



18th East-West **Immunogenetics** CONFERENCE

BRIDGING IDEAS, BUILDING THE FUTURE



ZAGREB / Hotel International / **26.-28.2.2026.**

To improve the quality of life and survival of transplant patients



TxMiller proudly supports the 18th East-West Immunogenetics Conference with five student scholarships for EWIC 2026.



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Broederplein 39
3703 CD Zeist
The Netherlands

Dear friends and colleagues,

It is our great pleasure to welcome you to Croatia's capital, Zagreb for the **18th East-West Immunogenetics Conference**, which will be held in Hotel International, February 26th-28th, 2026. EWIC has become a "must attend" conference for a high number of professionals in the histocompatibility and immunogenetics field and our hope is that EWIC 2026 will keep up with this good tradition.

Zagreb and Croatia, with a long and rich history of international collaborations in the field of immunogenetics, embodies well the first EWIC 2006 motto, „transfer of knowledge“.

2026 is the coming-of age year for the EWIC Conference as it will be its 18th edition. This symbolic transition is truly reflected in reality, as EWIC, over the years, has become an unmissable event featuring all the hallmarks of a professionally organized, impactful, and meaningful congress.

Our main intention is to give the participants a well-balanced amount of new scientific insights and future avenues in the histocompatibility and immunogenetics field, but at the same time provide the opportunity to present everyday routine work of various laboratories.

Finally, the best outcome of a good scientific conference are new contacts and collaborations and we hope to give the attendees plenty of time for socialising and discussing new projects under the motto of EWIC 2026 "bridging ideas, building the future".

Lastly, we invite you to explore Zagreb, one of the rising touristic destinations in Europe. Zagreb's coat of arms, a white town with wide open golden gates represents well the hospitality of its inhabitants. The city offers something for everybody's taste, from historic Upper Town with numerous museums and art galleries, to the busy Downtown and its many restaurants, coffee shops and bars, plentiful parks and interesting architecture.

In hope that the EWIC 2026, with your participation, becomes a valuable experience in our scientific advancement and professional education, we look forward to seeing you in Zagreb.



Renata Zunec
Zorana Grubic

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Renata Zunec, Zagreb, Croatia
Zorana Grubic, Zagreb, Croatia
Gottfried Fischer, Vienna, Austria
Antonij Slavcev, Prague, Czech Republic
Marija Burek Kamenaric, Zagreb, Croatia
Katarina Stingl Janković, Zagreb, Croatia
Blanka Vidan Jeras, Ljubljana, Slovenia

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Antonij Slavcev, Prague, Czech Republic
Gottfried Fischer, Vienna, Austria
Blanka Vidan Jeras, Ljubljana, Slovenia
Ingrid Fae, Vienna, Austria
Sabine Wenda, Vienna, Austria
Renata Zunec, Zagreb, Croatia
Zorana Grubic, Zagreb, Croatia

CONFERENCE VENUE

Hotel International, Miramarska cesta 24, Zagreb

REGISTRATION

(Level 0, in front of the entrance to conference hall Market)

- Thursday, February 26th, 2026 15:00 - 22:00
- Friday, February 27th, 2026 07:30 - 18:00
- Saturday, February 28th, 2026 08:30 - 16:00

CONFERENCE DOCUMENTS & BADGES

Conference documents and credentials should be collected on-site at the registration desk at Hotel International. Name badges must always be visible during the Conference and in the exhibition area.

SOCIAL EVENTS

- Thursday, February 26th - Welcome cocktail
(Level 0, Hotel International)
- Friday, February 27th - Dinner
(Level 17, Hotel Westin, Krsnjavoga 1, 10000, Zagreb)

EXHIBITION

During the Conference, exhibition area will be accessible to all participants.

IMPORTANT

Official congress venues will be photographed during the conference hours, and the pictures will be used for the purpose of the conference promotion and post conference activities (online gallery).

