgrade, Serbia)
- P15** **Borrelia burgdorferi sensu lato strains isolated from clinical samples in Serbia: establishing a basis for future research**
Gorana Veinovic (Belgrade, Serbia)



**GUIDED POSTER SESSION 2: DEVELOPMENTS IN LABORATORY
DIAGNOSIS OF TICK-BORNE DISEASES AND EPIDEMIOLOGY 1
12:45 - 14:15, PALAIS BALLROOM A**

- Chair: *Sophie Weninger (Vienna, Austria)*
- P16 Molecular detection of Ixodes ricinus-borne pathogens in humans: clinical application of a multiplex qPCR panel**
Karen Kerkhof (Bilthoven, Netherlands)
- P17 Can B. bavariensis Be Rapidly Differentiated from B. garinii Strains?**
Katja Strašek Smrdel (Ljubljana, Slovenia)
- P18 A novel Real-time Immunoassay for Differentiation of TBE Infection from Vaccination**
Aurélie Scherler (La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland)
- P19 Elevating Lyme Disease Diagnostics: High-Performance Chemiluminescence Assays for IgG and IgM Detection**
Manuela Popp (Munich, Germany)
- P20 Development of a Multiplex Sequencing Panel for UK Tick-Borne Pathogens**
Amy Nettlemill (Salisbury, United Kingdom)
- P21 Analysing the importance of Borrelia antigens used in a commercial dot blot assay for the confirmation of Lyme Disease diagnostic.**
Reto Lienhard (La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland)
- P22 A novel multiplex panel for the detection of tick-borne pathogens**
Jack D. Hill (Salisbury, United Kingdom)
- P23 SWETick: A Prospective Multicentre Study of Tick-borne Infections in Southeastern Sweden**
Elis Ölfvingsson (Linköping, Sweden)
- P24 Annual disease burden of medically-attended Lyme borreliosis in 11 European countries**
Gordon Brestrich (Berlin, Germany)
- P25 HGA in Poland in 2022-2024: Clinical Déjà Vu or a New Chapter in Tick-Borne Diseases?**
Anna Moniuszko-Malinowska (Białystok, Poland)
- P26 Under-ascertainment of symptomatic tick-borne encephalitis (TBE) virus infections by TBE surveillance**
Frederick Angulo (Portland, United States)
- P27 Lyme borreliosis in Portugal (2015–2024): A decade of serological and molecular diagnostics at IHMT-NOVA**
Ana Armada (Lisbon, Portugal)



SESSION 3: PATHOGENICITY, IMMUNOLOGY

Chair: *Klemen Strle (Boston, United States)*

- 14:15 **Elucidating pathogenic factors of *Borrelia tillae*, a novel relapsing fever species from South Africa** O11
Peter Kraiczy (Frankfurt, Germany)
- 14:30 **Immune divergence between U.S. and European *Borrelia* spp. as a basis for clinical heterogeneity in Lyme borreliosis** O12
Sergio Hernandez (Boston, United States)
- 14:45 **Establishment of a blood-brain barrier infection model for Lyme neuroborreliosis** O13
Diana J. Vaca (Frankfurt am Main, Germany)
- 15:00 **Neuroimmune Crosstalk in *Borrelia burgdorferi* Skin Infection** O14
Sophie Weninger (Vienna, Austria)

SPONSORED TALK

Chair: *Michiel Wijnveld (Vienna, Austria)*

- 15:15 **Motor Complications after TBE – Clinical Picture and Rehabilitation Strategies**
Joanna Zajkowska (Białystok, Poland)



