

#EISG2026



# ISLET STUDY GROUP

## CONFERENCE 2026

BARCELONA  
JUNE 17-19, 2026



### Local Chairs:

#### Dr. Meritxell Rovira

Group Leader, Bellvitge Biomedical Research Institute, L'Hospitalet de Llobregat  
Associate professor, Faculty of Medicine, Universitat de Barcelona

#### Dr. Lorenzo Pasquali

Professor and Group Leader, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona

### Venue:

Barcelona Biomedical Research Park (PRBB)  
Carrer del Doctor Aiguader, 88, Barcelona

Organized by:





## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17

11:00 - 11:50

### REGISTRATION

11:50 - 12:00

### OPENING & WELCOME REMARKS

**Lorenzo Pasquali**, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain

**Meritxell Rovira**, Bellvitge Biomedical Research Institute, L'Hospitalet de Llobregat, Spain

12:00 - 14:00

### SESSION 1 | GENOMICS AND EPIGENOMICS OF ISLET CELLS

#### Chairs:

**Charlotte Ling**, Lund University Diabetes Centre, Sweden

**Lorenzo Pasquali**, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain

12:00 - 12:30

#### Charting the 6-base genome in pancreatic beta cells

**Fanny Mollandin**, Centre for Genomic Regulation, CIBERDEM, Barcelona, Spain

12:30 - 13:00

#### Talk

**Kyle Gaulton**, Institute for Genomic Medicine, UC San Diego, California, USA

13:00 - 13:30

#### Regulation of insulin secretion by islet microexons

**Manuel Irimia**, Centre for Genomic Regulation. Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain

13:30 - 13:45

#### PO 21 - A targeted epi-drug screen identifies HDAC6 inhibition as an enhancer of beta cell function and immune evasion

**Steven Millership**, Imperial College London, UK

13:45 - 14:00

#### PO 34 - Inflammation-induced chromatin remodeling and transcription factor networks reveal $\beta$ cell regulatory vulnerabilities in T1D

**Georgina Fuentes**, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain

14:00 - 15:00

### LUNCH BREAK

15:00 - 17:00

### SESSION 2 | METABOLISM IN ISLET CELLS

#### Chairs:

**Charna Dibner**, University of Geneva, Switzerland

**Rebeca Fernández**, Hospital Clínic Barcelona - IDIBAPS, Spain

15:00 - 15:30

#### High and low insulin production states of primary and stem cell-derived human beta cells

**James Johnson**, Cellular and Physiological Sciences, The University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada



15:30 - 16:00

**Beta-cell adaptive mechanisms in response to calorie restriction: a matter of when and how**

**Rafael Arrojo e Drigo**, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, USA

16:00 - 16:30

**The metabolic determinants of basal insulin secretion**

**Marc Liesa**, Institute of Molecular Biology of Barcelona, Spain

16:30 - 16:45

**PO 109 - New Aspects of Beta Cell Physiology Revealed by mTORC1 Signaling**

**Ronny Helman**, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel

16:45 - 17:00

**PO 133 - Intrinsic Metabolism and Islet Architecture Dictate Beta Cell-Selective Interferon Responses to Endogenous dsRNA**

