

Scientific Meeting Translational Molecular Endocrinology*

23rd September 2026

University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Medicine, Korytkova 2, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia

PROGRAMME

9:30-10:00	Registration
10:00-10:10	Welcome
	Ksenija Geršak, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia Borut Kobal, Head of the Division of Gynaecology and Obstetrics, UMC Ljubljana, Slovenia
10:10-11:20	Models of Hormone Dependent Diseases
	Chairs: Dharani Hapangama and Maja Pušić Novak
10:10-10:30	Dharani Hapangama, University of Liverpool, UK <i>Complex In vitro Models of the Endometrium and Uterine Disorders</i>
10:30-10:45	Polona Šafarič Tepeš, Northwell Health, New York, USA <i>A Non-invasive in vitro Endometriosis Model Resolving Decidualization Effects at Single Cell Resolution</i>
10:45-11:00	Alejandro Herreros Pomares, KU Leuven, Belgium <i>Development of a Patient-derived Explant Platform to Preserve Tumour Microenvironment Complexity and Predict Treatment Response in Ovarian Cancer</i>
11:00-11:10	Merve Yildiz, Research Institute for Oncology & Reproduction, Maastricht University, The Netherlands <i>Charting Local Steroid Metabolism in Patient-derived Endometrial Cancer Organoids</i>
11:10-11:20	Maja Pušić Novak, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia <i>Heterogeneity of Primary Stromal Cells Derived from Peritoneal Endometriotic Lesions</i>
11:20-12:00	Coffee break and Poster session
12:00-13:40	Molecular Mechanisms of Hormone Dependent Diseases
	Chairs: Matti Poutanen and Francis Jacob
12:00-12:20	Matti Poutanen, Turku University, Finland <i>Hormonal Regulation of Endometrial Function as Revealed by Steroidomic and Transcriptomic Analyses</i>
12:20-12:40	Francis Jacob, University Hospital Basel, Switzerland <i>Biology as a Compass: Multimodal Profiling to Guide Treatment in Ovarian Cancer</i>
12:40-13:00	Karl Storbeck, Stellenbosch University, Stellenbosch, South Africa <i>AKR1C3 Inhibition Selectively Decreases 11-Oxygenated Androgens in Women: a Potential Treatment for Polyendocrine Metabolic Ovarian Syndrome</i>
13:00-13:10	Nika Troha, University Medical Center Ljubljana, Slovenia <i>Bacterial Microbiome Analysis of Vaginal, Cervical and Endometrial Samples in Patients with Adenomyosis During the Window of Implantation</i>
13:10-13:20	Nika Marolt, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia <i>Transcriptomic and ROS Profiling Reveals Distinct Responses to Medroxyprogesterone Acetate in Ovarian Cancer Cells</i>

- 13:20-13:30 **Dzhamilyat Abdulkhalikova**, University Medical Center Ljubljana, Slovenia
Lifestyle Intervention Modifies the Endometrial Proteome in Women with Polyendocrine Metabolic Ovarian Syndrome and Obesity
- 13:30-13:40 **Matthew Markgraaff**, Stellenbosch University, South Africa
Distinct Temporal Responses to Classic and 11-oxygenated Androgens are Regulated by Differential Metabolism in Prostate Cancer Cells

13:40-14:40 Lunch break and Poster session

14:40-16:00 Diagnosis and Prognosis of Hormone Dependent Diseases

Chairs: Jochen Schwenk and Jerzy Adamski

- 14:40-15:00 **Jochen Schwenk**, KTL, Stockholm, Sweden
Unlocking the Circulating Proteome from a Single Drop of Blood
- 15:00-15:20 **Jure Knez**, University Medical Centre Maribor, Slovenia
Liquid Biopsy in Endometrial Cancer
- 15:20-15:40 **Douglas Gibson**, University of Edinburgh, UK
Steroid Hormone Profiling Reveals a Distinct Adrenal Androgen Signature That Could Support Non-invasive Diagnosis of Endometriosis
- 15:40-15:50 **Boštjan Pirš**, University Medical Center Ljubljana, Slovenia
Preoperative Prediction of MMR Deficiency and Lymphovascular Space Invasion in Endometrial Cancer Using Machine Learning Models Integrating Soluble Immune Checkpoints
- 15:50-16:00 **Marija Gjorgoska**, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia
Multimodal Biomarker Integration Enhances Non-invasive Detection of Endometrial Cancer

16:00-16:20 Research on Hormone Dependent Diseases – Patients' Perspectives

Chair: Vid Janša

- 16:00-16:10 **Helena Ban Frangež**, Daily Endometriosis Centre, University Medical Centre Ljubljana, Slovenia
- 16:10-16:20 **Darja Molan**, Europa Donna, Slovenia

16:20-16:30 Concluding remarks and announcement of the Elsevier JSBMB Best Poster Award

Tea Lanišnik Rižner, Program Group Translational Molecular Endocrinology for Women's Health, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

Jerzy Adamski, Editor-In-Chief, Journal of Steroid Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

17:00-18:30 Social event: Ljubljana boat tour

*Organized by the Laboratory for Translational Molecular Endocrinology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ljubljana and Association of Gynecologists and Obstetricians of Slovenia.