15:35 - 16:00

BREAK



GUIDED POSTER SESSION 3: TICK RESEARCH

16:00 - 17:00, PALAIS COBURG I-III

Chair: *Olaf Kahl (Berlin, Germany)*

- P28** **Impact of nitrogen deposition levels on *Ixodes ricinus* in the Netherlands**
Paulina Lesiczka (Wageningen, Netherlands)
- P29** **High-resolution occurrence predictions of *Dermacentor reticulatus* using environmental and host-availability data**
Paulina Lesiczka (Wageningen, Netherlands)
- P30** **A map simulator of tick abundance in heterogeneous agricultural landscapes**
Thierry Hoch (Nantes, France)
- P31** **National-scale modelling of habitat suitability for *Ixodes ricinus* in France: a data-driven study integrating biological realism and machine learning**
Quentin Lambolely (Maisons-Alfort, France)
- P32** **Tick Protease Inhibitors: Genomic Expansion and Functional Interference with Host Complement Pathways**
Krishnagaanth Mohankumar (Hyderabad, India)
- P33** **A research infrastructure for identification of interventions against tick-borne Disease transmission**
Katharina Schildt (Berlin, Germany)
- P34** **Genetic Structure of *Dermacentor reticulatus* Ticks Across Europe with Insights from the Baltic Region**
Jana Radzijeuskaja (Kaunas, Lithuania)
- P35** **The role of small game in the ecology of the tick *Ixodes ventralis* in Mediterranean habitats of Croatia**
Dr. Relja Beck (Zagreb, Croatia)
- P36** **Optimization of the Artificial Feeding of *Dermacentor marginatus* Ticks based on Silicon Membranes**
Hena Comic (Vienna, Austria)



GUIDED POSTER SESSION 4: TICK-BORNE PATHOGENS

16:00 - 17:00, BALLROOM A

- Chair: *Margarida Ruivo (Vienna, Austria)*
- P37** **Ex vivo analysis of *Borrelia burgdorferi* migration in human skin**
Michael Frömmel (Vienna, Austria)
- P38** **Whole-Genome Characterization of a CCHFV Sublineage in Bulgaria**
Iva Trifonova (Sofia, Bulgaria)
- P39** **Oxford Nanopore Technology R10 lead to improved *Borrelia* genome assemblies**
Sabrina Hepner (Oberschleissheim, Germany)
- P40** **Structure of the *Borrelia burgdorferi* DnaK ATPase Domain-GrpE Complex Reveals Spirochete-Specific Adaptations for Stress Response**
Kalvis Brangulis (Riga, Latvia)
- P41** **Intra-Tick Development of *Rickettsia helvetica*: Insights from Experimental Infections**
Lenka Minichová (Prague, Czech Republic)
- P42** **A Transmission-Essential Chemotaxis Receptor in *Borrelia burgdorferi***
Frank Yang (Indianapolis, United States)



FEATURE SESSION 3: TICKS AND TICK-BORNE PATHOGENS IN CENTRAL EUROPE

- Chair: *Michiel Wijnveld (Vienna, Austria)*
- 17:00 **Ticks and tick-borne pathogens in green areas of Bratislava (south-western Slovakia)** **F7**
Mária Kazimírová (Bratislava, Slovakia)
- 17:15 **The role of hedgehogs in maintenance of tick-borne pathogens in urban environments in Slovakia** **F8**
Yuliya M. Didyk (Bratislava, Slovakia)
- 17:30 **Austrian ticks under surveillance: ticks and tick-borne pathogens in 2025** **F9**
Anna-Margarita Schötta (Vienna, Austria)
- 17:45 **Ticks and tick-borne pathogens in urban areas in the Czech Republic** **F10**
Václav Hönig (České Budějovice, Czech Republic)
- 18:00 - 18:15 **Discussion**

SOCIAL EVENT - PUB QUIZ



SESSION 4: PREVENTION

Chair: *Johanna Strobl (Vienna, Austria)*

- 08:45 **Potential for integrated monitoring of tick-borne diseases – an example from Denmark** 015
Lene Jung Kjær (Frederiksberg, Denmark)
- 09:00 **One Health Tick Surveillance in Czechia: Tick-borne Infections and Public Communication** 016
Katerina Kybicova (Prague, Czech Republic)
- 09:15 **A mouthpart-associated Ixodes scapularis protein is a promising anti-tick vaccine candidate** 017
Chrysoula Kitsou (College Park, United States)
- 09:30 **Rationale adjuvant formulation for a long durability, memory immunity-driven Lyme disease vaccine** 018
Yi-Pin Lin (North Grafton, United States)

