

Technology Development in Life Science Research Infrastructures

Symposium and Partnership Event | 16 October 2026 | EMBL Heidelberg

Preliminary programme

09:00 Welcome coffee & registration

09:30 Welcome note

09:45 Keynote — The Need for Technology Development in RIs (30')

Invited: **Geert Van Minnebruggen, VIB**

10:15 Talk and Panel discussion - How Technology Development for Scientific Services Drives Scientific Breakthroughs

Talk: **Rainer Pepperkok (t.b.c.)** *How ARISE techdev projects advanced core facilities at EMBL*

Panelists: t.b.c.

11:00 Coffee break

MIDDAY TALKS

DATA SCIENCE TECHNOLOGIES

11:30 SENIOR RI SCIENTIST TALK

Dan Ben-Avraham Head of BioInformatics Unit, Weizmann Institute of Science

Title: t.b.c.

11:45 SENIOR FELLOW TALK

Chris Thorpe ARISE alumnus, group of Ellen McDonagh/Sameer Velankar, EMBL-EBI

Title: Developing user-centric online tools to advance immunology research

12:00 FLASH TALKS

Idil Ismail ARISE2 fellow in the group of Noel O'Boyle, EMBL-EBI

Title: Patent mining for early-stage bioactivity insights

Youchahou Poutougnigni Matenchi ARISE2 fellow in the group of Emily Clark, EMBL-EBI

Title: Development of a Dynamic Multi-Omics Visualization Platform for cattle data

IMAGING & MICROSCOPY

13:30 SENIOR RI SCIENTIST TALK

Alvaro Crevenna Head of Light Imaging Facility, EMBL Rome

Title: Building service capacity by developing technology - the only way forward

13:50 SENIOR FELLOW TALK

Kristina Jevdokimenko, senior ARISE fellow in the group of Sinem Saka, EMBL Heidelberg

Title: A workflow for designing and validating high-plex spectral imaging panels

14:05 FLASH TALKS

Nermin Akduman ARISE2 fellow in the group of Alexandra Koumoutsis, EMBL Heidelberg

Title: Automated smart picking to expand gut microbial culturomics

Julian Gurgo, ARISE2 fellow, group of Alvaro Crevenna, EMBL Rome; partners Hans Blom, Mats Nilsson, SciLifeLab)

Title: Spatial Biology: developments from experiment automation to data

STRUCTURAL BIOLOGY & MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

14:30 SENIOR RI SCIENTIST TALK

Andrew McCarthy Team Leader, Synchrotron Crystallography / Structural Biology, EMBL Grenoble

Title: Structural biology at the 4th generation sources

14:50 SENIOR RI FELLOW TALK

Grisell Diaz-Leines ARISE fellow in the group of Sameer Velankaar, EMBL-EBI

Title: Scalable Mapping of Local Similarities Across Macromolecular Surfaces

15:05 FLASH TALKS

Daniel Olson ARISE2 fellow, group of Alex Bateman, EMBL-EBI

Title: boom: Deep Learning to Detect Remote Homologs

Nikos Pechlivanis ARISE2 fellow, group of Sameer Velankaar, EMBL-EBI, collaboration with VIB

Title: Pandora; a Python library for turning raw PDBe data into typed, policy-driven, ML-ready protein structure datasets

BIOTECHNOLOGY

15:50 SENIOR RI SCIENTIST TALK

Dominique Audenaert VIB Screening Core

Title: Phenotypic screening as a means to identify new starting points for drug discovery

16:10 SENIOR RI FELLOW TALK

Suparat Scheu ARISE fellow in the group of Mikhail Savitski, Nassos Typas, EMBL Heidelberg

Title: Development of a High-Throughput XL-MS (Cross-Linking Mass Spectrometry) Workflow for Proteome-Wide Structural Mapping

16:25 FLASH TALKS

Sotiris Samatas ARISE2 fellow in the group of James Sharpe and Vikas Trivedi, EMBL Barcelona

Title: Micromechanics of Living Tissues across Scales

Denise Marrero Feitosa ARISE2 fellow in the group of Maria Bernabeu, EMBL Barcelona

Title: Organ-on-a-Chip systems with integrated sensing capabilities for relevant tissue models

NETWORKING, BREAKS & POSTER SESSIONS

11:00	Coffee break
12:15 – 13:15	Lunch & Poster Session
15:20 – 15:45	Coffee break
17:25	Poster Session with drinks
18:00	Dinner
19:00	“World of Molecular Biology” Exhibition tour in the EMBL Imaging centre

CLOSING

16:40	Panel discussion with Flash talk and Drinks- How to support a sustainable Technology Development Community? Participants: t.b.c. Silvie van Den Hoecke (VIB), Disa Hammarlöf (SciLifeLab), ...
20:00	Closing remarks & end of programme Bus to Heidelberg City centre (20:15)

Scientific committee

Nermin Akduman, EMBL
Hans Blom, SciLifeLab
Alvaro Crevenna, EMBL
Andrew McCarthy, EMBL
Montserrat Soler, ESRF

Marc Storms, Thermo Fisher
Disha Tandon, EMBL
Joanna Timmins, UGA

Organizing team

Monica Lachner, EMBL ARISE2
Damiela Ramos, EMBL ARISE2
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Edward Avenell, EMBL ARISE
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