



GermanStemCellNetwork



14th GSCN Conference

Speakers & Abstracts

9 – 11 September 2026
Max Delbrück Center
Berlin

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14th GSCN Conference

9 – 11 September 2026

Max Delbrück Center

Berlin

Organizer:

German Stem Cell Network (GSCN)

c/o Charité Universitätsmedizin

Luisenstr. 65, 10117 Berlin



GermanStemCellNetwork

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Dear colleagues and friends, partners and participants,

The German Stem Cell Network (GSCN) is delighted to welcome you to the 14th GSCN Conference taking place from 9 – 11 September 2026 in the capital of Germany, Berlin at the Max Delbrück Center, MDC.C.

This year's GSCN Conference focuses on the latest frontiers of stem cell and organoid biology, embryonic and tissue-derived stem cells, bioengineering, and developmental biology.

We are once again excited to unite top experts from academia, industry, and the clinic from across the country and worldwide to discuss the latest news in stem cell research. From year to year, more and more people are drawn to the key stem cell event in Germany. Attendees can look forward to meeting exceptional international keynote speakers, selected presentations from submitted abstracts, and a distinguished Presidential Symposium featuring our GSCN awardees for the GSCN 2026 Hilde Mangold Award, the GSCN 2026 Young Investigator Award, and the GSCN 2026 Publication of the Year Award.

A comprehensive industry exhibition and dedicated sessions will provide insights into the latest developments in R&D and translational stem cell research. Expect to encounter exciting new scientific discoveries and engage in lively discussions during breaks at the two poster sessions and at our legendary GSCN Networking Event with dinner and party. Don't miss this unique opportunity to be part of our growing and vibrant stem cell community, enjoy networking, engage in discussions, and connect with fellow scientists and future collaborators!

At this point, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who made this conference possible: the GSCN office, the local organizers and program committee, the speakers, the Max Delbrück Center staff who made this happen, and of course, all of you — whose presence and contributions will make this event a vibrant space for knowledge, inspiration, and connection.

I wish all of us stimulating discussions, meaningful encounters, and fresh ideas to carry back to our labs, clinics, and communities. Thank you very much — and let's have a successful conference!



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Heiko Lickert". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Heiko Lickert

GSCN President

For the program committee

Sina Bartsfeld (Berlin), Daniel Besser (Berlin), Aydan Bulut-Karslioglu (Berlin), Sebastian Diecke (Berlin), Mina Gouti (Berlin), Simon Haas (Berlin), Heiko Lickert (Munich), Alexander Meissner (Berlin), Maike Sander (Berlin), Ludovic Vallier (Berlin), Claudia Waskow (Jena)

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Conference Information

Venue

Max Delbrück Communications Center (MDC.C)
Robert-Rössle-Straße 10
13125 Berlin

Date

Wednesday, 9 September – Friday, 11 September

Lunch

You can have also lunch at the MDC Mensa, MDC Café, or Café Max (Thursday and Friday) on campus, all of which offer a variety of dishes. Please note that lunch is at your own expense. All three locations accept both card and cash payments. Their locations are indicated on the campus map on page 7.

Poster Exhibition

Posters will be displayed during the conference in two sessions. Authors are asked to be present at their poster during the poster session. Even numbers will be presented on Wednesday, 9 September from 16:30 – 17:30 h and odd numbers will be presented 17:30 – 18:30 h. On Thursday, 10 September even numbers will be presented from 17:00 – 18:00 h and odd numbers from 18:00 – 19:00 h.

You will find the number of your poster in this abstract volume. Please prepare the size DIN A 0 portrait for the poster. Otherwise, there are no specifications. Posters in poster session I should be mounted on Wednesday 12:00 – 16:00 h and removed at latest on Thursday, 12:00 h. Poster in poster session II should be mounted on Thursday 12:00 – 16:30 h and removed latest on Friday at 14:00 h.

Poster Sessions

Session I: Wednesday, 9 September, 16:30 – 18:30 h

Basic, translational, applied hematopoiesis	(P001 – P011)
Computational stem cell biology	(P012 – P016)
Stem cells in disease modeling & drug development	(P017 – P059)
Stem cells in regenerative therapies	(P060 – P087)

Note: P064 – P087 will be displayed in the MDC.C Foyer - Mezzanine



This poster session is supported by Biomérieux.

Session II: Thursday, 10 September, 17:15 – 19:15 h

Pluripotency, differentiation & PSC-derived models	(P088 – P135)
Stem cells in aging & disease (cancer stem cells)	(P136 – P142)
Tissue-derived stem cells & organoids	(P143 – P172)

Note: P150 – P171 will be displayed in the MDC.C Foyer - Mezzanine



The poster session II is supported by Eppendorf.

GSCN Awards 2026

Travel awards

The following participants have been selected for the GSCN travel awards.

Anita Florkowska (Warsaw, PL)

Ronja Friede (Heilbad Heiligenstadt)

Hamideh Karimi (Istanbul, TR)

Martina Mankarious (Aachen)

Dawn Shuiping Lin (Heidelberg)

Vera Nischalke (Aachen)

Yiwen Zhang (Heidelberg)

Poster awards

There will be two poster awards for each poster session. Members of the poster jury have a red dot on their badge – please present them your poster with due attention. The awardees will receive € 500 each. Authors are asked to be present at the poster award ceremony on Friday, 11 September 2026 at 15:30 – 15:50 h in Axon1/2.