09:45 - 10:15

BREAK

SESSION 5: EPIDEMIOLOGY

Chair: *Mária Kazimírová (Bratislava, Slovakia)*

- 10:15 **Tick-borne diseases in Europe and the role of animals: implications from a One Health standpoint** 019
Sulagna Chakraborty (Paris, France)
- 10:30 **Ticks and tick-borne pathogens associated to ruminants in Lebanon** 020
Nabil Haddad (Beirut, Lebanon)
- 10:45 **Detection of tick-borne encephalitis virus and Alongshan virus in ticks and human patients in the Czech Republic** 021
Jan Kamiš (České Budějovice, Czech Republic)
- 11:00 **Applying a Multidisciplinary Model to Assess Tick–Human Pathogen Circulation in North Macedonia** 022
Dejan Jakimovski (Skopje, North Macedonia)
- 11:15 **Estimating the full burden of Lyme Borreliosis on Austrian healthcare** 023
Martin Zurl (Vienna, Austria)
- 11:30 **Towards an Integrated Framework for Tick-Borne Disease Surveillance in Europe: System Mapping, Interoperability Assessment, and Predictive Modelling** 024
Afrin Nanmi (London, United Kingdom)

11:45 - 12:45

LUNCH BREAK



**GUIDED POSTER SESSION 5: VETERINARY AND ZOOLOGICAL
TICK-BORNE PATHOGENS, DISEASE AND MANAGEMENT
12:45 - 14:15, BALLROOM A**

- Chair: *Michiel Wijnveld (Vienna, Austria)*
- P43 High Rates of Single and Multiple Haemopathogen Infections in Clinically Healthy Sheep**
Relja Beck (Zagreb, Croatia)
- P46 Surveillance of tick-borne pathogens in ticks collected from wild boars and foxes in urbanised areas**
Ana Cláudia Norte (Coimbra, Portugal)
- P47 Revealing tick occurrence in underexplored Alpine areas using red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) exposure to the endosymbiont *Mitochondria mitochondria***
Alessandra Cafiso (Lodi, Italy)
- P48 Analysis of ticks collected from a juvenile lowland tapir (*Tapirus terrestris*) from French Guiana**
Polina Sokolova (Vienna, Austria)
- P49 Characterization of Ticks (*Ixodidae*) and tick-borne pathogens found in bovines raised in traditional systems in Huambo, Angola**
Esmeralda Inacio (Lisboa, Portugal)
- P50 Hedgehogs are involved in circulation of the *Borrelia burgdorferi* s.l. complex in Slovakia**
Yuliya M. Didyk (Bratislava, Slovakia)
- P51 A probabilistic decision-support tool to assist the diagnosis of equine Lyme borreliosis: bridging clinical expertise, literature and field data**
Quentin Lamboley (Maisons-Alfort, France)
- P52 Treatment efficacy of imidocarb dipropionate in Saanen goats experimentally infected with *Babesia aktasi***
Mehmet Can Ulucesme (Elazig, Turkey)
- P53 Tick species and seasonality in dogs and cats in Greece: Is year-round protection necessary?**
Anastasia Diakou (Thessaloniki, Greece)
- P54 Comparing Diagnostics of *Anaplasma phagocytophilum***
William Kofod (Roskilde, Denmark)



**GUIDED POSTER SESSION 6: TICK-BORNE DISEASES,
DIAGNOSTICS, MANAGEMENT AND PREVENTION**
12:45 - 14:15, PALAIS SACHSEN-COBURG I-III

- Chair: *Franc Strle (Ljubljana, Slovenia)*
- P55 Tick-borne encephalitis in immunocompromised patients: a case control study**
Jana Gulin (Ljubljana, Slovenia)
- P56 Borrelia Miyamotoi Disease in two immunocompetent patients, Slovenia**
Petra Bogovič (Ljubljana, Slovenia)
- P57 Clinical presentation of multiple erythema migrans in children in central Slovenia**
Urška Šivic (Ljubljana, Slovenia)
- P58 Challenges in the Diagnosis of Tick-Borne Diseases in Serbia**
Pavle Banović (Novi Sad, Serbia)
- P59 Diversity of Borrelia burgdorferi sensu lato Strains Isolated from Different Specimens Collected Simultaneously from Individual Patients**
Mateja Brecl Jakob (Ljubljana, Slovenia),
- P60 Harmonizing Lyme borreliosis diagnostics in the Netherlands: insights from national EQAs**
Mira Mioch (Bilthoven, Netherlands)
- P61 Abdominal Manifestations of Q Fever: Clinical Cases and Perspectives for Innovative Adjunctive Therapies**
Eva Spitalska (Bratislava, Slovakia)
- P63 Cerebrospinal fluid findings in patients with three main manifestations of early European Lyme neuroborreliosis**
Katarina Ogrinc (Ljubljana, Slovenia)
- P64 Clic-Tique: toward optimized diagnosis and management of Lyme disease**
Pauline Arias (Villeneuve-Saint-Georges, France)
- P65 Amoxicillin for 10 versus 14 days in patients with solitary erythema migrans**
Daša Stupica (Ljubljana, Slovenia)
- P66 High vaccine effectiveness of tick-borne vaccines in Europe**
Frederick Angulo (Portland, United States)



