

## Swiss TPH Symposium

# The Sleeping Beast: Tackling Diseases in their Dormant Stages

4 June 2026, Swiss TPH, Kreuzstrasse 2, Allschwil, Switzerland

## PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

**08:30 On-site Registration** (8:55 Virtual Check-in)

**The Persister Phenomena**, Moderator: *Sebastien Gagneux, Swiss TPH*

**09:00 Welcome**, *Anne Aerts, Director, Novartis Foundation*

**09:10 Setting the Stage**, *Pascal Mäser, Swiss TPH*

**09:20 Persister-Like Cells in Parasitic Protozoa: How and Why?**, *Michael Barrett, University of Glasgow*

**09:50 Bacterial Drug Tolerance and Persisters**, *Dirk Bumann, Biozentrum, University of Basel*

**10:20 Can We Keep Cancer Asleep?**, *Ana Luisa Correia, Champalimaud Foundation Lisbon (virtual)*

**10:40 Coffee Break** (30 minutes)

**Studying and Targeting Persisters**, Moderator: *Pascal Mäser, Swiss TPH*

**11:10 Antibiotic Lethality Drives Mycobacterial Infection Outcomes**, *Lucas Boeck, University of Basel*

**11:25 The Double Face of Persistence in Kinetoplastids**, *Lara Lopez Escobar, Institute of Tropical Medicine Antwerp*

**11:40 Know Thy Enemy: Diving into the World of Malaria Hypnozoites**, *Anne-Marie Zeeman, Biomedical Primate Research Centre, The Netherlands*

**11:55 The Sleeper Takes It All: Transient and Slowed Down Forms of *Trypanosoma cruzi***, *Francisco Olmo, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and University of Granada*

**12:10 Signaling Networks to Tissue Ecosystems: Imaging Cancer Cell Persistence**, *Olivier Pertz, University of Bern*

**12:25 Lunch Break** (60 minutes)

**Speed Talks**, Moderator: *Francisco Olmo, LSHTM and University of Granada*

**13:25 Sleeping Beauties: Quiescence in *P. falciparum* Gametocytes**, *Leonie Seefeldt, Swiss TPH*

**13:30 Studying Leishmania Persisters in Macrophages**, *Malenka Kunz, Swiss TPH*

**13:35 Persistence in *Pseudomonas Aeruginosa***, *Pablo Manfredi, University of Basel Biozentrum*

**13:40 Investigating the Link Between Phenotypic Drug Tolerance and Drug Resistance Amplification in *Mycobacterium Tuberculosis***, *Kakha Mchedlishvili, Swiss TPH*

**13:45 *Mycobacterium Tuberculosis* in Hostile Host Environments**, *Sarah Schmidiger, Swiss TPH*

**13:50 Quick Break** (10 minutes)

**Clinical Management and Therapy**, Moderator: *Patricia Bravo, Swiss TPH*

**14:00 Mycobacteria Persisters in Disease Control**, *Dorothy Yeboah-Manu, Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research, University of Ghana*

**14:30 Patient-Specific Characterization of Drug Refractory Metastatic Lesions by Functional Drug Screening and Imaging Mass Cytometry**, *Charly Jehanno, University Hospital Basel*

**14:45 The Probability of *Plasmodium vivax* Acute Illness Following Primary Infection and Relapse in Papua New Guinea**, *Amanda Ross, Swiss TPH*

**15:00 The Health Authorities Perspective on Persisters**, *Marcus Lacerda, World Health Organization*

**15:20 Coffee Break** (30 minutes)

**Mutual Learning in Disease Research and Therapy**, Moderator: *Elisabeth Reus, Swiss TPH*

**15:50 Panel Discussion**

- **Michael Barrett**, *University of Glasgow*
- **Dirk Bumann**, *University of Basel Biozentrum*
- **Dorothy Yeboah-Manu**, *Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research, University of Ghana*
- **Malgorzata Domagalska**, *Institute of Tropical Medicine Antwerp*
- **Olivier Pertz**, *University of Bern*
- **Marcus Lacerda**, *World Health Organization*

**16:45 Closing Words**, *Jürg Utzinger, Director, Swiss TPH*

**17:00 End of Day**

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