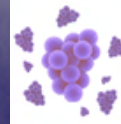




IRC
Impact Research Communications



STAPHYLOCOCCI MEET-2026
FEB 23-24, 2026 | ONLINE

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

2nd International Virtual Conference on

Staphylococci and Staphylococcal Infections

February 23-24, 2026 | Virtual

Eastern Time (USA)

Impact Research Communications
#3, BONAIRE DRIVE, DIX HILLS
NY, 11746, USA

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 secretary@staphsymposia.org

08:50 Opening Remarks

Session I: Mechanisms of Staphylococcal Adhesion, Colonization & Early Infection Dynamics

Session Chair: **Maksym Bobrovskyy**, University of South Florida, FL, USA



09:00–09:30

Andrew B. Herr, PhD

Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, OH, USA

Mechanistic Basis for Staphylococcal Adhesion to Human Corneocytes



09:30–10:00

Megan R. Kiedrowski, PhD

University of Alabama at Birmingham, AL, USA

Host and Microbial Factors Regulating *Staphylococcus aureus* Aggregation in the Airways



10:00–10:30

Joshua Parsons, MD, PhD

Duke University Medical Center, NC, USA

In-Host Evolution and Adaptation of *S. aureus* During Bacteremia



10:30–11:00

Emily Felton, PhD

University of South Florida, FL, USA

Characterization of a Rare Hospital-Associated "Snowbird" MRSA Lineage

11:00–11:30 Break

Session II: Intracellular Persistence, Immune Responses & Host-Pathogen Interaction

Session Chair: **Megan R. Kiedrowski**, University of Alabama at Birmingham, AL, USA



11:30–12:00

Jerome Josse, PhD

Claude Bernard University Lyon 1, France

Intraosteoblastic *Staphylococcus aureus* and Antibiotic Tolerance



12:00–12:30

Silva Holtfreter, PhD

University Medicine Greifswald, Germany

Spontaneous Preputial Gland Adenitis in Persistently Colonized Male Mice Triggers a Th17-Driven Immune Response



12:30–13:00

M. Brittany Johnson, PhD

University of North Carolina at Charlotte, NC, USA

Interfering with *Staphylococcus aureus* Infection: Cytosolic Nucleic Acid Sensors Initiate Protective Bone Cell Responses to Osteomyelitis



13:00–13:30

William Norris Beavers, PhD

Louisiana State University, LA, USA

Polyunsaturated Fatty Acid Sensitivity is Modulated Through the Electron Transport Chain in *Staphylococcus aureus*

13:30–14:00 Break

Session III: Secretion Systems, Molecular Interactions, and Virulence Regulation

Session Chair: **Julia A. Sharp**, Old Dominion University, VA, USA

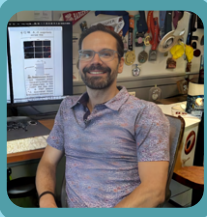


14:00–14:30

Meera Unnikrishnan, PhD

University of Warwick, United Kingdom

Type VII Secretion Systems and How They Modulate Host-Staphylococcal Interactions



14:30–15:00

Shaun R. Brinsmade, PhD

Georgetown University, DC, USA

Lean on Me (for Lipids): Metabolic Synergy Between *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Enterococcus faecalis* During Polymicrobial Infection



15:00–15:30

Romain Guerillot, PhD

University of Melbourne, Australia

Simple Sequence Repeats Drive Evolvability and Adaptive Tracking in *Staphylococcus aureus*



15:30–16:00

Abderrahman Hachani, PhD

University of Melbourne, Australia

Integrated Multi-Omics for Understanding *S. aureus* Responses to Human Serum

End of Day 1

Day 2

Tuesday, February 24, 2026

Eastern Time (USA)

Virtual

Session IV: Biofilm Biology, Infection Dynamics & Host Interactions

Session Chair: **Jeffrey A. Freiberg**, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, TN, USA



09:00–09:30

Rikke Louise Meyer, PhD

Aarhus University, Denmark

Emergent Roles of Extracellular Nucleic Acids in *Staphylococcus* Biofilms



09:30–10:00

Balazs Rada, PhD

The University of Georgia, GA, USA

Novel Mechanisms of Impaired *Staphylococcus aureus* Clearance by Neutrophils in Cystic Fibrosis



10:00–10:30

Jeffrey L. Bose, PhD

University of Kansas Medical Center, KS, USA

Fatty Acids in *Staphylococcus aureus*: Beyond Membrane Building Blocks



10:30–11:00

Xiaogang Wang, PhD

Virginia–Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine, Virginia Tech, VA, USA

Extracellular Vesicles, a Previously Unrecognized Component of *Staphylococcus aureus* Biofilms



11:00–11:30

Lee Korshoj, PhD

University of Nebraska Medical Center, NE, USA

Prokaryotic Single-Cell Transcriptomics for Understanding *Staphylococcus aureus* Infection Heterogeneity and Immune Evasion

11:30–11:45 Break

Session V: Antibiotic Resistance, Immune Modulation & Therapeutic Re-Sensitization

Session Chair: **Caitlin Kowalski**, Dartmouth Hitchcock & Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth, NH, USA



11:45–12:15

James P. O'Gara, PhD

University of Galway, Ireland

Novel Adjuvants to Re-Sensitise MRSA to Antibiotics



12:15–12:45

Maisem Laabei, PhD

University of Bristol, United Kingdom

Exposure to Human Serum Promotes Innate Immune Evasion in *Staphylococcus aureus*



12:45–13:15

Guido Grandi, PhD

University of Trento, Italy

Rationale and Pre-Clinical Immunogenicity Studies on a *Staphylococcus aureus* Vaccine Based on Bacterial Outer Membrane Vesicles



13:15–13:45

Kuan-Yi Lu, PhD

University of North Carolina, NC, USA

A Host-Directed Adjuvant Sensitizes Intracellular Bacterial Persisters to Antibiotics



13:45–14:15

Fan Zhang, PhD

Boston Children's Hospital & Harvard Medical School, MA, USA

Fighting Against *Staphylococcus aureus*: The Essential Role of Cellular Immunity



14:15–14:45

Matthieu Degreze

Hospices Civils de Lyon, France

Selection of Wide Spectrum Anti-*Staphylococcus aureus* Phages Considering the Risk of Selection of Resistance

14:45–15:00 Break

Session VI: Enzymatic Mechanisms, Metabolism & Novel Therapeutic Targets

Session Chair: **Emily Felton**, University of South Florida, FL, USA



15:00–15:30

Benedykt Wladyka, PhD

Jagiellonian University, Poland

Peptidoglycan Hydrolases Against *Staphylococcus aureus*



15:30–16:00

Donald R. Ronning, PhD

University of Nebraska Medical Center, NE, USA

Leveraging Knowledge of *S. aureus* D-Cycloserine Tolerance for Novel Drug Discovery



16:00–16:30

Ronan K. Carroll, PhD

Ohio University, OH, USA

Adenosine Deaminase TadA in *Staphylococcus aureus*

Closing Remarks & End of the Conference