- P67** **Medical Students in Novi Sad and Skopje:
Evaluating Knowledge, Misconceptions,
and Educational Gaps in Tick-Borne Diseases**
Ana Marija Radevska (Skopje, North Macedonia)
- P68** **Effectiveness of three or more doses of tick-borne encephalitis
(TBE) vaccine and number of TBE cases prevented by
TBE vaccination in Slovenia, 2019-2024**
Jan Kordež (Ljubljana, Slovenia)
- P69** **From Citizen Science to Prevention: Advancing Tick Surveillance and
Public Awareness in Bosnia and Herzegovina**
Lejla Usanovic (Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- P70** **TBE vaccine awareness, uptake, and risk perceptions in Austria and
comparison to survey results from 15 European countries**
Martin Zurl (Vienna, Austria)



SESSION 6: SURVEILLANCE

- Chair: *Gábor Földvári (Budapest, Hungary)*
- 14:15 **Subcutaneous ticks of red foxes and golden jackals in Hungary: more questions than answers** O25
Rebeka Ráhel Nagy (Budapest, Hungary)
- 14:30 **Ticks and Tick-Borne Pathogens in Republic of Kosovo** O26
Kurtesh Sherifi (Prishtina, Kosovo)
- 14:45 **Transmission of ticks and their pathogens by human pets - A One Health perspective on ticks and tick-borne pathogens in Northern Sweden** O27
Per-Eric Lindgren (Jönköping, Sweden)
- 15:00 **Molecular screening of tick-borne pathogens in host-seeking *Haemaphysalis punctata* Canestrini & Fanzago, 1878 (Ixodoidea: Ixodidae) in Anatolia, with the first report of Burana virus** O28
Ömer Orkun (Ankara, Turkey)
- 15:15 **Occurrence and co-occurrence of tick-borne pathogens in sympatric *Phylloscopus* warblers with different migratory behavior** O29
Sargis Aghayan (Yerevan, Armenia)
- 15.30 **High-Resolution Machine-Learning Modelling of *Ixodes ricinus* Distribution Across Europe Using Environmental and Climatic Drivers** O30
Afrin Nanmi (London, United Kingdom)

15:45 - 16:15

BREAK



GUIDED POSTER SESSION 7: PATHOGENICITY AND IMMUNOLOGY
16:15 - 17:00, BALLROOM A

Chair: *Klemen Strle (Boston, United States)*

- P71** **Immunomodulatory functions of a CihC orthologous protein of *Borrelia hispanica*, a causative agent of tick-borne relapsing fever**
Peter Kraiczy (Frankfurt, Germany)
- P72** **Comparative OspC expression in *Borrelia burgdorferi* sensu lato species during THP-1 macrophage infection**
Ana Armada (Lisbon, Portugal)
- P73** **Does *Borrelia* complement sensitivity determines species infectivity?**
Natalie Rudenko (Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic)
- P74** **Antigen-Driven Cytokine Responses in *Borrelia*-Seropositive Patients**
Teodora Gladnishka (Sofia, Bulgaria)

Tuesday, 24. March 2026, 16:15 - 17:00
Room: Poster Session 8 - Palais Sachsen-Coburg I-III