TECHNICAL ORGANIZER



Penta, PCO & Travel agency
Izidora Kršnjavoga 25, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia

Office Hours:

Monday to Friday 8:00 - 16:00 CET – Central European Time

(Our offices are open on regular business days apart from public holidays)

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Thursday February, 26th 2026

17:00-19:00 OFFICIAL OPENING
 Chairs: Tony Slavcev, Gottfried Fischer, Renata Zunec
 WELCOME ADDRESS
Marco Andreani: EFI: a successful long story
Blanka Vidan Jeras: 30 years of EFI accreditation
Marina Premuzic, Martina Anusic Juricic:
 Croatian Transplantation Program

19:30-22:00 WELCOME RECEPTION

Friday February, 27th 2026

08:00-08:30 Symposium CareDx
Anke Steiner: Advancing HLA Typing: Introducing AlloSeq Tx11 and AlloSeq Nano

08:30-10:00 SOLID ORGAN TRANSPLANTATION
 Chairs: Christina Voorter, Eduard Palou, Bosko Skoric

08:30-09:00 Ondrej Viklicky: Molecular diagnostics of antibody mediated rejection

09:00-09:30 Christina Voorter: HLA antibodies recognizing epitopes: how to identify and deal with them

09:30-10:00 Eduard Palou: Donor-derived cell-free DNA in kidney transplant rejection diagnosis

10:00-10:30 Symposium Werfen
 From data to precision intelligence: MATCH X live demonstration

10:30-11:00 COFFEE BREAK AND POSTER WALK

11:00-12:15 SOLID ORGAN TRANSPLANTATION
 Chairs: Elena Longhi, Yvonne Zoet, Marija Burek Kamenaric

11:00-11:25 Elena Longhi: Virtual versus physical crossmatching in Italian kidney allocation program



11:25-11:50 **Bosko Skoric:** Challenges in heart transplantation for highly sensitized patients

11:50-12:15 **Ines Bojanic:** Extracorporeal photopheresis in solid organ transplantation

12:15-13:00 **Symposium Biomedica**

James Jones: Advancing epitope mapping: innovative tools for antibody analysis

13:00-14:00 **LUNCH**

14:00-15:30 **HAEMATOPOIETIC STEM CELL TRANSPLANTATION**

Chairs: Marco Andreani, Milena Ivanova, Tony Slavcev

14:00-14:30 **Marco Andreani:** HLA matching and KIR in HSCT

14:30-15:00 **Milena Ivanova:** Beyond classical HLA class I: immune editing in malignancies and the path to personalized immunotherapy

15:00-15:30 **Nadira Durakovic:** Post-transplant cyclophosphamide and the HLA barrier: lessons learned

15:30-16:00 **COFFEE BREAK AND POSTER WALK**

16:00-17:00 **HAEMATOPOIETIC STEM CELL TRANSPLANTATION**

Round table: strategies for registry HLA typing

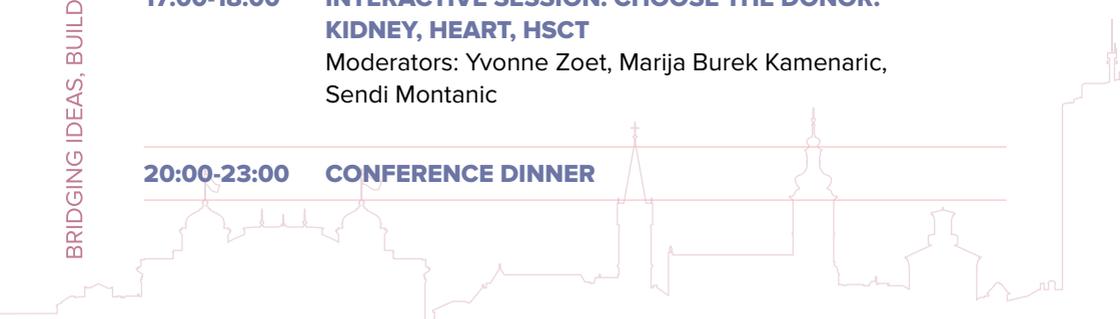
Moderators: Gottfried Fischer, Zorana Grubic

Participants: Gottfried Fischer, Zorana Grubic, Marie Kurikova, Sendi Montanic, Malgorzata Dudkiewicz, Zorana Andric

17:00-18:00 **INTERACTIVE SESSION: CHOOSE THE DONOR: KIDNEY, HEART, HSCT**

Moderators: Yvonne Zoet, Marija Burek Kamenaric, Sendi Montanic

20:00-23:00 **CONFERENCE DINNER**



Saturday February, 28th 2026

09:00-10:45 POPULATION GENETICS & DISEASE ASSOCIATIONS

Chairs: Alicia Sanchez-Mazas, Jacek Nowak, Zorana Grubic

09:00-09:30 Alicia Sanchez-Mazas: The complex evolution of the highly variable HLA genes in humans

09:30-09:55 Ana Galov: Immunogenetics of wildlife: what MHC research reveals about wild animal populations

