

Program for the Retreat of the Immunology Research Cluster (IRC) of the Medical University of Vienna, June 26, 2026 (<https://irc.meduniwien.ac.at/>)

Venue: Parkhotel Schönbrunn (<https://www.austria-trend.at/de/hotels/parkhotel-schoenbrunn>)

9.00 **Opening** (Rudolf Valenta IRC Speaker)

Symposium of the Austrian Society for Allergology and Immunology (ÖGAI)

Chairs: Prof. Wilfried Ellmeier, Prof. Ursula Wiedermann

9.10-9.50 Immune-regulation in health and disease, Prof. Mübeccel Akdis, Davos, Switzerland

9.50-10.00 Awarding of the Karl Landsteiner Medal of ÖGAI to Prof. Mübeccel Akdis by Prof. Wilfried Ellmeier, President of ÖGAI

10.00-10.40 Epithelial barrier in health and disease, Prof. Cezmi Akdis, Davos, Switzerland

10.40-10.50 Awarding of the Clemens von Pirquet Medal of ÖGAI to Prof. Cezmi Akdis by Prof. Ursula Wiedermann, Incoming President of ÖGAI

10.50-11.20 Coffee break

IRC Symposium I

Chairs: Prof. Winfried Pickl, Prof. Julia Walochnik

11.20-11.50 The immunology of cachexia - and why it matters to patients across different aetiologies, Prof. Andreas Bergthaler, Medical University of Vienna, Austria

11.50-12.15 Lecture IRC early career scientist: Obesity impairs vaccine-induced immunity against SARS-CoV-2, Nora Geissler, MSc. PhD

12.15-12.40 Lecture IRC early career scientist: Unravelling SARS-CoV-2 immune evasion: Virion-associated host proteins expand viral tropism and subvert innate immunity, Anna Repic, Ap. Prof. Mag. PhD

12.40-13.40 Lunch break

IRC Symposium II

Chairs: Prof. Andreas Bergthaler, Prof. Eva Untersmayr-Elsenhuber

13.40-14.10 The microbiota in gut-brain interactions, Prof. Maria Rescigno, CeMM Research Center for Molecular Medicine, Vienna, Austria

14.10-14.40 Leveraging bile acid signaling to treat immune-mediated liver diseases and beyond, Prof. Michael Trauner, Medical University of Vienna, Austria

14.40-15.05 Lecture IRC early career scientist: Vaccination with the recombinant preS-based hepatitis B virus vaccine VVX001: A phase II trial, Inna Tulaeva, Dr. med. univ., PhD

15.05-15.30 Lecture IRC early career scientist: CYP27A1 acts as a local and systemic metabolic checkpoint in macrophage-driven granuloma formation, Jayne Louise Wilson, PhD

15.30-16.00 Coffee break

IRC Symposium III

Chairs: Prof. Rudolf Valenta, Prof. Marta Rizzi

16.00-16.30 Targeting innate immune pathways to treat metastatic cancer: From mechanisms to therapeutics, Prof. Maria Sibilica, Medical University of Vienna, Austria

16.30-17.00 CAR-T cell therapy: For cancer and beyond, Prof. Winfried Pickl, Medical University of Vienna, Austria

17.00-17.25 Lecture IRC early career scientist: Selective elimination of allergen-specific CD4⁺ T Cells by Art v1₂₃₋₃₆ ::HLA-DR1::CAR NK-92 cells, Isidora Protić-Rosić, PhD

17.25-17.50 Lecture IRC early career scientist: Time-resolved immune dynamics in rheumatoid arthritis under methotrexate therapy, Teresa Preglej, DI, PhD

17.50 Greetings by the Vice-rector of Research of the Medical University of Vienna, Austria, Dr. Michaela Fritz

18.00 Adjunct professorship award to Prof. Maria Rescigno, thanks to the IRC- Team and handing over of the IRC to the new IRC speaker

18.00-19.20 Poster Session with wine and cheese

19.30 Handing over of IRC Early career scientist oral awards and poster awards, Group picture

Closing