Scientific awards

A top-class commission supported GSCN in choosing this year's awardees. The three awardees will give a presentation in the Presidential Symposium on Thursday, 10 September 2026 at 14:30 – 17:00 h.

GSCN 2026 Young Investigator Award: **Jesse Veenliet**, Max Planck Institute of Mol. Cell. Biol. and Genetics, Dresden

GSCN 2026 Hilde Mangold Award: **Maïke Sander**, Max Delbrück Center, Berlin (Pres.: Friday 14:45 - 15:30 h)

GSCN 2026 PoY: **Annika Zink, Alessandro Prigione** et.al., Heinrich-Heine-University, Düsseldorf

Elsa-Symposium

Genome editing: biomedical, ethical, and regulatory challenges

Increasingly precise genome-editing technologies make direct in vivo treatment a promising option for genetic diseases. Preclinical and clinical studies highlight the importance of targeting affected tissues to improve efficacy while minimizing off-target effects, particularly in the germ line. This distinction between somatic gene therapy and germ-line interventions is firmly established in current regulations. At this year's conference, we will deepen the discussion of in vivo genome editing. On Wednesday evening, keynote speaker Stepan Jerabek of Columbia University Irving Medical Center will present his research on base editing in human embryos in vitro, exploring editing efficiency, developmental competence, and chromosomal integrity. Thursday morning's ELSA Symposium will broaden the discussion to examine on-target efficacy and unintended effects across a wider range of genome-editing applications. Promising liver-targeted in vivo base-editing approaches may reduce the perceived medical need for germ-line interventions, as somatic treatments could also be offered to affected individuals in future generations. At the same time, advances in precise editing of human embryos raise new questions about interventions at the earliest stages of development. For disorders affecting multiple tissues or acting early in development, fetal or embryonic intervention could theoretically offer advantages over tissue-specific treatment later in life. However, at these developmental stages, modification of germ cells may be difficult – or, in the case of embryo editing, impossible – to avoid. As technical advances may reduce some of the previously recognized risks of embryo genome editing, the fundamental question becomes increasingly relevant: could heritable genome editing ever be medically, ethically, and societally acceptable?

Social Events

Get-together

On Wednesday, 9 September, 19:15 – 21:00 h, all participants and exhibitors are invited to the get-together with dinner buffet in the Mensa on the Campus Buch, which is a 2-minute walk from the conference center. The Mensa can be found on the map below.



Networking Event

The GSCN Networking Event with dinner buffet and DJ is open for all participants and exhibitors and will take place on Thursday, 10 September, 19:30 – 01:00 h at the Café am Neuen See. From 19:15 h, there will be a bus transfer from the conference center to Café am Neuen See. The departure point for the buses, starting at 18:45 h, at the MDC.C can be found on the map below.

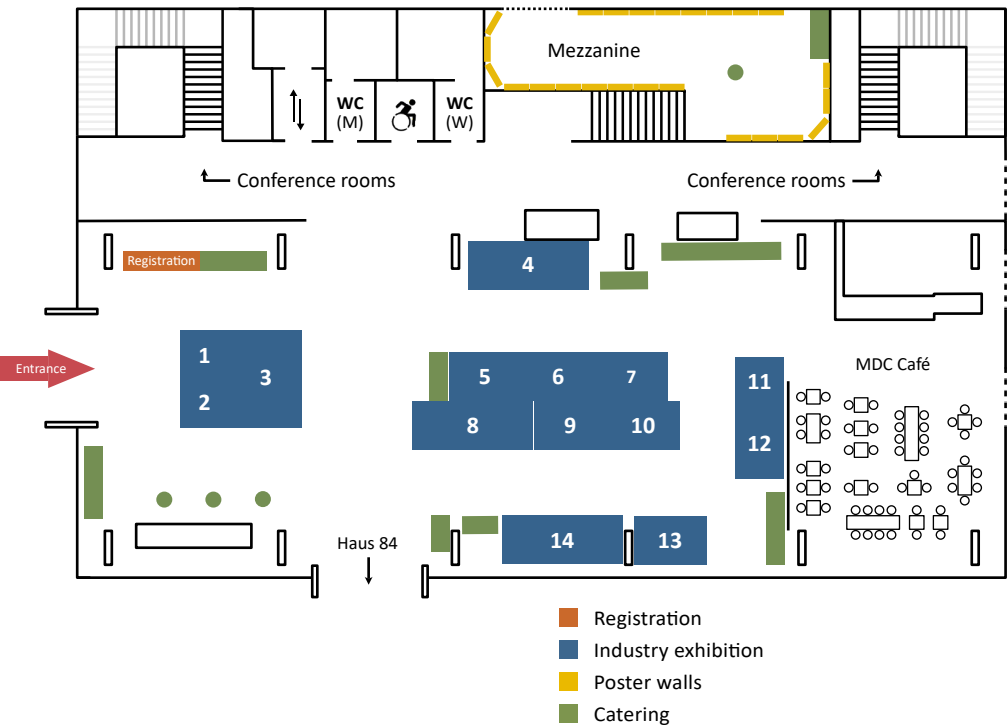
Café am Neuen See
Lichtensteinallee 2
10787 Berlin



