

Wednesday 2 September 2026 — The Roslin Institute

Time	Speaker / Presenter	Programme
09:00–09:15	John Hammond & Kate Sutton (The Roslin Institute, The University of Edinburgh, UK)	Welcome to AIRG 2026
09:15–10:15	Ian Brown OBE (The Pirbright Institute, UK)	Keynote Speaker I Chair: Kate Sutton
10:15–11:00	Session I: Host–Pathogen Interactions I	Chair: Kate Sutton
10 min + 2 min Q&A/speaker	Jyothsna Girish (University of Maryland, US)	Development of turkey primary intestinal organoids to model enteric viral pathogenesis and host innate immune responses
	Enes Fahri Tezcan (Charles University, Czechia)	Temporal dynamics of conjunctival transcriptomic profiles during the house finch immune response to Mycoplasma gallisepticum
	Muhammad Yakubu Abare (University of Bristol, UK)	Innate Immune Reprogramming of Chicken Macrophages by Sodium Butyrate Enhances ROS-mediated Antimicrobial Responses in vitro
	Kateřina Marková (Charles University, Czechia)	Changes in differential leucocyte counts and gastrointestinal microbiota composition associated with digestive and behavioural disorders in parrots
11:00–11:30	Refreshment Break	
11:30–13:00	Session II: Innate Immunology	Chair:
10 min + 2 min Q&A/speaker	Samantha Sives (The Roslin Institute, The University of Edinburgh, UK)	Comparative avian intestinal organoids reveal divergent host–pathogen responses during HPAIV H5N1 infection
	Miranda Nel (University of Exeter, UK)	The antiviral functions of avian orthologues of viperin against IAV
	Christine Jansen (Wageningen University and Research, Netherlands)	Metabolic regulation of chicken natural killer cell activation
	Sophia Melis (Wageningen University and Research, Netherlands)	The 20E5 and 7C1 mAbs define functionally distinct chicken NK cell subsets
	Faisal Anjum (University of Bristol, UK)	A Self-Renewing Chicken Macrophage Line from Embryonic Liver for Modelling Tissue-Resident Innate Immunity
13:00–14:00	Lunch — buffet	
14:00–15:15	Session III: Host–Pathogen Interactions II	Chair:
10 min + 2 min Q&A/speaker	Taylor Hanford (The Roslin Institute, University of Edinburgh, UK)	Chicken Three-Dimensional Intestinal Organoids as an In Vitro Model of Environmental Stress and Disease Resilience
	Sina Bagheri (University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna, Austria)	In ovo exposure to avian pathogenic Escherichia coli stimuli reduces splenic γδ T-cell frequencies in developing chicken embryos
	Yaoyao Zhang (The Pirbright Institute, UK)	Mapping Chicken Immune Cell Landscapes During MDV-Induced Tumorigenesis
	ECR flash talks (3-minute presentations) - Anum Ahmed (University of Edinburgh, UK) - Chutima Temnithirat (University of Bristol, UK) - Javeria Talat (University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences Lahore, Pakistan) - Kyung Youn Lee (Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea, Republic of Yale University, CT, United States) - Matthéo Foulard (INRAE, Nouzilly, France) - Motuma Debelo (University of Veterinary Medicine, Austria) - Suad Sheikh Suliman (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer Sheva, Israel) - Tulio Spina de Lima (São Paulo State University (Unesp), Brazil)	
15:15–16:00	Refreshment Break & Poster Session I	
16:00	Buses depart for Pollock Estate	
19:00–23:00	Social Event I South Hall Complex, Pollock Estate	
19:00	Buffet Meal followed by Pub Quiz	

