



## **Bacterial Vaccines and Immune Therapies**

**February 2-3, 2026**

**The New York Academy of Sciences, 115 Broadway**

**DRAFT AGENDA**

## Day 1: February 2, 2026

### SESSION I: WELCOME REMARKS & OPENING KEYNOTE

- 8:30 AM CHECK IN AND BREAKFAST
- 9:00 AM WELCOME REMARKS  
**Megan Prescott, PhD**, The New York Academy of Sciences
- 9:15 AM KEYNOTE PRESENTATION: The Evolving Bacterial Challenge  
**Emilio A. Emini, PhD**, Biopharmaceutical Infectious Disease R&D Consultant.
- 10:00 AM Networking Break

### SESSION II: RESPIRATORY PATHOGENS

- 10:30 AM The Current State of Klebsiella Vaccine Development  
**Alan Cross, MD**, University of Maryland
- 11:00 AM Respiratory Vaccines and Immune Therapies: *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*  
**Penny Heaton, MD**, Johnson & Johnson
- 11:30 AM Antigenic Targets for *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* Vaccines  
**Gerald Pier, PhD**, Harvard University
- 12:00 PM Precision Vaccinology to Advance Adjuvanted Pertussis Vaccines  
**Ofer Levy, MD, PhD**, Boston Children's Hospital

### SESSION III: SHORT TALKS SELECTED FROM SUBMITTED ABSTRACTS

- 12:25 PM Adjuvants are Central for the Immunogenicity of Bacterial Subunit Vaccines  
**Kishore Alugupalli, PhD**, TurboVax Inc
- 12:35 PM (Virtual) PanChol: A Live Attenuated Oral Cholera Vaccine  
**Deborah Leitner, PhD**, Brigham and Women's Hospital
- 12:45 PM Spontaneous Capsule Loss in Carbapenem-Resistant *Klebsiella pneumoniae* during Human Gut Colonization  
**Lisa Yu**, Columbia University
- 12: 55 PM Networking Lunch and Poster Session

### SESSION IV: STI AND ENTERIC PATHOGENS

- 2:15 PM Harnessing CPAF-Specific CD4 IFN- $\gamma$  Responses for Protective Immunity to *Chlamydia trachomatis*: A STING-Based Vaccine Strategy  
**Toni Darville, MD**, University of North Carolina
- 2:45 PM Progress Towards a Global Syphilis Vaccine: Ending the Scourge  
**Justin Radolf, MD** UCONN Health and Connecticut Children's

3:15 PM **Gonococcal Vaccines and Immunotherapeutics: Hurdles, and the Path Forward**  
**Sanjay Ram, MD**, UMass Chan Medical School

3:45 PM **Networking Break**

**SESSION V: PANEL DISCUSSION: COMPLEXITIES OF PNEUMOCOCCAL VACCINE DEVELOPMENT**

4:15 PM: **Moderator: Wayne Koff, PhD**, Next Frontier Advisors  
**Panelists**  
**Shite Sebastian, PhD** GSK  
**Heather Platt, MD**, Merck  
**Julie Skinner, PhD**, Pfizer

5:00 PM **Closing Remarks, Day 1**

5:10 PM **End of Day 1**

**Day 2: February 3, 2026**

8:30 AM **Check in and Breakfast**

9:00 AM **WELCOME REMARKS**  
**Megan Prescott, PhD**, The New York Academy of Sciences

**SESSION VI: EMERGING APPROACHES TOWARD REDUCING ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE**

9:05 AM **Immunotherapeutics for *Staphylococcus aureus*: Hope or Folly?**  
**Vance Fowler, MD, MHS**, Duke University

9:35 AM **Promise and Challenges of Immune-Based Therapies to Prevent *C. difficile* Infection**  
**Erik Dubberke, MD, MSPH**, Washington University in St. Louis

10:05 AM **The Discovery of Gepotidacin, first in a New Class of Antibiotics**  
**David Payne, PhD**, GSK

10:35 AM **Novel Nano-Vaccines for High Priority AMR Pathogens.**  
**Victor Nizet, MD**,  
University of California, San Diego

11:05 AM **(Virtual) SHORT PRESENTATION: Group A Streptococcus Vaccines, Sore Throat, and Antimicrobial Resistance**  
**Andrew Steer, PhD**, Murdoch Children's Research Institute

11:20 AM **Networking Break**

**SESSION VII: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND MACHINE LEARNING APPROACHES**

11:55 PM **AI In Drug Discovery**  
**Skip Virgin, MD, PhD**, Gates Foundation

12:25 PM **Systems Human Immunology and AI: Immune Setpoint and Immune Health**  
**John Tsang, PhD**, Yale University

**12:55 PM SESSION VIII: PANEL DISCUSSION: INCENTIVIZING DEVELOPMENT**

**Moderator: Emilio A. Emini, PhD**, Biopharmaceutical Infectious Disease R&D Consultant.

**Panelists**

**Ofer Levy, MD, PhD**, Boston Children's Hospital

**Kevin Outterson, JD, LL.M.**, CARB-X, Boston University

**David Payne, PhD**, GSK

**Swati Gupta, DrPH, MPH**, IAVI

**1:35 PM      Networking Lunch**

**SESSION IX: INDUSTRY UPDATES**

**2:45 PM      Using Bioconjugation to Develop an Anti-P. Aeruginosa Psi-Pcrv Carbohydrate Conjugate Vaccine**

**Bret Sellman, PhD**, AstraZeneca

**3:10 PM      Expanding the Reach of Immune Therapies: Nucleic Acid Delivery of Antibodies**

**Antonio DiGiandomenico, PhD**, AstraZeneca

**3:35 PM      Industry Keynote**

**Annaliesa Anderson**, Pfizer

**4:05 PM      Closing Remarks, Day 2**

**Megan Prescott, PhD**, The New York Academy of Sciences

**4:15 PM      Symposium Concludes**