

Postgraduate course Programme

# **Bacteriophage therapy and phage-derived proteins: Dual strategies against antimicrobial resistance and for diagnostic innovation**

Tbilisi, Georgia  
11 – 13 May 2026



**Faculty Members**

Georgia	<b>Tamar Didbaridze</b>
Georgia	<b>Mzia Kutateladze</b>
Poland	<b>Zuzanna Drulis-Kawa</b>
Georgia	<b>Sophio Rigvava</b>
Georgia	<b>Dea Nizharadze</b>
Georgia	<b>Lia Nadareishvili</b>
Georgia	<b>Mariam Dadiani</b>
Georgia	<b>Nikoloz Pruidze</b>
Canada	<b>Greg German</b>
Israel	<b>Ran Nir-Paz</b>
Italy	<b>Alfonso Recordare</b>
Italy	<b>Novella Cesta</b>
USA	<b>Gina Suh</b>
France	<b>Tristan Ferry</b>
Portugal	<b>Joana Azeredo</b>
Switzerland	<b>Martin J. Loessner</b>
Belgium	<b>Yves Briers</b>
Belgium	<b>Rob Lavigne</b>
Germany	<b>Silvia Würstle</b>

Day 1 venue: Tbilisi State Medical University (Address: 33 Vazha-Pshavela Ave, Tbilisi)

Day 1            Monday, 11 May 2026

10:00 – 10:30    **Registration and welcome**

**Session 1: Georgian leadership in phage therapy — Legacy, impact, and lessons from the Eliava institute's experience**

*Chairs: Ran Nir-Paz, Joana Azeredo*

10:30 – 10:50    **Experience of phage therapy in Georgia**  
Mzia Kutateladze

10:50 – 11:10    **AMR as a global problem**  
Tamar Didbaridze

11:10 – 11:30    **Achievements and challenges of phage therapy: a retrospective analysis based on the experience of the Eliava phage therapy center**  
Dea Nizharadze

**11:30 – 12:00    Coffee break**

**Session 2: Bacteriophages in clinical practice I**

*Chair: Gina Suh, Nikoloz Pruidze*

12:00 – 12:20    **Tips and tricks in the clinical applications of phage therapy. The Italian experience.**  
Alfonso Recordare

12:20 – 12:40    **Phages for urine tract infection clinical trials and tribulations**  
Greg German

12:40 – 13:00    **Phage therapy in musculoskeletal infections**  
Tristan Ferry

13:00 – 13:20    **Phage therapy in immunocompromised patients**  
Mariam Dadiani

13:20- 13:40    **Global network, regulatory sandboxes and public policy**  
Greg German

**13:40 – 14:40    Lunch**

**Session 3: Bacteriophages in Clinical Practice II**

*Chair: Mzia Kutateladze, Greg German*

14:40 – 15:00    **Establishing a phage therapy center – the Israeli experience and lessons**  
Ran Nir-Paz

15:00 – 15:20    **Perspectives of phage therapy in gut microbiota dysbiosis**  
Lia Nadareishvili

15:20 – 15:40    **Phage therapy experience in Italy**  
Novella Cesta

15:40 – 16:00    **Phage therapy in surgery**  
Nikoloz Pruidze

Day 2 venue: Eliava Institute of Bacteriophages (Address: 3 Levan Gotua St, Tbilisi)

Day 2 Tuesday, 12 May 2026

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**Session 4: tailoring phages and proteins for precision applications**

*Chair: Rob Lavigne, Krystyna Dąbrowska*

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10:00 – 10:20	<b>Reprogrammed predators: Engineering phages and their proteins for superior antibacterial action</b> Martin J. Loessner
10:20 – 10:40	<b>Breaking the shield: Phages and their enzymes in the battle against biofilms</b> Joana Azeredo
10:40 – 11:00	<b>From lysis to lifesaving: Engineering phage lysins for therapeutic innovation</b> Yves Briers
11:00-11:20	<b>Capsule killers: Phage-derived depolymerases in antivirulence therapy and bacterial detection</b> Zuzanna Drulis-Kawa,
<b>11:20 – 12:00</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>

