

#EISG2026



# EUROPEAN 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 Mollandín, 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**



Wednesday, June 17

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 133 - Intrinsic metabolism and islet architecture dictate beta cell-selective interferon responses to endogenous dsRNA**

Agnes klochender, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel

16:45 - 17:00 **PO 109 - New aspects of beta cell physiology revealed by mTORC1 signaling**

Aharon Helman, 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**

G rard 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

Jorge 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 Mart nez-S nchez, 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



Thursday, June 18

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 Marroquí, 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**



Thursday, June 18

14:30 - 15:30 **Mercodia Satellite Symposium**

Marie Curie Room

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?**  
**Idem 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:** Guy A. Rutter, Université de Montréal, 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**



Friday, June 19

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



EUROPEAN  
**ISLET** STUDY GROUP  
CONFERENCE 2026

**SPONSORS**

PLATINUM



GOLD



SILVER



BRONZE



Secretaría técnica



📍 Barcelona · Madrid

☎ 93 451 17 24

✉ info@tacticsmd.net

🌐 www.tacticsmd.net