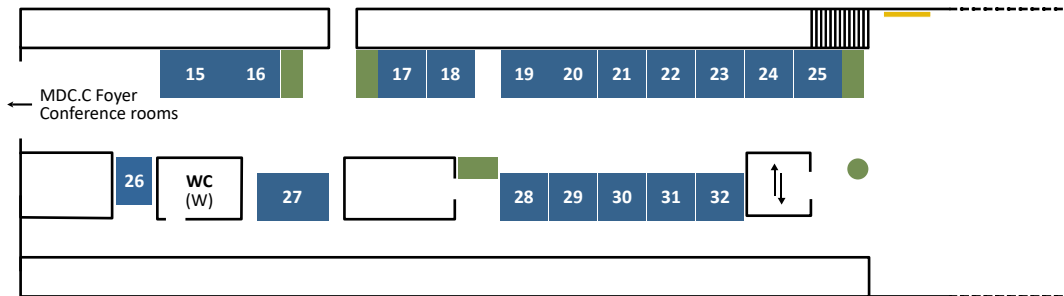
Site plan Campus Berlin-Buch



MDC.C Foyer

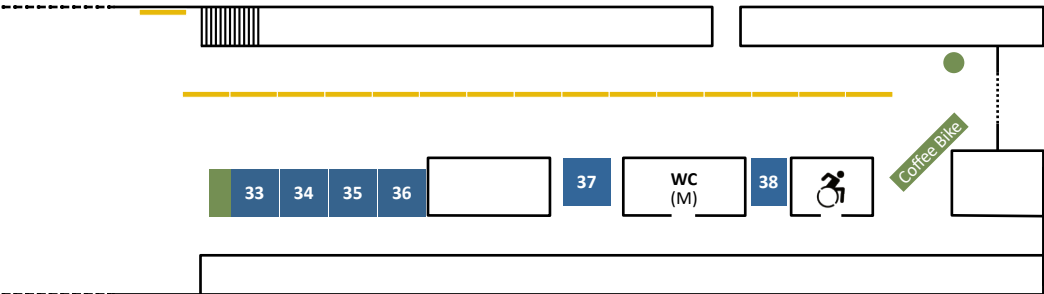


Haus 84

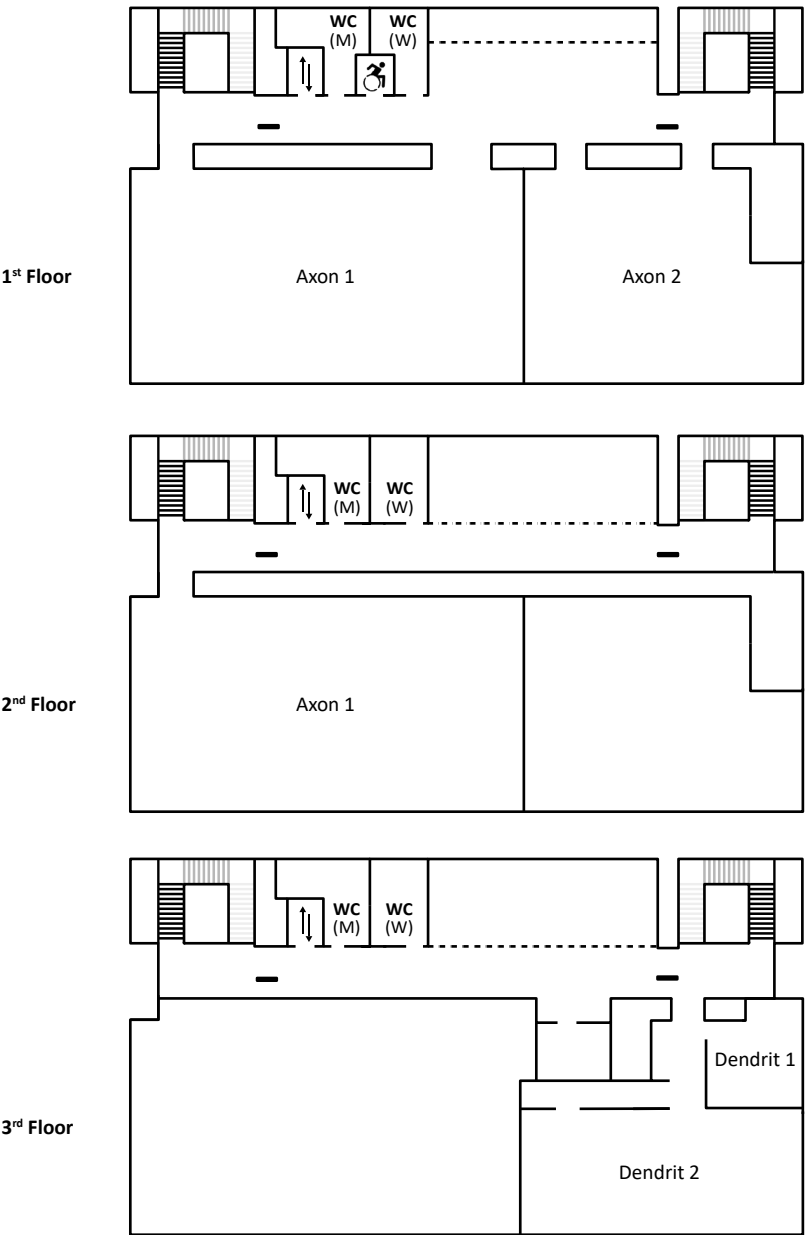


List of exhibitors

Nr.	Company	Nr.	Company
1	Waters Biosciences (Formerly BD Biosciences)	20	IDT Germany GmbH
2	PromoCell GmbH	21	I&L Biosystems
3	STEMCELL Technologies	22	MedChemExpress
4	ACROBiosystems	23	Nationales Netze rk büro GCT Germany
5	Evotec SE	24	Nippon Genetics Europe GmbH
6	Miltenyi Biotec B.V. & Co. KG	25	iotaSciences
7	Biomerieux	26	TCS Group
8	Sartorius	27	R&D Systems™ by bio-technie
9	Molecular Devices GmbH	28	PL BioScience GmbH
10	Corning Life Sciences	29	Proteintech Germany GmbH
11	CYTENA	30	Scinus
12	Thermo Fisher Scientific	31	Sekisui
13	Countstar	32	Biomol GmbH
14	Active Bioscience / PeptiGrowth	33	Valicare GmbH
15	Eppendorf	34	Novogene Europe
16	Axion BioSystems	35	Xceltis GmbH
17	Fujifilm Biosciences	36	Vazyme Biotech
18	Green Elephant Biotech	37	Cyagen Biosciences B.V.
19	ibidi GmbH	38	Cenibra



MDC.C Floor plans



Public outreach event (in German)

Wie verändert Stammzellforschung die Medizin von morgen?

Ein Abend mit führenden Forschenden über Chancen, Grenzen und Perspektiven moderner Zellforschung.

Zeit und Ort

Freitag, 11. September 2026

18:30 – 20:30 Uhr

Max Delbrück Center - Berlin Institute for

Medical Systems Biology (MDC-BIMSB)

Hannoversche Straße 28, 10115 Berlin

Programm

18:30 Uhr: Begrüßung

Kurzfilme der Forschenden

Podiumsdiskussion

20:00 Uhr: Stellen Sie Ihre Fragen!

Neue Hoffnung für die Medizin – verständlich erklärt

Stammzellen gehören zu den faszinierendsten Zellen unseres Körpers. Sie ermöglichen Wachstum, Regeneration und Heilung – und eröffnen zugleich neue Wege in der Medizin.

Doch was ist heute bereits möglich? Welche Therapien befinden sich in der Entwicklung? Wo liegen Chancen, Risiken und Grenzen der Stammzellforschung?

Unsere Expertinnen und Experten geben verständliche Einblicke in ihre aktuelle Forschung und diskutieren mit Ihnen über die Medizin von morgen.

Darüber sprechen wir

- Wie könnten Zelltherapien Menschen mit Diabetes helfen?
- Welche Hoffnung gibt es für Menschen mit Muskelerkrankungen?
- Was sind Organoiden – und warum gelten sie als Schlüsseltechnologie der modernen Medizin?

Auf dem Podium

Prof. Dr. Heiko Lickert, Helmholtz München, Diabetes und Stammzellforschung

Prof. Dr. Sina Bartfeld, Technische Universität Berlin, Organoiden und Krankheitsmodelle

Prof. Dr. Maike Sander, Max Delbrück Center, Diabetes und Stammzellforschung

Prof. Dr. Georg Duda, Berlin Institute of Health (BIH) & Charité, Biomechanik und regenerative Medizin