**Agnes klochender**, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel

17:00 - 17:20

COFFEE BREAK

17:20 - 18:20

POSTER SESSION 1

18:20 - 19:20

POSTER SESSION 2

## THURSDAY, JUNE 18

08:30 - 09:15

**KEYNOTE LECTURE**

**Chair: Timo Otonoski**, University of Helsinki, Finland

**A 30-year journey in the transcriptional regulation of Islet cell formation**

**Gerard Gradwohl**, Institut de Genetique et Biologie Moleculaire et Cellulaire, Illkirch, France

09:15 - 11:30

**SESSION 3 | THE ISLET CELL IN TYPE-2 DIABETES AND TREATMENT STRATEGIES**

**Chairs:**

**Mostafa Bakhti**, Helmholtz Munich, Germany

**Jordi Ferrer**, Centre for Genomic Regulation, CIBERDEM, Barcelona, Spain

09:15 - 09:45

**Context-specific contributions of human islet regulatory variants and altered cell states to type 2 diabetes**

**Michael Stitzel**, The Jackson Laboratory for Genomic Medicine  
Farmington, Connecticut, USA

09:45 - 10:15

**Regulation of  $\beta$ -Cell Insulin Secretion: From MicroRNAs to Mitochondria**

**Aida Martínez-Sánchez**, Imperial College London, Department of Metabolism, Digestion and Reproduction, London, UK



10:15 - 10:45

**PO 97 - Anti-inceptor antibodies potentiate  $\beta$ -cell insulin signalling, function and survival in healthy and type 2 diabetes mice**

**Jin Feng**, Helmholtz Munich, Germany

10:45 - 11:00

**PO 41 - Deciphering the regulatory role of a long non-coding RNA in pancreatic endocrine development and diabetes**

**Sandra Heller**, Ulm University, Germany

11:00 - 11:15

**PO 8 - Cell-specific DNA methylation in human  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -cells regulates gene expression and impacts type 2 diabetes**

**Jones Ofori**, Lund University, Sweden

11:15 - 11:30

**PO 101 - Delineating cellular niches and  $\beta$ -cell maturation during development and regeneration in zebrafish**

**Olov Anderson**, Uppsala University, Sweden

11:30 - 12:05

**COFFEE BREAK** ☕

12:05 - 14:10

**SESSION 4 | THE ISLET CELL IN TYPE-1 DIABETES AND TREATMENT STRATEGIES**

**Chairs:**

**Laura Marroquín**, Miguel Hernández University of Elche, Spain

**Teresa Rodríguez-Calvo**, Helmholtz Munich, Germany

12:05 - 12:35

**Targeting the early and late signal transduction of interferons to protect beta cells in type 1 diabetes**

**Decio L Eizirik**, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Center for Diabetes Research  
Brussels, Belgium

12:35 - 13:05

**Controlling metabolic regulators enhances stem cell derived human beta cell function**

**Matthias Hebrok**, Institute for Diabetes and Organoid Technology,  
Center for Organoid Systems, Technical University of Munich,  
Germany

13:05 - 13:40

**Single islet analysis and the unfolding of the diabetic battlefield**

**Nadav Sharon**, Technion - Israel Institute of Technology

13:40 - 13:55

**PO 75 - Selective TYK2 vs JAK1/2 Inhibition Differentially Tunes the Inflammatory Transcriptome and Protects Human  $\beta$ -cells from CTL mediated killing**

**Sayro Jawurek**, InSphero, Zürich, Switzerland

13:55 - 14:10

**PO 73 - GLP1-E2 Therapy Delays Autoimmune Diabetes in Late-stage Prediabetic NOD Mice and Potentiates Low-dose Anti-CD3 Therapy for Enhanced Disease Protection**