Thursday 3 September 2026 — The Roslin Institute

09:00–10:45	Session IV: Adaptive Immunology I & Vaccines I	Chair:
10 min + 2 min Q&A/speaker	Theresa von Heyl <i>(Technische Universität München, Germany)</i>	scRNA-seq Reveals Cytolytic and Interferon Stimulated $\gamma\delta$ T Cells in TCR C β Knockout Chickens
	Sabrina Schleibinger <i>(Technische Universität München, Germany)</i>	Analyzing the role of S1PR1, CCR7 and PECAM-1 during chicken B cell development
	Emoke Szocs <i>(Semmelweis University, Hungary)</i>	Transcriptomic and immunophenotypic characterization of dendritic cells and macrophages in the avian bursa of Fabricius
	Luise Freier <i>(Friedrich-Loeffler-Institute, Germany)</i>	When Genetics Matter: Vaccination and Infection Responses in Local and Crossbred Chickens
	Mateusz Walczak <i>(MSD Animal Health, Netherlands)</i>	Broad cross-protection against IBDV enabled by an inactivated vaccine incorporating two antigenically distinct strains
	Fany Blanc <i>(Université Paris-Saclay, INRAE, AgroParisTech, GABI, France)</i>	Early-life immune phenotyping identifies candidate biomarkers of immunocompetence associated with broad vaccine responsiveness in laying hens
	Sonja Härtle <i>(Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Germany)</i>	MVA-H5: A Promising DIVA-Compatible Vaccine Platform for Birds Against Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza
	Michael Ratcliffe <i>(University of Toronto, Canada)</i>	Evolution of the bursa of Fabricius from secondary lymphoid tissue
10:45–11:15	Refreshment Break	
11:15–13:00	Session VI: Genetics, Genomics, Evolution & Emerging Tools	Chair:
10 min + 2 min Q&A/speaker	Michal Vinkler <i>(Charles University, Czechia)</i>	Divergent and convergent evolution in avian TLR4 receptor system
	Milena Brunner <i>(Technische Universität München, Germany)</i>	Genomic variability and structural organization of the chicken IgH D-gene locus
	Huaijun Zhou <i>(UC Davis, United States)</i>	Dissecting the Harderian Gland Immune Response to Avian Influenza Using Single-Cell Multiomics
	Daniel Divín <i>(Charles University, Czechia)</i>	Neuropeptide expression links to cytokine levels during acute and chronic peripheral inflammation and associates with behaviour in parrots
	Grace Schmidt <i>(Texas A&M University, United States)</i>	Identification of novel antiviral immune genes in a new T2T chicken genome
	Jim Kaufman <i>(Yale University, United States)</i>	Non-classical class II molecules in birds and mammals are induced by parasites
	Chantal van Everdingen <i>(Wageningen University and Research, Netherlands)</i>	Developing Functional Readouts to Investigate Trained Immunity in Chicken Monocytes
	Jeff Ling <i>(The Roslin Institute, University of Edinburgh, UK)</i>	An in vitro organoid model of leaky gut syndrome
13:00–13:30	Tour of Roslin Institute Building (Optional – TBC)	
13:30–14:30	Lunch — hot food	
14:30–15:30	Helen Sang OBE, FRSE, FRSB <i>(The Roslin Institute, The University of Edinburgh, UK)</i>	Keynote Speaker II Chair:
15:30–16:00	Refreshment Break & Poster Session II	
16:00	Buses depart for Pollock Estate	
19:00–23:00	Social Event II South Hall Complex, Pollock Estate	
19:00	Three-course meal followed by Ceilidh Dance	

Friday 4 September 2026 — The Roslin Institute

09:15–10:15	Ivan Rychlik (Veterinary Research Institute, Czech Republic)	Keynote Speaker III
10:15–11:00	Session VII: Adaptive Immunology II	Chair:
10 min + 2 min Q&A/speaker	Simon Früh (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Germany)	Characterization of bursa-infiltrating T cells following IBDV vaccination in chickens
	Dominik von La Roche (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Germany)	Phenotypic characterization reveals tissue-specific features of chicken mucosal plasma cell populations
	Johanna Trapp (University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover, Germany)	Do γδ T lymphocytes have an impact on the control of Infectious Bursal Disease Virus in the chicken gut?
11:00-11:30	Refreshment Break	
11:30-13:00	Session VIII: Vaccines II	Chair:
10 min + 2 min Q&A/speaker	Nathaniel Nutsugah (Swedish University of Agriculture, Sweden)	Effect of dietary biochar on broiler chickens challenged with E. tenella infection
	Oenone Bodman-Harris (University of Surrey, UK)	Receptor1(R1)-Targeted Antigen Delivery Vaccines Enhance Activation of Chicken HD11 Cells in vitro
	Carlotta De Luca (University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna, Austria)	Chimeric fiber proteins of fowl adenoviruses (FAdVs) induce long-lasting humoral immune response in broiler breeders and their progeny
	Martine Boulianne (University of Montreal, Canada)	In ovo administration of Clostridium perfringens antigens elicits both humoral and cell-mediated immune responses in broiler chicks
	Janan Shoja Doost (University of Guelph, Canada)	Protective and tissue-specific immune responses following in ovo Marek’s disease virus mRNA vaccination
13:00–13:30	Management Meeting & Close of Conference	
13:30–14:00	Lunch — packed rolls / sandwiches	

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