

Programme



13 - 16 Oct 2026

6th H3D SYMPOSIUM

**Arabella Hotel, Golf & Spa
WESTERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA**

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Chemistry and biology to address
infectious diseases

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME OUTLINE

TUESDAY, 13 OCTOBER 2026

14:00-17:00	Arrival, Check-In, Registration – Arabella Hotel, Golf & Spa
18:00-18:30	Opening Welcome by Prof Kelly Chibale (Director, H3D)
18:30-21:00	Welcome Celebration Symposium Dinner in Kogelberg Venue at the Arabella Hotel

WEDNESDAY, 14 OCTOBER 2026

08:00-09:35	Session 1: Strategic Perspectives on Infectious Disease Drug Discovery Chair: Tim Wells
08:05-08:35	Dr Cristina Donini (Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV), Switzerland) <i>New medicines towards malaria elimination</i>
08:35-09:05	Dr Megan Neary and Dr Sally Nicholas (Wellcome Trust, UK) <i>From Discovery to Impact: Wellcome's Infectious Disease Strategy</i>
09:05-09:35	Dr Ed McIver (LifeArc, UK) <i>Addressing the challenges of antimicrobial resistance through partnerships</i>
09:35-10:05	Refreshment break

10:05-11:35	Session 1 Continued: Strategic Perspectives on Infectious Disease Drug Discovery Chair: Tim Wells
10:05-10:35	Dr Alan Hennessy (GARDP, Switzerland) <i>Antibiotic Drug Discovery at GARDP – Challenges and Opportunities</i>
10:35-11:05	Dr Laurent Fraisse (DNDi, Switzerland) <i>Drug Discovery to serve neglected populations needs: DNDI contribution and perspectives</i>
11:05-11:35	Dr Susan Winks (H3D, South Africa) <i>Shaping the Future of Drug Discovery in Africa: Ecosystems, Partnerships, and Impact</i>
11:35-12:05	Flash Talks (5 mins) Chair: Jessica Akester Zaahida Sheik Ismail (H3D) <i>Biochemical screening of European Chemical Biology Library to identify compounds targeting Mtb Caseinolytic Protease</i> Peter Preiser (Nanyang Technological University) <i>Targeting host cell invasion reveals a new druggable vulnerability in Plasmodium falciparum</i> Tyrick Welcome (University of Pretoria) <i>PROTACs as a novel antimalarial strategy targets bromodomain protein of Plasmodium falciparum parasites</i> Zohra Hashmi (Translational Health Science and Technology Institute) <i>Targeting mycobacterial persistence as an approach to shorten the TB treatment regimen</i>

12:05-13:00	Lunch
13:00-14:35	Session 2: Chemical Biology Approaches for Infectious Disease Drug Discovery Chair: Erick Strauss
13:05-13:35	Prof Emily Derbyshire (Duke University, USA) <i>Interdisciplinary approaches to reveal parasite vulnerabilities</i>
13:35-14:05	Dr Lauren Coulson (H3D, South Africa) <i>Potency in Context: Linking Biochemical Potency, Selectivity and Cellular Activity in Malaria Kinase Programmes.</i>
14:05-14:35	Prof Jacquin Niles (MIT, USA) <i>Using chemical genetics to scale target-based antimalarial drug discovery</i>
14:35-15:05	Poster session with refreshment break
15:05-16:05	Session 2 continued: Chemical Biology Approaches for Infectious Disease Drug Discovery Chair: Erick Strauss
15:05-15:35	Prof Nathaniel Martin (Leiden University, The Netherlands) <i>A next-generation glycopeptide antibiotic with best-in-class potential</i>
15:35-16:05	Prof Susan Wyllie (University of Dundee, UK) <i>Fishing for targets: Chemical proteomics strategies for drug target deconvolution</i>
16:15-21:00	Speakers' dinner (by invitation) and evening at leisure for other delegates

THURSDAY, 15 OCTOBER 2026

08:00-08:45	Workshop: Flash chromatography overview and SFC Chiral Purification Capabilities Rafael Campos, Teledyne Labs Chromatography Specialist
08:45-09:00	Mini-break
09:00-10:05	Session 3: Medicinal and Synthetic Chemistry Approaches to Accelerate Infectious Disease Drug Discovery Chair: Andre Horatscheck
09:05-09:35	Dr Arnab Chatterjee (Scripps, USA) <i>Building Novel Platforms to Accelerate Global Health Drug Development</i>
09:35-10:05	Dr Kathryn Wicht (University of Cape Town, South Africa) <i>Repositioning anticancer human kinase inhibitors as antimalarials and their Plasmodium target deconvolution</i>
10:05-11:00	Poster session with refreshment break
11:00-12:00	Flash Talks (5 mins) Chair: Godfrey Mayoka Sheik Ismail Lebusetsa Taleli (H3D) <i>Small Molecule Mtb Topoisomerase inhibitors</i> Manasa Punaha Ravindra (King's College) <i>RIP-Malaria: Rational: Covalent Inhibition of the Plasmodium Proteasome for the Treatment of ART-resistant Malaria</i>