09:55-10:20 Jacek Nowak: KIR polymorphism in health and disease

10:20-10:45 Onur Ozer: Ancestral haplotypes under the light of ancient DNA

10:45-11:45 COFFEE BREAK AND POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Group 1 / Chairs: Malgorzata Dudkiewicz, Monica Dutescu, Aleksandar Petlichkovski

Group 2 / Chairs: Aniko Szilvasi, Milena Vrana, Sabine Wenda

Group 3 / Chairs: Zorana Andric, Sendi Montanic, Onur Ozer

11:45-12:45 EFI AFFAIRS & EXTERNAL PROFICIENCY TESTING

Chairs: Blanka Vidan-Jeras, Ingrid Fae, Katarzyna Bogunia-Kubik

11:45-11:55 Ingrid Fae, Zorana Grubic: Accreditation in region 5 in 2025

11:55-12:05 Gottfried Fischer: The 2025 CET EPT exercise

12:05-12:15 Katarzyna Bogunia-Kubik: HLA Proficiency Testing for Central and Eastern Europe in 2025

12:15-12:25 Milena Vrana: External Proficiency Testing „Detection of HLA Alleles Associated with Diseases” in 2025

12:25-12:40 Yvonne Zoet: Eurotransplant EPT Scheme

12:40-12:45 Discussion

12:45-13:15 Symposium GenDx

Milena Vrana: Rapid nanopore sequencing in routine HLA tests for stem cell donor search

13:15-14:00 LUNCH



14:00-14:30 PLENARY LECTURE

Chairs: Gottfried Fischer, Tony Slavcev

Chenqu Suo: Allogeneic thymic transplantation:
T-Cell development in an HLA-mismatched environment

14:30-15:40 ABSTRACT SESSION - ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Chairs: Christina Voorter, Katarina Stingl Jankovic,
Marie Kurikova

14:30-14:40 Elena Longhi: Pre-transplant flow cross-match in rituximab desensitized patients: pronase and anti CD20 treatment protocol validation

14:40-14:50 Karolina Postek: Implementation of donor derived cell free DNA testing for heart transplant recipients in Poland: early experience

14:50-15:00 Marija Burek Kamenaric: Predictive accuracy of virtual crossmatch compared with physical crossmatch in cadaveric kidney transplantation

15:00-15:10 Jagoda Siemaszko: NKG2 receptor polymorphisms shape NK cell-mediated immune responses after allogeneic HSCT

15:10-15:20 Danica Stefanovic: Assessment of inhibitory genetic profiles of donors in the Serbian Bone Marrow Donor Registry

15:20-15:30 Elitza Boneva: The possible relevance of NKG2D receptor polymorphism in cancer

15:30-15:40 Katja Dumic Kubat: *De novo* mutations in congenital adrenal hyperplasia: importance of parental testing and HLA typing

15:40-16:00 CLOSURE CEREMONY

Chairs: Renata Zunec, Zorana Grubic

Award: Best poster presentation

Award: Best oral presentation

Concluding remarks





Clear Molecular Insights, Confident Transplant Care

A biopsy-based laboratory-developed test that evaluates the molecular expression of rejection and injury within kidney and heart.

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- **Actionable data:** Provides reproducible results



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Curious?



POSTER PRESENTATIONS / GROUP 1

Chairs: Malgorzata Dudkiewicz, Monica Dutescu, Aleksandar Petlichkovski

1	Antonij Slavcev	Kidney paired donation in the Czech Republic – results, international collaboration and perspectives
2	Aleksandra Dolega	Pretransplant anti-HLA immunization in Polish liver transplant candidates: a single-center study
3	Aleksandra Marciniak	Immunological risk assessment in kidney transplantation from a living donor: verification of donor-specific anti-HLA antibodies using the MagSort assay
4	Elena Longhi	Luminex evaluation of the impact of <i>de novo</i> non-anti HLA antibodies in a population of lung transplanted patients
5	Elena Longhi	Innovative biomarker strategies: a preliminary study of the role of donor-derived cell-free DNA in heart transplanted patients
6	Elena Longhi	ddcfDNA in lung transplant follow-up: a prospective, single-center study
7	Jacek Nowak	Association of extended KIR haplotypes with bone marrow failure
8	Timotej Suri	Prediction of acute graft-versus-host disease using the MAGIC algorithm

