

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 From 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: Persistence Through Dormancy?, *Sarah Schmidiger, Swiss TPH*

13:50 Patient-Specific Characterization of Drug Refractory Metastatic Lesions by Functional Drug Screening and Imaging Mass Cytometry, *Charly Jehanno, University Hospital Basel*

13:55 Quick Break (10 minutes)

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

14:05 Mycobacteria Persisters in Disease Control, *Dorothy Yeboah-Manu, Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research, University of Ghana*

14:35 The Burden and Treatment of Vivax Malaria in Papua New Guinea, *Moses Laman, Papua New Guinea Institute of Medical Research*

14:50 The Probability of *Plasmodium vivax* Acute Illness Following Primary Infection and Relapse in Papua New Guinea, *Amanda Ross, Swiss TPH*

15:05 The Health Authorities Perspective on Persisters, *Marcus Lacerda, World Health Organization (virtual)*

15:25 Coffee Break (35 minutes)

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

16:00 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*
- **Moses Laman**, *Papua New Guinea Institute of Medical Research*
- **Malgorzata Domagalska**, *Institute of Tropical Medicine Antwerp*
- **Olivier Pertz**, *University of Bern*

16:50 Closing Words, *Jürg Utzinger, Director, Swiss TPH*

17:00 End of Day

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