11:00-12:00	Flash Talks (5 mins) CONTINUED Tiaan Olivier (Stellenbosch University) <i>Exploring BacPROTACs for therapeutic appropriation of bacterial protein degradation pathways</i> Nicole Teixeira (University of Cape Town) <i>Discovery of a class of putative Plasmodium falciparum cytochrome bc1 inhibitors</i> María Cruz Mollo (Centro de Investigaciones en Bionanociencias) <i>Hit assessment of a dengue protease inhibitor from an open-science library screening</i> Hannah Asiki (University of Cape Town) <i>MMV Actives Box: Identifying haemozoin formation inhibitors and determining their likelihood of resistance</i> Isabela Fernandes de Oliveira (Leiden University) <i>High Throughput Nanodroplet Screening to Activate and Detect Streptomyces Antibiotic Production</i> Sauvik Samanta (H3D) <i>Evaluating Generative AI in Antimalarial Drug Discovery: A dd4gh Hit-to-Lead Case Study</i>
12:00-13:00	Lunch

13:00-14:00	Session 3 continued: Medicinal and Synthetic Chemistry Approaches to Accelerate Infectious Disease Drug Discovery Chair: Andre Horatscheck
13:00-13:30	Dr Candice Soares de Melo (H3D, South Africa) <i>Designing for Long Duration and Low Dose: Optimizing Thienopyrimidines for Long-Acting Antimalarial Chemoprevention</i>
13:30-14:00	Prof Maria Laura Bolognesi (UNIBO, Italy) <i>Sustainability-Driven Medicinal Chemistry Approaches for Vector-Borne Infectious Diseases</i>
14:00-14:15	Mini-Break
14:15-15:50	Session 4: Infectious Disease Biology to Guide Drug Discovery Chair: Tanya Parish
14:20-14:50	Prof Adrienne Edkins (Rhodes University, South Africa) <i>Targeting proteostasis for new therapeutic approaches to viral malignancies</i>
14:50-15:20	Prof Leann Tilley (Melbourne University, Australia) <i>Hijacking aminoacyl tRNA synthetases: a new strategy for development of anti-infectives</i>
15:20-15:50	Dr Khisi Mdluli (Gates MRI, USA) <i>Nicotinamide Enhances Bactericidal and Sterilizing Activity and Limits Resistance Selection in Preclinical Models of Tuberculosis</i>

15:50-16:20	Mini-Break
16:20-17:50	Session 4 continued: Infectious Disease Biology to Guide Drug Discovery Chair: Tanya Parish
16:20-16:50	Prof Adrie Steyn (AHRI, South Africa) <i>From human TB lesions to drug discovery: Defining mycobacterial bioenergetic vulnerabilities in disease</i>
16:50-17:20	Dr Richard Wall (LSHTM, UK) <i>Menaquinone depletion resensitises bedaquiline-resistant tuberculosis</i>
17:20-17:50	Prof Tanya Parish (Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, UK) <i>Adapting to Survive: Targeting M. tuberculosis Across Distinct Physiological States</i>
17:50-18:45	Poster session
18:45-21:00	Networking Function (Arabella Hotel)

FRIDAY, 16 OCTOBER 2026

08:30-09:00	Poster & Flash Talk prizes by Prof Kelly Chibale (Director, H3D)
09:00-10:35	Session 5: Platforms, Tools, and Technologies to Accelerate Infectious Disease Drug Discovery Chair: Liezl Krugmann
09:05-09:35	Prof Jansy Sarathy (Hackensack Meridian Health, USA) <i>Lesion-centric pharmacokinetic (PK) and pharmacodynamic (PD) considerations for TB drug discovery and regimen design</i>
09:35-10:05	Prof Lyn-Marié Birkholtz (Stellenbosch University, South Africa) <i>Probing PROTACs against parasites: a platform for targeted protein degradation discovery</i>
10:05-10:35	Dr Erika Flannery (Novartis, USA) <i>Leveraging AI to Advance Drug Discovery for Global Infectious Diseases</i>
10:35-11:05	Refreshment break
11:05-12:35	Session 5 Continued: Platforms, Tools, and Technologies to Accelerate Infectious Disease Drug Discovery Chair: Liezl Krugmann

11:05-11:35	Dr Gemma Turon (Ersilia Open-Source Initiative, Spain) <i>Cascading open source AI/ML models for large-scale compound prioritisation</i>
11:35-12:05	Dr Manuel Llinás (Penn State University, USA) <i>Leveraging metabolomics against the malaria parasite</i>
12:05-12:35	Dr Gang Liu (Gates Foundation) <i>One Portfolio, Two Engines: AI and DEL Screening for Hit Generation in Global Health. A five-year investment journey: lessons from combining AI and DNA-encoded library screening</i>
12:35-13:00	Closing remarks by Prof Kelly Chibale (Director, H3D)
13:00-14:00	Lunch & staggered departures

Programme timings & order of presentation are subject to change without prior notice.

NOTES

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