GUIDED POSTER SESSION 8: EPIDEMIOLOGY 2
16:15 - 17:00, PALAIS SACHSEN-COBURG I-III

Chair: *Mateusz Markowicz (Vienna, Austria)*

- P75** **Molecular Surveillance of Tick-Borne Pathogens in Ticks Removed from Humans and Patient Follow-up: A 2024-2025 Study**
Snežana Tomanović (Belgrade, Serbia)
- P76** **Prevalence of Q fever among Veterinary Medicine Students: First Report from Bulgaria**
Magdalena Baymakova (Sofia, Bulgaria)
- P77** **Seroprevalence of anti-*Borrelia* antibodies in healthy blood donors in Sweden**
Anna J Henningsson (Linköping, Sweden)
- P78** **Tick-Borne Disease Epidemiology: Linking Infection Patterns to Cardiometabolic Health Impacts**
Shafqat Ahmad (Huddinge, Sweden)
- P79** **Forecasting human tick-borne encephalitis risk across Europe through quantitative models integrating environmental and exposure drivers**
Giovanni Marini (San Michele all'Adige, Italy)



FEATURE SESSION 4: TICK-BORNE ENCEPHALITIS VIRUS

Chair: *Franc Strle (Ljubljana, Slovenia)*

- 17:00 **The human skin keratinocytes and fibroblasts are permissive for tick-borne encephalitis virus** F11
Pavlna Bartíková (Bratislava, Slovakia)
- 17:15 **Development of a dried blood spot (DBS) based TBEV NS1 serological approach to assess risk of tick-borne encephalitis virus infection** F12
Andreas Pilz (Vienna, Austria)
- 17:30 **Knowledge, Attitudes, and Behaviors Driving Pediatric TBE Vaccination Decisions in Switzerland** F13
Kyra Zens (Zurich, Switzerland)
- 17:45 **Dysregulated immune responses in post-infectious sequelae after Lyme disease and tick-borne encephalitis** F14
Klemen Strle (Boston, United States)

18:00 - 18:15 Discussion

NETWORKING EVENT AT THE PARKRING RESTAURANT



SESSION 7: DIAGNOSIS AND MANAGEMENT OF TICK-BORNE DISEASES

Chair: *Mateusz Markowicz (Vienna, Austria)*

- 08:45 **Ischemic stroke and transient ischemic attack associated with neuroborreliosis: a Danish retrospective cohort** O31
Al-Hasan Hussein Dos (Herlev, Denmark)
- 09:00 **Analysis of antibiotic prescriptions for Lyme borreliosis by French general practitioners between 2012 and 2022** O32
Alice Raffetin (Paris, France)
- 09:15 **Evaluating the diagnostic accuracy of ReaScan point-of-care CXCL13 for Lyme neuroborreliosis** O33
Lasse Fjordside (Copenhagen, Denmark)
- 09:30 **Analysis of a 10 years procedure including CXC13 for the routine diagnostic of Lyme Neuroborreliosis** O34
Reto Lienhard (La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland)

09:45 - 10:30

BREAK

09:45 - 10:30

unguided poster session

SESSION 8: DEVELOPMENTS IN LABORATORY DIAGNOSIS OF TICK-BORNE DISEASES

Chair: *Anna J. Henningsson (Jönköping, Sweden)*

- 10:30 **Identification of Ixodes ricinus microRNAs and their potential circulation in the host** O36
Alessandro Zanon (Lodi, Italy)
- 10:45 **Lipid mediators in patients' urine as potential indicators of tick-borne diseases** O37
Anna Moniuszko-Malinowska (Białystok, Poland)
- 11:00 **Improved Lyme disease incidence and risk factors from 29 Scottish Geactices: Decision support in medical consulting software improves case ascertainment** O38
James Douglas (Fort William, United Kingdom)
- 11:15 **Hyaluronidase treatment of synovial fluid enhances diagnostic utility in Lyme Arthritis** O39
Shannon La Grouw (Utrecht, Netherlands)
- 11:30 **Borrelia or Bell's? The BoB clinical decision tool for peripheral facial palsy** O40
Anna Maria Florescu (Copenhagen, Denmark)



CLOSING

Mateusz Markowicz (Vienna, Austria)
Franc Strle (Ljubljana, Slovenia)
Michiel Wijnveld (Vienna, Austria)

12:00 - 13:30

LUNCH

SOCIAL EVENT - CITY EXPLORATION



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