

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 Hrstić**, 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?

## Session 1 (chairs: Pero Lučin & Irena Slavuljica)

14:30-16:00

**William Britt**, University of Alabama, USA

CMV-induced inflammation; A major mechanism of neurodevelopmental damage

**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

**Ofer Mandelboim**, Hebrew University Hadassah Medical School, Israel

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

**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

**Marija Mazor**, Center for Proteomics, MEDRI

Novel nectin-based immunotherapies for glioblastoma multiforme

**Speakers' dinner - Yacht Club, Opatija**



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## Session 3 (chairs: Beata Halassy & Alemka Markotić)

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: Astrid Krmpotić & Đurđica Cekinović)

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

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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?

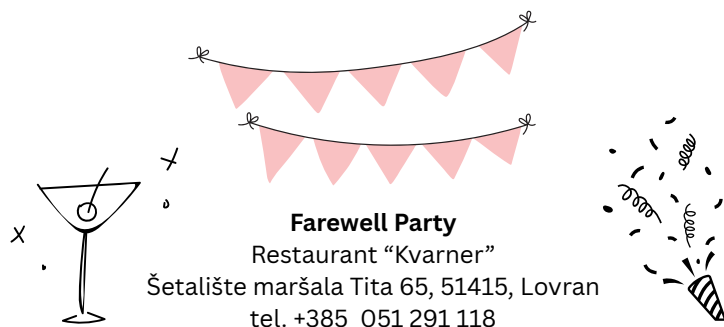
**Ilija Brizić**, Center for Proteomics, MEDRI

Persistent immune control of latent infection impairs neuronal synaptic connectivity

**Ivana Bertović**, Center for Proteomics, MEDRI

Pathogenesis of cytomegalovirus infection in the ovaries and adrenal glands

**Closing remarks**



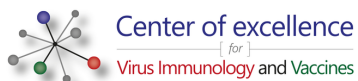
**Farewell Party**

Restaurant "Kvarner"

Šetalište maršala Tita 65, 51415, Lovran

tel. +385 051 291 118

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CENTER FOR  
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10.-11. SEPTEMBER 2026



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