Prof. Dr. Simone Spuler, Max Delbrück Center & Charité, Muskelerkrankungen und Zelltherapien

Moderation: *Dr. Stefanie Seltmann*, Wissenschaftsjournalistin

Im Anschluss laden wir Sie herzlich ein, bei Getränken mit unseren Wissenschaftlerinnen und Wissenschaftlern bis 20:30 Uhr ins Gespräch zu kommen und Ihre Fragen zu stellen.

Program overview – Wednesday

	Max Delbrück Center			
09:00 – 19:00	Registration			
	Axon 1	Axon 2	Dendrit 2	MDC.C: Foyer - Mezzanine & Haus 84
11:00 – 11:30	Opening			
11:30 – 12:15	Keynote lecture I <i>Andreas Trumpp</i>			
12:15 – 13:00	Keynote lecture II <i>James M. Wells</i>			
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch break / Industry exhibition			
	Concurrent scientific working group session I			
14:30 – 16:00	Pluripotency, differentiation & PSC - derived models I	Basic, translational & applied hematopoiesis	Computational stem cell biology & systems biology	
16:00 – 16:30	Break time / Industry exhibition			
16:30 – 17:30				Poster session I even numbers
17:30 – 18:30				Poster session I uneven numbers
18:30 – 19:15	Keynote lecture III (on ELSA topics) <i>Stepan Jerabek</i>			
19:15 – 21:00	Informal GSCN get-together with dinner buffet at the MDC Mensa			

Program overview – Thursday

Max Delbrück Center					
08:00 – 18:00	Registration				
	Axon 1	Axon 2	Dendrit 1	Dendrit 2	MDC.C: Foyer - Mezzanine & Haus 84
09:00 – 10:30	Concurrent scientific working group session II				
	Stem cells in regenerative therapies	Stem cells in aging & disease	Elsa Symposium	Stem cells in disease modeling & drug development I	
10:30 – 11:30	Break time / Industry exhibition				
10:45 – 11:30		GSCN Members Meeting			
11:30 – 13:00	Industry session: "Technologies from GSCN industry partners"				
	STEMCELL Technologies ACRO Biosystems Active Bioscience/PeptiGrowth	Biomerieux Evotec SE Eppendorf Miltenyi Biotec B.V. & Co. KG Sartorius		Countstar R&D bio-technie Molecular Devices GmbH Thermo Fisher Scientific Corning Life Science	
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch break / Industry exhibition				
14:30 – 15:15	Presidential Invite I Janet Rossant		Presidential Symposium		
15:15 – 15:45	Young Investigator Award Jesse Veenvliet				
15:45 – 16:30	Keynote lecture V Jason Spence				
16:30 – 17:00	Publication of the Year Award Annika Zink				
17:00 – 17:30	Break time / Industry exhibition				
17:00 – 18:00					Poster session II even numbers
18:00 – 19:00					Poster session II uneven numbers
20:00 – 01:00	GSCN networking event for all participants with dinner buffet & DJ at Café am Neuen See, Berlin				