**Session 5: Phage-Based Strategies: From Bench to Bedside**

*Chair: Zuzanna Drulis-Kawa, Martin J. Loessner*

12:00 – 12:20	<b>Engineering of 3rd-generation endolysins to target complex <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> infections</b> Rob Lavigne
12:20 – 12:40	<b>Consensus-based guidelines on personalized phage therapy</b> Silvia Würstle
12:40 – 13:00	<b>Anti-staphylococcal lysin cf-301 for staphylococcal prosthetic joint infections: Data from patients treated in a compassionate use program or in the first clinical trial performed in the field</b> Tristan Ferry
13:00 – 13:20	<b>Chapter one: First U.S. endolysin clinical cases in PJI</b> Gina Suh
13:20 – 13:40	<b>Establishing an ESCMID working group for phage related therapies</b> Ran Nin-Paz
<b>13:40 – 14:40</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
14:40 – 15:30	<b>Q&amp;A session on phage proteins</b>
15:30 – 16:30	<b>Laboratory workshop introduction - organized by ASCLEPIUS</b> Sophio Rigvava
16:30 – 18:00	<b>Laboratory practical – Phagogram development</b> <b>Group I and II</b> Sophio Rigvava  <b>Group III and IV</b> Ia Kusradze

Day 3 venue: Eliava Institute of Bacteriophages (Address: 3 Levan Gotua St, Tbilisi)

Day 3      Wednesday, 13 May 2026

**Phage Therapy Tutorials**

09:00 – 10:00	<b>T1. Phage therapy for urinary tract infections (Group 1)</b> Greg German, Alexandre Ujmajuridze
	<b>T2. Phage therapy for musculoskeletal infections: Surgical perspectives (Group 2)</b> Tristan Ferry, Nikoloz Pruidze
	<b>T3. Phage therapy for skin and soft tissue infections (Group 3)</b> Ran Nir-Paz, Mariam Dadiani
	<b>T4. Phage therapy for respiratory infections (Group 4)</b> Gina Suh, Nata Nakaidze
10:00 – 11:00	<b>T1. Phage therapy for urinary tract infections (Group 2)</b> Greg German, Alexandre Ujmajuridze
	<b>T2. Phage therapy for musculoskeletal infections: Surgical perspectives (Group 3)</b> Tristan Ferry, Nikoloz Pruidze
	<b>T3. Phage therapy for skin and soft tissue infections (Group 4)</b> Ran Nir-Paz, Mariam Dadiani
	<b>T4. Phage therapy for respiratory infections (Group 1)</b> Gina Suh, Nata Nakaidze
<b>11:00-11:30</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>
11:30 – 12:30	<b>T1. Phage therapy for urinary tract infections (Group 3)</b> Greg German, Alexandre Ujmajuridze
	<b>T2. Phage therapy for musculoskeletal infections: Surgical perspectives (Group 4)</b> Tristan Ferry, Nikoloz Pruidze
	<b>T3. Phage therapy for skin and soft tissue infections (Group 1)</b> Ran Nir-Paz, Mariam Dadiani
	<b>T4. Phage therapy for respiratory infections (Group 2)</b> Gina Suh, Nata Nakaidze
12:30 – 13:30	<b>T1. Phage therapy for urinary tract infections (Group 4)</b> Greg German, Alexandre Ujmajuridze
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	<b>T3. Phage therapy for skin and soft tissue infections (Group 2)</b> Ran Nir-Paz, Mariam Dadiani
	<b>T4. Phage therapy for respiratory infections (Group 3)</b> Gina Suh, Nata Nakaidze
13:30-14:00	<b>Evaluation of results of lab testing</b>

## Bacteriophage Therapy and Phage-Derived Proteins

Tbilisi, Georgia



<b>14:00 - 15:00</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>Meet the Expert (interactive session)</b>	
15:00– 16:00	<p><b>Group mentoring and discussion; pre-session preparation; available experts:</b>                  Biotechnologist – specializing in protein engineering and therapeutic development                  Microbiologist – with expertise in phage and bacterial biology, and clinical diagnostics                  Clinician - expert in translating lab findings into clinical practice</p>
16:00-16:30	<p><b>Interactive quiz: “Phage proteins: From genome to application” – Phage protein knowledge evaluation</b>                  Zuzanna Drulis-Kawa</p>
16:30 – 17:30	<p><b>Roundtable discussion (interactive session) - Phage treatment – current challenges and future perspectives</b>                   All speakers  <i>Moderators:</i> Yves Briers, Tristan Ferry</p>
17:30 – 18:00	<p><b>Closing remarks</b>                  Tamar Didbaridze and Zuzanna Drulis-Kawa</p>

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