

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