Program overview – Friday

	Max Delbrück Center		
08:00 – 16:00	Registration		
	Axon 1	Axon 2	Dendrit 2
09:00 – 10:30	Concurrent scientific working group session III		
	Stem cells in disease modeling & drug development II	Tissue-derived stem cells & organoids	Pluripotency, differentiation & PSC-derived models II
10:30 – 11:00	Break time / Industry exhibition		
11:00 – 12:30	Concurrent strategic working group session		
	Clinical trials & regulatory affairs	Technologies in stem cell research	Career development
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch break / Industry exhibition		
14:00 – 14:45	Keynote lecture IV <i>Takanori Takebe</i>		
14:45 – 15:30	Hild Mangold Award <i>Maike Sander</i>		
15:30 – 15:50	Award Ceremony <i>Daniel Besser</i>		
15:50 – 16:00	Closing remarks by the GSCN president <i>Sina Bartfeld</i>		
	END OF CONFERENCE		

Program – Wednesday, 9 September 2026

11:00 – 11:30	Opening	
Axon 1/2	GSCN Conference 2026	
11:00 – 11:10	Welcome to Max Delbrück Center, Berlin <i>Holger Gerhardt</i> , Deputy Director Max Delbrück Center, Berlin	
11:10 – 11:20	Welcome address from the Berlin Institute of Health at Charité (BIH) <i>Christopher Baum</i> , Chair of the BIH Board of Directors	
11:20 – 11:30	Opening of GSCN Conference 2026 <i>Heiko Lickert</i> , President GSCN	
11:30 – 12:15	Keynote lecture I	
Axon 1/2	K1 – From stem cells in leukemia to neurons in pancreatic cancer <i>Andreas Trumpp</i> , German Cancer Research Center, Heidelberg Chair: <i>Claudia Waskow</i>	
12:15 – 13:00	Keynote lecture II	
Axon 1/2	K2 – Endoderm organogenesis from human pluripotent stem cells: some assembly required <i>James M. Wells</i> , Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, USA Chair: <i>Mina Gouti</i>	
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch break / Industry exhibition	supported by Countstar
14:30 – 16:00	Concurrent scientific working group session I	
14:30 – 16:00	Pluripotency, differentiation & PSC-derived models I	supported by ACROBiosystems
Axon 1	Chairs: <i>Micha Drukker & Ralf Jauch</i>	
14:30 – 15:00	T01 – Super-SOX-mediated generation of pluripotent stem cells with enhanced developmental potential <i>Hans Schöler</i> , Max Planck Institute, Münster	
15:00 – 15:15	T02 – Mosaic gastruloids reveal a temporal restriction for developmental cell competition <i>Joshua Frenster</i> , University of Freiburg	

- 15:15 – 15:30 T03 – HERVHLin coordinates LIN28A/let-7 activity to preserve genome stability during early human development
Zsuzsanna Izsvak, Max Delbrück Center, Berlin
- 15:30 – 15:45 T04 – HERVH-derived boundary elements shape 3D genome architecture in eFORM human pluripotent stem cells
Saba Mottaghinia, Max Delbrück Center, Berlin
- 15:45 – 16:00 T05 – A multi-individual iPSC resource from five non-human primate species for comparative biology and in vitro developmental studies
Vera Zywitzka, Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research (IZW), Berlin
- 14:30 – 16:00 **Basic, translational & applied hematopoiesis**
Axon 2 Chairs: *Simon Haas & Mick Milsom*
- 14:30 – 15:00 T06 – Metabolic regulation of aged hematopoietic stem and multipotent progenitor cells
Nina Cabezas-Wallscheid, ETH Zürich, Switzerland
- 15:00 – 15:15 T07 – The development of simultaneous single-cell tRNA and mRNA profiling reveals dynamic tRNA programs in human hematopoiesis
Marius Külp, Goethe University, Frankfurt
- 15:15 – 15:30 T08 – Identification of a deeply dormant CD150neg hematopoietic stem cell population
Dawn Shuiping Lin, German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), Heidelberg
- 15:30 – 15:45 T09 – Multiscale biological interactions define clinical trajectories in acute myeloid leukemia
Jan Barinka, Berlin Institute of Health (BIH) at Charité/Max Delbrück Center, Berlin
- 15:45 – 16:00 T10 – Molecular characterization and functional interrogation of dormant cancer stem cells in JAK2V617F-driven myeloproliferative neoplasms
Elif Saf, German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), Heidelberg
- 14:30 – 16:00 **Computational stem cell biology & systems biology**
Dendrit 2 Chairs: *Ingmar Glauche & Carsten Marr*
- 14:30 – 15:00 T11 – Combining pooled single cell screens and deep learning to identify phenotypes driven by oncogenes
Nils Blüthgen, Humboldt University of Berlin