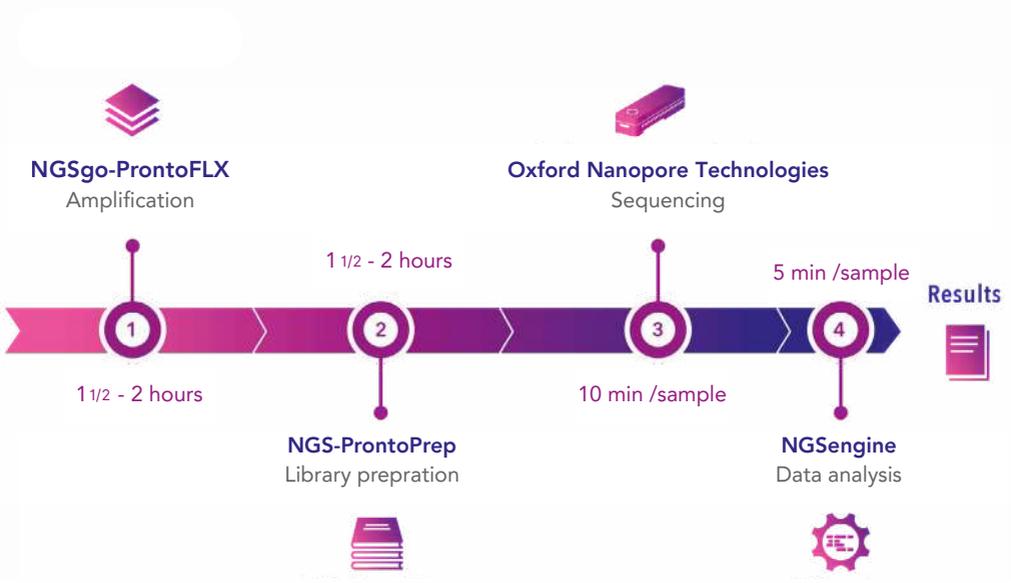
POSTER PRESENTATIONS / GROUP 2

Chairs: Aniko Szilvasi, Milena Vrana, Sabine Wenda

9	Sotirija Duvlis	Gene variants of TNF α (rs361525, rs1800629), IL-10 (rs1800872), and IL-4 R (rs1805010) and their association with HPV-positive cervical abnormalities
10	Gordana Tomac	Antenatal management of fetal and neonatal alloimmune thrombocytopenia: integration of clinical history and maternal HLA-DRB1/3/4/5 genotyping in clinical decision-making
11	Mariana Pavel-Tanasa	Autoimmune diseases and drug allergies: is there a common immunogenetic ground mediated by HLA-B?
12	Barbara Stanic	Distinct HLA allele association signatures among patients with psoriatic arthropathies and psoriasis alone in population of southern Croatia

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13	Sylwia Bialy	Genetic variability and expression of the TIM-3–galectin-9 pathway in rheumatoid arthritis
14	Lara Krkanic	The association between HLA alleles and beta-lactam related hypersensitivity
15	Iva Zulj	Lupus nephritis and HLA gene polymorphism: a pilot study
16	Vjeran Rapan	Association of human leukocyte antigen alleles and eplets with synovial response following total knee arthroplasty: a pilot study
17	Anita Primorac Maric	Distribution of HLA-C alleles in dermatological patients with psoriasis at University Clinical Hospital Mostar

POSTER PRESENTATIONS / GROUP 3

Chairs: Zorana Andric, Sendi Montanic, Onur Ozer

18	Katarina Stingl Jankovic	The importance of HLA population studies for the precise characterisation of common and well-documented alleles worldwide
19	Lucija Jukic	Characterization of 69 novel HLA alleles identified in Croatia
20	Zeljka Miladinovic	HLA recombination events in the haematological patient families
21	Agnieszka Witkowska	Application of the new MiSeq i100 plus Illumina device for HLA typing using AlloSeq Tx CareDx tests
22	Hrvoje Rimac	Analysis of nonconformities in a tissue typing laboratory
23	Orjeta Bonaca	Fetal bovine serum (FBS) pretreatment improves HLA antibody detection by eliminating non-specific background in single bead-based assays
24	Ivana Gorski	WNV infection in Croatian blood donors: seven years of ID-NAT screening
25	Zita Postenyi	Implementation of the NanoTYPE next generation sequencing technology in Hungary
26	Meri Kirijas	Technologies and strategies used for HLA typing in a histocompatibility lab in a small country

Coming soon

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- OneLambda™ MagSort

Blood Screening

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Providing clinicians with accurate test results, we can help advance the practice of transplant medicine.



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