

Swiss Autophagy Conference 2026

September 3-4

PER 21, G140, University of Fribourg

"Autophagy in Development, Disease and Ageing"

Program

Thursday, September 3, 2026

09:30-10:30 Registration & Welcome Coffee

10:30-10:45 Welcome address

Session 1

10:45-11:15 Malene Hansen (Buck Institute for Research on Aging, US)
Regulation of autophagy in aging and disease

11:15-11:30 Yumi Arima (ETH Zurich)
Deciphering the coordination of lysosomes and FIS1 in mediating mitochondrial peripheral division

11:30-11:45 César Bernat Silvestre (University of Geneva)
Disruption of CHMP1A-dependent lysosomal homeostasis underlies neurodegenerative disease

11:45-12:00 Vanessa Bieberstein (University of Freiburg, DE)
Decoding ULK1 kinase signaling in mitophagy

12:00-12:04 Ibrahim Bayramoglu (University of Fribourg)
Proteomic Investigation of TBK1 Signalling in Mitochondrial Stress

12:04-12:08 Rocio Benitez Fernandez (University of Fribourg)
Mitophagy as a regulatory pathway in oligodendrocyte differentiation and myelin integrity

12:08-12:12 Melanie Brunner (University of Fribourg)
GSK3 β Regulates Autophagy and Chaperone Assisted Selective Autophagy Through Direct Phosphorylation of Key Substrates

12:12-12:16 Sophie Buchser (University of Fribourg)
The tissue-specific proteome of autophagosomes

12:20-12:30 "From principles to practice: advancing 3Rs implementation in biomedical research" - by the Swiss 3R Competence Centre (3RCC)

12:30-14:00 Lunch break

13:30-14:00 LS² section Autophagy member meeting

Session 2

14:00-14:30 **Evandro Fang** (University of Oslo, NO)
Fine-tuning mitophagy and mitochondrial biogenesis in promoting brain health and healthy longevity – from bench-top to bedside

14:30-14:45 **Shuqin Cao** (University of Oslo and Akershus University Hospital)
A tiny molecule derived from colourful fruit works as mitochondrial guardian mitigates Alzheimer's disease pathology

14:45-15:00 **Helen Carrasco Hope** (University of Fribourg)
Aging limits stem-like CD8⁺ T cell expansion through reversible metabolic defects that impair cancer immunotherapy

15:00-15:15 **David Cune** (University Hospital Lausanne)
Autophagy in dendritic cells drives immunosenescence through inflammatory reprogramming and CD4 T cell dysregulation

15:15-15:30 **Ferdinand Delleman** (University of Bern)
The role of selective autophagy of ribosomes in a life history trade-off between growth and survival in *C. elegans*

15:30-15:34 **Joséphine Cherière** (University of Fribourg)
New approaches to screen for novel direct mTORC1 targets

15:34-15:38 **Fabio Davanzo** (Universität Freiburg)
Atg4 and Atg8 at the phagophore assembly site

15:38-15:42 **Violina Dorogan** (University of Lausanne)
Unraveling the mechanisms of neuronal communication mediated by secretory autophagy

15:45-16:30 Coffee Break

Session 3

16:30-17:00 **Alexandra Stolz** (IBC2, Goethe-University Frankfurt, DE)
Knocking at the Door of ER-phagy: Regulation at the Plasma Membrane

- 17:00-17:15 **Lisa Gambarotto (University of Lausanne)**
Autophagic regulation of RNAs in the brain
- 17:15-17:30 **Carlos Jiménez García (University of Fribourg)**
NIX-dependent mitophagy sustains mitochondrial homeostasis in cone photoreceptors and preserves long-term vision
- 17:30-17:45 **Stephanie Kaeser-Pebernard (University of Fribourg)**
WBP2 is a phosphoinositide-sensing COPI adaptor that licenses ATG9A release from the TGN to drive phagophore maturation
- 17:45-17:49 **Rahim Ebert (Universität Freiburg)**
What Determines Whether a Phagophore Assembly Site Becomes an Autophagosome?
- 17:49-17:53 **Anushree Kelkar (University of Freiburg)**
The dynamic coordination of the autophagy machinery and mitochondrial fission during mitophagy
- 17:53-17:57 **Taimoor Khan (University of Warwick, UK)**
Novel Natural Products for Autophagy Modulation: From Engineered Microbes to Therapeutic Discovery
- 17:57-18:01 **Leon Lucya (University of Freiburg)**
A ULK1–MTFR1L feedback loop links mitochondrial fission, mitophagy and apoptosis
- 18:01-18:05 **Marta Mariniello (University of Zurich)**
Engaging autophagic clearance of mutant uromodulin rescues disease progression in kidney proteinopathy
- 18:05-18:09 **Harun-Or Rashid (University of Lausanne)**
MALT1 Protease Activity Maintains Mitochondrial Homeostasis in B and T Cells through Optineurin Cleavage
- 18:10-18:15 **Group picture**
- 18:15-19:30 **Apéro**

Thursday, September 4, 2026

08:30-09:00 Registration & Welcome Coffee

Session 4

09:00-09:30 Rajat Singh (University of California, US)
TBA

- 09:30-09:45 **Mathilde Nugue (University of Zurich)**
Autophagy in EBV- and KSHV- CoInfected Primary Effusion Lymphoma: A Friend or a Foe?
- 09:45-10:00 **Louise Pierre (University of Zurich)**
Autophagy regulator ATG7 links lipid metabolism to epithelial cell-fate decisions in kidney tubule health and disease
- 10:00-10:15 **Mikhail Rudinskiy (IRB Bellinzona)**
Manipulating organelle size and turnover with ORGAnelle TArgeting Chimeras (ORGATACs)
- 10:15-10:19 **Zilan Yaren Susun (University of Lausanne)**
Golgiphagy as a hallmark of Neuronal Autosis in Perinatal Hypoxic-Ischemic Brain Injury
- 10:19-10:23 **Danielle Thompson (University of Zurich)**
The viral tegument protein BRRF2 interacts with LC3B for autophagic envelopment of the Epstein-Barr virus
- 10:30-11:00 Coffee break**
- 11:00-11:15 **Livia Schoch (University of Zurich)**
CtIP and FBXO3: Is Autophagy the Missing Link?
- 11:15-11:30 **Stefano Vanni (University of Fribourg)**
Atg18 interaction positions Atg2 for efficient lipid transfer into phagophore elongation
- 11:30-11:34 **Erin Wosnitzka (University of Lausanne)**
Secretory autophagy shapes the neuronal surface via Golgi-independent protein secretion
- 11:34-11:38 **Bujar Zenuni (University of Fribourg)**
Unraveling the regulation and function of the PI3P phosphatase MTMR2 in macroautophagy
- 11:45-12:15 Tassula Proikas Cezanne (University of Tuebingen, DE)**
TBA
- 12:15-12:30 Awards**
- 12:30-14:00 Lunch and departure**