15:00 – 15:15	T12 – Slow genes are soft genes: lineage memory and perturbation sensitivity share a common origin <i>Ida Büschel</i> , Helmholtz Munich
15:15 – 15:30	T13 – Emergent cell-type order in epithelia: a hallmark of stem cell fate characteristics in homeostasis? <i>Philip Greulich</i> , University of Southampton, UK
15:30 – 15:45	T14 – Epigenetic fidelity of hiPSC-derived T cell progenitors: Accurate remodeling and aberrant DNA methylation imprints <i>Marcel Finke</i> , Berlin Institute of Health (BIH) at Charité
15:45 – 16:00	T15 – SON maintains innate immune homeostasis in HSCs via splicing and retroelement control <i>Mariela Cortez Lopez</i> , Helmholtz Munich
16:00 – 16:30	Break time / Industry exhibition supported by R&D Systems™ by bio-technie
16:30 – 18:30	Poster session I – Poster number P001 – P087 (with beverages)
Haus 84	Basic, translational, applied hematopoiesis (P001 – P011)
MDC.C: Foyer -	Computational stem cell biology (P012 – P016)
Mezzanine	Stem cells in disease modeling & drug development (P017 – P059) Stem cells in regenerative therapies (P060 – P087) supported by Biomerieux
	Even numbers: 16:30 – 17:30
	Odd numbers: 17:30 – 18:30
	Note: posters P064 - P087 will be displayed in the MDC.C Foyer - Mezzanine
18:30 – 19:15	Keynote lecture III (on ELSA topics)
Axon 1	K3 – Highly efficient base editing at PCSK9 and normal development in human embryos <i>Stepan Jerabek</i> , Columbia University, New York, USA Chair: <i>Tobias Cantz</i>
19:15 – 21:00	GSCN Get-together for all participants
MDC Mensa	Dinner buffet

Program – Thursday, 10 September 2026

09:00 – 10:30	Concurrent scientific working group session II	supported by Thermo Fisher Scientific
09:00 – 10:30	Stem cells in regenerative therapies	
Axon 1	Chairs: <i>Ludovic Vallier & Wolfgang Wagner</i>	
09:00 – 09:30	T16 – Human pluripotent stem cell therapies to the heart and beyond: current status and challenges	
	<i>Robert Zweigerdt</i> , Hannover Medical School (MHH)	
09:30 – 09:45	T17 – Decoding neurovascular dysfunction in ADHD: Patient-specific iPSC-derived blood-brain barrier (BBB) models uncover hidden metabolic drivers beyond PARK2 genetics	
	<i>Antje Appelt-Menzel</i> , University Hospital Würzburg	
09:45 – 10:00	T18 – "Heps in a Bag", an engineered hepatic patch against acute liver failure	
	<i>Fabian Bachinger</i> , Berlin Institute of Health (BIH) at Charité	
10:00 – 10:15	T19 – Off-the-shelf immune-shielded iPSC-derived CAR $\gamma\delta$ T cells as novel cell therapy to treat hepatocellular carcinoma	
	<i>Stephanie Sontag</i> , Evotec	
10:15 – 10:30	T20 – Engineering basal cells to modulate epithelial-macrophage interactions in COPD	
	<i>Lili Rusznyak</i> , Helmholtz Munich	
09:00 – 10:30	Stem cells in aging & disease	
Axon 2	Chairs: <i>Michael Rieger & Andreas Trumpp</i>	
09:00 – 09:30	T21 – Attenuation of stem cell aging to target aging-associated diseases	
	<i>Hartmut Geiger</i> , University Ulm	
09:30 – 09:45	T22 – A human brain organoid model of ageing identifies chromatin-mediated control of transposable elements during neural ageing	
	<i>Elisa Gabassi</i> , University of Innsbruck, Austria	
09:45 – 10:00	T23 – Extreme heterogeneity in hematologic aging is predominantly driven by stochastic variation, not by environmental nor genetic variation	
	<i>Yiwen Zhang</i> , German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), Heidelberg	

10:00 – 10:15	T24 – Ontogenetically distinct bone marrow macrophages regulate HSC integrity and megakaryocyte-biased expansion <i>Nina Henning, Leibniz Institute on Aging (FLI), Jena</i>
10:15 – 10:30	T25 – Clonal trajectories of adult B-ALL in medullary sites and brain infiltration at single-cell resolution <i>Hui Ming Tew, University Hospital Frankfurt</i>
09:00 – 10:30 Dendrit 2	Stem cells in disease modeling & drug development I Chairs: <i>Oliver Brüstle & Bert Klebl</i>
09:00 – 09:30	T26 – Starting matters: quality and reproducibility in PSC-based research <i>Bert Klebl, LDC Dortmund, Michael Peitz, University of Bonn, Harald Stachelscheid, Berlin Institute of Health (BIH)</i>
09:30 – 09:45	T27 – Microglia modulate neurodevelopmental responses to micro- and nanoplastic exposure in human brain organoids <i>Nelli Blank-Stein, University of Bonn</i>
09:45 – 10:00	T28 – Dissecting the pathogenesis of Canavan disease using neuroglial organoids <i>Shreenidhi Vitthanthalangal Prathivathibayankaram, University of Bonn</i>
10:00 – 10:15	T29 – Patient-specific iPSC-derived sensory neurons as a gateway to individualized neuropathic pain modeling and treatment <i>Anika Neureiter, RWTH Aachen</i>
10:15 – 10:30	T30 – In vitro/in silico reciprocal modeling of human neuronal networks reveals presynaptic vesicle dynamics underlying epileptiform activity <i>Jianbin Wen, University of Bonn</i>
09:00 – 10:30 Dendrit 1	ELSA symposium Panel: <i>Stepan Jerabek</i> , Moderation: <i>Tobias Cantz</i>
10:30–11:30	Break time / Industry exhibition supported by Evotec SE
10:45 – 11:30 Axon 2	General Member Meeting Executive Board & Managing Director <i>Heiko Lickert, Claudia Waskow, Sina Bartfeld, Michael Cross, Andreas Trumpp, Daniel Besser</i>

