

Postgraduate course Programme

Two lives at risk: Navigating infectious diseases in pregnancy

Lund, Sweden
10 – 12 June 2026



Faculty Members

Sweden	Fredrik Månsson
Sweden	Gülşen Özkaya Şahin
Finland	Heli Harvala
Sweden	John Walles
Slovenia	Mojca Matičič
Türkiye	Murat Akova
United Kingdom	Müge Çevik
Croatia	Neven Papic
Romania	Oana Sandulescu
Sweden	Onur Karatuna
Türkiye	Önder Ergönül
Sweden	Sara Karlsson Söbirk
Sweden	Selamawit Fisseha Mekuria
India	Sumit Rawat
Türkiye	Şiran Keske
Sweden	Tina Lejding
Sweden	Torgny Sunnerhagen
Egypt	Zeinab Nabil Ahmed Said

Day 1 Wednesday, 10 June 2026

08:00 – 08:15 **Arrival and registration**

08:15 – 08:30 **Introduction**
Gülşen Özkaya Şahin

SESSION I: PREGNANCY AND INFECTION: PHYSIOLOGY, IMMUNITY, AND THE PLACENTAL BARRIER

Chair: Oana Sandulescu

08:30 – 09:00 **The altered host: Immunology and antimicrobial dynamics in pregnancy**
Müge Çevik

09:00 – 09:30 **Crossing the line: The placenta and the pathogenesis of vertical transmission**
Selamawit Fisseha Mekuria

SESSION II: VIRAL HEPATITIS IN PREGNANCY: FIVE VIRUSES, ONE HOST, MULTIPLE RISKS

Chair: Gülşen Özkaya Şahin

09:30 – 10:00 **Hepatitis A in pregnancy: Typically benign, occasionally devastating**
Zeinab Nabil Ahmed Said

10:00 – 10:30 **Hepatitis E and pregnancy: A deadly combination in endemic regions**
Mojca Maticic

10:30 – 10:50 Break

10:50 – 11:20 **Preventing perinatal transmission of Hepatitis B virus in the antiviral era**
Oana Săndulescu

11:20 – 11:50 **Hepatitis D in pregnancy: Double trouble with Delta**
Müge Çevik

11:50 – 12:20 **C for cure? The unfinished story of Hepatitis C in pregnant women**
Neven Papic

12:20 – 13:30 Lunch break

SESSION III: SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS IN PREGNANCY: HIDDEN THREATS, VISIBLE IMPACT

Chair: Murat Akova

13:30 – 14:00 **Protecting two lives: managing HIV in the expectant mother**
Fredrik Månsson

14:00 – 14:30 **The comeback of congenital syphilis: A 21st-century public health challenge**
Tina Lejding

14:30 – 15:00 **Stealthy pathogens, serious outcomes: Gonococci and Chlamydia in maternal health**
Onur Karatuna

15:00 – 15:30 **Managing HPV in pregnancy: What we know, what we watch**
Selamawit Fisseha Mekuria

15:30 – 15:50 Break

SESSION IV: VECTORS OF VULNERABILITY: ARTHROPOD-BORNE INFECTIONS IN PREGNANCY

Chair: Torgny Sunnerhagen

15:50 – 16:20 **Zikavirus and the unseen legacy: Microcephaly and beyond in congenital infection**
Şiran Keske

16:20 – 16:50 **Navigating dengue fever and Chikungunya during pregnancy: Evidence and management**
Sumit Rawat

16:50 – 17:20 **Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever and pregnancy: What do we really know?**
Önder Ergönül

17:20 – 17:50 **Plasmodium and the placenta: Managing malaria in expectant mother**
Sara Karlsson Söbirk

17:50 – 18:20 **Case discussions**
Torgny Sunnerhagen

Day 2 Thursday, 11 June 2026

SESSION V: MATERNAL RASHES, FETAL CONSEQUENCES: MANAGING EXANTHEMATOUS ILLNESSES IN PREGNANCY

Chair: Anu Kantele

08:00 – 08:30	Measles in pregnancy: A re-emerging threat to maternal and foetal health Heli Harvala
08:30 – 09:00	Uncommon but concerning: Mumps infection in pregnancy William Irving
09:00 – 09:30	Chickenpox in pregnancy: Preventing congenital varicella syndrome Oana Săndulescu
09:30 – 10:00	Parvovirus B19 in pregnancy: When a rash becomes a risk for foetal anaemia Gülşen Özkaya Şahin
10:00 – 10:20	Break

SESSION VI: CROSSING THE PLACENTA: REVISITING THE TORCH SPECTRUM IN PREGNANCY

Chair: Önder Ergönül

10:20 – 10:50	Toxoplasmosis in pregnancy: Timing is everything Fredrik Månsson
10:50 – 11:20	Rubella in pregnancy: Preventable but not forgotten Sumit Rawat
11:20 – 11:50	CMV in pregnancy: Common, congenital, and complex Gülşen Özkaya Şahin
11:50 – 12:20	HSV and pregnancy: Managing the risk at delivery William Irving
12:20 – 13:30	Lunch break
13:30 – 15:30	Visit to Clinical Microbiology Lund Sara Karlsson Söbirk & Gülşen Özkaya Şahin
15:30 – 15:50	Break

SESSION VII: BREATHING FOR TWO: RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS IN PREGNANCY AND FOETAL RISK

Chair: Sara Karlsson Söbirk

15:50 – 16:20	COVID-19 in pregnancy: From maternal morbidity to neonatal outcomes Neven Papic
16:20 – 16:50	Influenza during pregnancy: A preventable but persistent threat Zeinab Nabil Ahmed Said
16:50 – 17:20	Two lives at risk: Tuberculosis management in the pregnant population John Walles
17:20 – 17:50	Group A Streptococcus: An old pathogen, a new maternal menace Torgny Sunnerhagen

Day 3 Friday, 12 June 2026

SESSION VIII: FROM GUT TO BIRTH: GASTROINTESTINAL COLONIZERS AND THEIR MATERNAL-FETAL IMPACT

Chair: Neven Papic

08:00 – 08:30	Enteroviruses in pregnancy: Mild infections, major outcomes Heli Harvala
08:30 – 09:00	Listeria monocytogenes: From foodborne exposure to fetal harm Şiran Keske
09:00 – 09:30	Salmonella and pregnancy: Navigating risks of systemic spread Onur Karatuna
09:30 – 10:00	Group B Streptococcus: Gut coloniser with obstetric consequences Murat Akova
10:00 – 10:20	Break

SESSION IX: MATERNAL CARE IN ACTION: SCREENING, DIAGNOSIS, AND PREVENTION

Chair: Sumit Rawat

10:20 – 10:50	Antibiotic use in pregnancy: Balancing maternal benefit and fetal safety Önder Ergönül
10:50 – 11:20	Screening strategies in pregnancy: What, when, and for whom? Mojca Maticic
11:20 – 11:50	Seeing the unseen: The diagnostic power of prenatal ultrasound in congenital infections Asma Khalil
11:50 – 12:20	Vaccination in pregnancy: Protecting two lives at once Murat Akova
12:20 – 13:20	Lunch break
13:20 – 14:00	Roundtable Önder Ergönül, Gülşen Özkaya Şahin
14:00 – 14:15	Concluding remarks and feedback

Programme

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Organisers



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