**Laure Degroote**, KU Leuven, Belgium



14:10 - 15:30

LUNCH BREAK

15:30 – 17:30

**SESSION 5 | MODELLING HUMAN ISLETS ON A PLATE**

**Chairs:**

**Heiko Lickert**, Helmholtz Munich, Institute of Diabetes & Regeneration Research, Germany

**Diego Balboa**, University of Helsinki, Finland

15:30 - 16:00

**Human islet omics from gene discovery to therapy**

**Miriam Cnop**, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Center for Diabetes Research  
Brussels, Belgium

16:00 - 16:30

**Pancreas organoid models of Diabetes**

**Anne Grapin-Botton**, Max Planck Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics,  
Dresden, Germany

16:30 - 17:00

**Modelling pancreatic fate and disease: dissecting regulatory mechanisms in iPSC derived organoids**

**Rocío Sancho**, Centre for Gene Therapy & Regenerative Medicine, King's College  
London, UK

17:00 - 17:15

**PO 48 -  $\beta$ -Cell Obligation in  $\alpha$ -Cell Glucagon Response to Low Glucose**

**Eva Bru Tari**, University of Geneva, Switzerland

17:15 - 17:30

**PO 13 - Dorsal or Ventral Islets: What Sets Endocrine Fate?**

**Ildem Akerman**, University of Birmingham, UK

17:30 - 18:30

POSTER SESSION 3

21:00

CONFERENCE OFFICIAL DINNER

**Venue:**

*La Carbonera – Los Tinglados*

Moll Oriental, 3,08039 Barcelona



## FRIDAY, JUNE 19

08:30 - 09:15

### STEVE ASHCROFT MEMORIAL LECTURE

**Chair: James Johnson**, Cellular and Physiological Sciences, The University of B  
Columbia, Vancouver, Canada

#### Early milestone and later developments in islet research

**Peter R. Flatt**, Ulster University, UK

09:15 - 11:15

### SESSION 6 | ISLET DYSFUNCTION BEYOND T1D AND T2D

#### Chairs:

**Idem Akermann**, University of Birmingham, UK

**Miriam Cnop**, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Center for Diabetes Research  
Brussels, Belgium

09:15 - 09:45

#### Integrative single-cell approaches in diabetes

**Joan Camuñas**, University of Gothenburg, Sweden

09:45 - 10:15

#### Illuminating mechanisms underlying the pro-differentiation effects of select DYRK1A inhibitors in human beta cell regeneration

**Andrew F. Stewart**, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Diabetes,  
Obesity and Metabolism Institute, New York, USA

10:15 - 10:45

#### Beta-cell biology insights from gene discovery studies

**Elisa De Franco**, University of Exeter Medical School, Institute of Biomedical  
and Clinical Science, Exeter, UK

10:45 - 11:00

#### PO 63 - Multi-Omics of decremental $\beta$ -cell mass and insulin receptor blockade reveals $\beta$ -cell loss-specific systemic programs and BAT whitening

**Daniel Oropeza**, University of Geneva, Switzerland

11:00 - 11:15

#### PO 28 - Exploring stage-specific chromatin accessibility throughout early pancreatic development

**Katie Partridge**, University of Exeter, UK

11:15 - 11:50

### COFFEE BREAK



**11:50-13:50**

**SESSION 7 | ENDOCRINE-EXOCRINE CROSSTALK**

**Chairs:**

**Meritxell Rovira**, Bellvitge Biomedical Research Institute, L'Hospitalet de Llobregat, Spain

**Anne Grapin-Botton**, Max Planck Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics, Dresden, Germany

11:50 - 12:20

**The endocrine–metabolic nexus in exocrine pancreatic cancer**

**Núria Malats**, Spanish National Cancer Research Centre, Genetic & Molecular Epidemiology Group, Madrid, Spain

12:20 - 12:50

**The emerging role of pancreatic exocrine profibrotic signalling in the pathogenesis of type 3c diabetes**

**James A. Shaw**, Newcastle University, Translational and Clinical Research Institute, UK

12:50 - 13:20

**A single-cell multi-omic atlas of the human pancreas across development, health, and type 2 diabetes**

**Elisabetta Mereu**, Josep Carreras Leukaemia Research Institute, Barcelona, Spain

13:20 - 13:35

**PO 4 - Profibrotic and fatty acid signalling gene expression profiles underlying progressive pathology within the human CF pancreas**

**Nicole Kattner**, Newcastle University, UK

13:35 - 13:50

**PO 37 - Single cell multiome profiling of human healthy pancreas reveals novel ductal populations associated with pancreatic cancer prognosis and classification**

**Joel Moro**, Bellvitge Biomedical Research Institute – IDIBELL, L'Hospitalet de Llobregat, Spain

**13:50 - 14:00**

**CLOSING REMARKS EISG 2026**

**Lorenzo Pasquali**, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain

**Meritxell Rovira**, Bellvitge Biomedical Research Institute, L'Hospitalet de Llobregat, Spain



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