11:30 – 13:00 Industry session: "Technologies from GSCN industry partners"**11:30 – 13:00 Main Supporter**

Axon 1

Chairs: *Michael Cross*

11:35 – 12:05

C01 – Streamlining advanced in vitro models: Principles and tools for stem cell-derived NAMS

Katharina Debowski, STEMCELL Technologies Germany GmbH

12:05 – 12:25

C02 – Enabling the future of cell therapy: From discovery to the clinic

Beau le Roy, ACROBiosystems

12:25 – 12:45

C03 – Next-generation synthetic peptide growth factors/cytokines for regenerative medicine and cell therapy

Kazuki Shigematsu, PeptiGrowth Inc.

11:30 – 13:00

Supporter II

Axon 2

Chair: *Mareike Albert*

11:35 – 11:50

C04 – Closing the analytical gap in cell therapy manufacturing: Automated at-line flow cytometry for QC from research to GMP release

Félix A. Montero-Julian, Biomerieux, Accellix

11:50 – 12:05

C05 – Integrating patient data and hiPSC microglia to model Alzheimer's disease for drug discovery

Henrik Renner, Evotec SE

12:05 – 12:20

C06 – 3D bioreactor stem cell culture: Consistent from R&D to commercial manufacturing

Philipp Nold, Eppendorf SE

12:20 – 12:35

C07 – Characterizing human PSC-derived cerebral organoids across imaging, cytometry, and sequencing

Hannah Johannsen, Miltenyi Biotec B.V. & Co. KG

12:35 – 12:50

C08 – Unlocking the future of gene-modified cell therapy with non-viral lipid-based transfection

Nadia Mazzaro, Sartorius

11:30 – 13:00 Dendrit 2	Supporter III Chairs: <i>Laura Steenpaß</i>
11:35 – 11:50	C09 – Watching stem cells live: Continuous live-cell imaging in iPSC and organoid research <i>Ceren Güneş, Countstar</i>
11:50 – 12:05	C10 – Interrogating inflammatory signaling in human iPSC-derived pancreatic ductal organoids with a fully defined animal component-free matrix <i>Joel Cresser-Brown, bio-techne</i>
12:05 – 12:20	C11 – Advancing human relevant models: From AI-driven automated culture to high-content imaging and machine learning analysis - an end-to-end solution for iPSC and organoid workflows <i>Robert Storm, Molecular Devices Germany GmbH</i>
12:20 – 12:35	C12 – Building more relevant and reliable human iPSC-derived neuronal models with the new neurobasal PhysioPlus medium <i>David Kuniger, Thermo Fisher</i>
12:35 – 12:50	C13 – Innovative approaches and tools for investigating stem cell-based tissue culture <i>Francesca Aglialoro, Corning Life Sciences</i>
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch break / Industry exhibition supported by Corning Life Sciences
14:30 – 17:00 Axon 1/2	Presidential Symposium Chairs: <i>Sina Bartfeld & Heiko Lickert</i>
14:30 – 15:15	Presidential Invite PS1 – Stem cells, embryos and embryo models: from science to ethical concerns <i>Janet Rossant, The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Canada</i>
15:15 – 15:45	GSCN 2026 Young Investigator Award PS2 – Building towards understanding: from embryo models to principles of development (& back) <i>Jesse Veenvliet, Max Planck Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics, Dresden</i>
15:45 – 16:30	K5 – Human intestinal organoids (HIOs) to study human intestine development, differentiation and disease <i>Jason Spence, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA</i>

- 16:30 – 17:00** **GSCN Publication of the Year 2025 – 2026 Award**
 PS4 – Pluripotent stem-cell-based screening uncovers sildenafil as a mitochondrial disease therapy
Annika Zink, Heinrich-Heine-University, Düsseldorf
- 17:00 – 17:30** **Break time / Industry exhibition** supported by Molecular Devices GmbH
- 17:00 – 19:00** **Poster session II – Poster number P088 – P171 (with beverages)** supported by Eppendorf
 Haus 84 Pluripotency, differentiation & PSC-derived models (P088 – P135)
 MDC.C: Foyer - Stem cells in aging & disease (cancer stem cells) (P136 – P141)
 Mezzanine Tissue-derived stem cells & organoids (P142 – P171)
Even numbers: 17:00 – 18:00
Odd numbers: 18:00 – 19:00
 Note: posters P150 - P171 will be displayed in the MDC.C Foyer - Mezzanine
- 20:00 – 01:00** **GSCN networking event for all participants** supported by STEMCELL Technologies
 Bus transfer starting at 18:45, the entrance fee is collected onsite
 Event location: **Café am Neuen See**, Berlin

Program – Friday, 11 September 2026

- 09:00 – 10:30** **Concurrent scientific working group session III**
- 09:00 – 10:30** **Stem cells in disease modeling & drug development**
 Axon 1 Chairs: *Michael Peitz & Harald Stachelscheid*
- 09:00 – 09:15** T31 – Cooperative GNAS-KRAS signaling shapes intraductal papillary mucinous neoplasm phenotype and grade
Meike Hohwieler, University of Ulm
- 09:15 – 09:30** T32 – Unveiling the genetic landscape of UV-induced cellular responses: A CRISPR whole genome screening approach
Rafaëla Ntzani, Leibniz Research Institute for Environmental Medicine (IUF), Düsseldorf
- 09:30 – 09:45** T33 – ELAPOR2 controls pancreatic endocrine differentiation through cell cycle regulation
Oswaldo Rodrigues Pereira, Helmholtz Munich

