

Thursday 10/9/2026



REGISTRATION

12:30-13:30

Symposium opening

13:30-14:30

Welcome note (moderator: Vanda Juranić Lisnić, Center for Proteomics, MEDRI)

Josip Španjol, Dean of MEDRI

Marina Šantić, Vice-rector for Science and Arts of UNIRI

Iva Rinčić, Mayor of Rijeka

Ivica Lukanović, County Prefect of Primorsko-goranska county

Alemka Brnčić-Fischer, Head of the Clinical Hospital Center Rijeka

Irena Hrštic, Minister of Health

Radovan Fuchs, Minister of Science, Education and Youth

Stipan Jonjić and Ulrich Koszinowski

How it all started and where is it going?

Short break

14:30-14:45

Session 1 (chairs: Pero Lučin & Irena Slavuljica)

14:45-16:00

Hartmut Hengel, University of Freiburg, Germany

A zigzag path to CMV-encoded Fc receptors – a royal road to intervention?

Shirin Hosseini, TU Braunschweig and Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research, Germany

TCA-derived metabolites itaconate and mesaconate as modulators of neuroinflammation

Maja Cokarić Brdovčak, Center for Proteomics, MEDRI

Viral vector vaccines

Coffee break

16:00-16:30

Session 2 (chairs: Hrvoje Šimić & Ivana Munitić)

16:30-18:30

Ofar Mandelboim, Hebrew University, Israel & **Tihana Lenac Roviš**, Center for Proteomics, MEDRI

Targeting the TIGIT-PVR axis in cancer: Mechanisms and therapeutic opportunities

Pinchas Tsukerman, NectinTx LTD, Israel

Next-generation therapies for solid tumors: From mechanism to first-in-human proof of concept

Marija Mazor, Center for Proteomics, MEDRI

Novel nectin-based immunotherapies for glioblastoma multiforme

Glenn Bantug, University of Basel, Switzerland

Immune cell metabolism across biological scales

Wolfram Brune, Leibniz Institute of Virology, Germany

STAR cloning: a rapid and efficient method to clone herpes and poxvirus genomes

Speakers' dinner - Yacht Club, Opatija



Friday 11/9/2026



Session 3 (chairs: Beata Halassy & Astrid Krmpotić)

9:00-11:00

Luka Čičin-Šain, Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research, Germany

Non-waning immune responses elicited by a herpesviral vaccine vector in xenotropic latency settings

Lars Dölken, Hannover Medical School, Germany

Hijacking the off-switch: An arms race of immune evasion and control in HSV-1 and IAV infection

Niels Lemmermann, University of Bonn, Germany

T cell priming in the shadow of CMV immune evasion

Anne Halenius, University of Freiburg, Germany

Live and let die: A choreographed control of HLA-I by HCMV

Vanda Juranić Lisnić, Center for Proteomics, MEDRI

MCMV's small ORFs do a lot of immunoevasion



Coffee break

11:00-11:30

Session 4 (chairs: Khanh Le-Trilling & Ivan Bubić)

11:30-13:30

Milena Hasan, Institut Pasteur, France

State-of-the art strategies for biomarker discovery and precision immunomonitoring

Berislav Bošnjak, Hannover Medical School, Germany

Cytomegalovirus as a natural model for studying T cell differentiation and function

Ian Humphreys, Cardiff University, United Kingdom

Harnessing the biology of cytomegalovirus infection in the development of novel cancer vaccines

Ulrich Kalinke, TWINCORE, Germany

Immunity by design: Encoding neutralizing antibodies in vivo

Marko Šustić, Center for Proteomics, MEDRI, and Clinical Hospital Center Rijeka

Cytomegalovirus and inflammation of the heart



Lunch

13:30-15:00

Session 5 (chairs: Alemka Markotić & Đurđica Cekinović Grbeša)

15:00-16:15

Marina Babić Čač, Department for Histology and Embryology, MEDRI

Regulation of lymphocyte responses during neuroinflammation

Cecilia Garlanda, Humanitas University, Italy

Targeting IL-1R8, an immune checkpoint of the IL-1 system

Mirko Trilling, University Duisburg-Essen, Germany

Translating interferon antagonism into preclinical drug and vaccine development

Friday 11/9/2026



Coffee break

16:15-16:45

Session 6 (chairs: Martina Pavletić & Igor Jurak)

16:45-18:30

Barbara Adler, LMU Munich, Max von Pettenkofer-Institute & Gene Center, Germany
The HCMV gHgLgO complex – a neglected vaccine target?

Ivana Bertović, Center for Proteomics, MEDRI
Pathogenesis of cytomegalovirus infection in the ovaries and adrenal glands

Ilija Brizić, Center for Proteomics, MEDRI
Persistent immune control of latent infection impairs neuronal synaptic connectivity

Closing remarks



Farewell Party

Restaurant “Kvarner”

Šetalište maršala Tita 65, 51415, Lovran
tel. +385 051 291 118

We gratefully acknowledge our sponsors for their support:

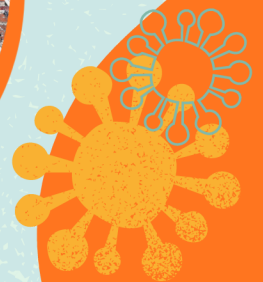


This material was supported by the grant “Scientific Centre of Excellence for Virus Immunology and Vaccines (CerVirVac)”, PK.1.1.10.0006, awarded to the Scientific Centre of Excellence for Virus Immunology and Vaccines and co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund.



CENTER FOR
PROTEOMICS

20 YEARS ANNIVERSARY SYMPOSIUM
10.-11. SEPTEMBER 2026



MEDRI UNIRI