- 09:45 – 10:00 T34 – Human iPSC models for safer drug discovery through predictive teratogenicity assessment
Bastian Zimmer, Evotec SE
- 10:00 – 10:15 T35 – Fabry iPSC-derived dorsal root ganglia (DRG) model
Ferdinand Teichert, University of Leiden, Netherlands
- 09:00 – 10:30 **Tissue-derived stem cells & organoids II**
Axon 2 Chairs: *Mina Gouti & Robert Zweigerdt*
- 09:00 – 09:30 T36 – Intersectional genetics for precise manipulation and tracing of lung and skeletal muscle stem cells
Thomas Braun, Max Planck Institute Bad Nauheim
- 09:30 – 09:45 T37 – Characterization of naïve human neuroepithelial stem progenitor cells with unlimited self-renewal and broad neurogenic potential
Angeliki Spathopoulou, Leopold Franzens University Innsbruck, Austria
- 09:45 – 10:00 T38 – Lymphatic vasculature reprograms liver epithelium in assembloids and patients
Milad Rezvani, Charité University Medicine Berlin
- 10:00 – 10:15 T39 – Liver regeneration is programmed in the epigenetic landscape of cholangiocytes during fetal development
Irene Talon, Max Planck Institute for Molecular Genetics, Berlin
- 10:15 – 10:30 T40 – Liver regeneration during chronic liver disease: SOX4 and KLF6 play a role in liver cell plasticity
Marta Cagna, Berlin Institute of Health at Charité
- 09:00 – 10:30 **Pluripotency, differentiation & PSC-derived models II**
Dendrit 2 Chairs: *Sebastian Diecke & Stefan Liebau*
- 09:00 – 09:15 T41 – PluripotencyScreen - A new epigenetic framework to quantify cell fate decisions of pluripotent stem cells
Vera Nischalke, RWTH Aachen
- 09:15 – 09:30 T42 – Modeling primate atherosclerosis using iPSC-derived macrophages
Eva Briem, LMU Munich
- 09:30 – 09:45 T43 – CTCF insulates gene expression to safeguard migratory myogenic progenitor cells
Sören Hüttner, McGill University, Montréal, Canada

- 09:45 – 10:00 T44 – Bioengineered muscle tubuloids: a human stem-cell-based model of neuromuscular development and innervation
Anita Florkowska, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, Poland
- 10:00 – 10:15 T45 – Multi-omics profiling reveals MAGEL2-driven defects in human corticogenesis shared across Prader-Willi and Schaaf-Yang syndromes
Baran Enes Güler, University of Heidelberg
- 10:30 – 11:00 Break time / Industry exhibition supported by Sartorius
- 11:00 – 12:30 **Concurrent strategic working group session**
- 11:00 – 12:30 **Clinical trials & regulatory affairs**
Axon 1 Chairs: *Nina Graffmann & Zoltan Ivics*
- 11:00 – 11:30 S1 – Driving multimodal AI in precision medicine
Ulrike Weirauch, Fraunhofer Institute for Cell Therapy and Immunology (IZI), Leipzig
- 11:30 – 12:00 S2 – Translating regulatory expectations into context-specific genome-editing safety assessment
Sandra Ammann, University Hospital Freiburg
- 12:00 – 12:30 S3 – Off-target effects in CRISPR-Cas genome editing for human therapeutics: Progress and challenges
Giandomenico Turchiano, AstraZeneca, Cambridge, UK
- 11:00 – 12:30 **Technologies in stem cell research**
Axon 2 Chairs: *Sebastian Knöbel & Ole Pleß*
- 11:00 – 11:30 S4 – Polymeric gene delivery agents, an emerging class of RNA nanocarriers
Aidan Izuagbe, University of Würzburg
- 11:30 – 12:00 S5 – Engineering mutation-specific and mutation-agnostic gene therapy approaches and their delivery
Jefferey Truong, Helmholtz Munich
- 12:00 – 12:30 S6 – "Translational tool making" to develop and improve vector-based research tools
Leszek Lisowski, Children's Medical Research Institute, Sydney, Australia

11:00 – 12:30

Dendrit 2

Career developmentChairs: *Pascal Röderer & Insa Schröder*Panel discussion: Scientific mobility in a changing world
with *Hartmut Geiger, Kimberly Hartl and Sedona Murphy*

12:30 – 14:00

Lunch break time / Industry exhibition

supported by Miltenyi Biotec B.V. & Co. KG

14:00 – 14:45

Axon 1/2

Keynote lecture IVK4 – Designing complex miniature organs in a dish from pluripotent stem cells
Takanori Takebe, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, USA
Chair: *Aydan Bulut-Karslıoğlu*

14:45 – 15:30

Axon 1/2

GSCN 2026 Hilde Mangold AwardPS3 – Studying diabetes with engineered stem cell islet organoids
Maike Sander, Max Delbrück Center, Berlin
Chair: *Heiko Lickert*

15:30 – 15:50

Axon 1/2

Award ceremony*Daniel Besser***Poster awards**

supported by Active Bioscience/PeptiGrowth

Travel awards

15:50 – 16:00

Axon 1/2

Closing remarks by the GSCN president*Sina Bartfeld***End of GSCN Conference 2026**