



# ESCMID

Study Group for  
Non-traditional Antibacterial  
Therapy ESGNTA

Dear ESGNTA members,

We are excited to see you at ESCMID in Munich!

## 1. ESCMID Global 2026 Munich, Germany April 17-21, 2026!



# ESCMID Global



Please join us for numerous phage-related activities! Below are some of the major highlights. Please see the programme for the comprehensive list. In blue are the events which are not published in the programme.

Date	Time	Session	Topic	Key Speakers / Chairs	Location
<b>Fri 17 Apr</b>	08:30–10:30	Educational session	Viral therapies to tackle biofilm-associated infections	Joana Azeredo	Hall ICM 13a
<b>Sat 18 Apr</b>	09:30	Symposium ESGNTA co-sponsored	Bacteriophages and their interaction with the gut microbiome	Chairs: Zuzanna Drulis-Kawa & Mauricio Farfan	Hall A1-1

Date	Time	Session	Topic	Key Speakers / Chairs	Location
Sat 18 Apr	09:30– 10:30		ESGNTA Business Meeting	Executive Committee	Room ICM3
Sat 18 Apr	16:15- 18:15	Symposium ESGNTA sponsored	Cracking the phage code: from clinical insights to precision design	Chairs: Tristan Ferry & Jean-Paul Pirnay	Hall ICM 1
			Designing Clinical Trials around Phage Therapy	Pranita Tamma	
			Randomised controlled trials of phage therapy in diabetic foot ulcers	Ran Nir-Paz	
			AI for host-phage interaction prediction	Michiel Stock	
			Towards cell-free production and selection of therapeutic phages	Antoine Levrier	
Sun 19 Apr	08:30- 10:00		<b>PHAGISTRY Meeting</b> <i>Please sign up <a href="#">here</a></i>	Shawna McCallin	Ostersee, ICM 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
Sun 19 Apr	13:30– 14:30	Oral Session	Susceptibility testing of phages	Chair: Annika Yanina Classen	Hall A2-1
			Mechanisms of phage-driven resensitisation	C. Tellapragada	
			Phage–antibiotic interactions in <i>Pseudomonas</i>	Y. Chikhani	
			Israeli Phage Therapy Centre susceptibility testing experience	R. Braunstein	
			Mutation increasing phage susceptibility in <i>Klebsiella</i>	N. Rakhi	
			Broth microdilution phage/antibiotic synergy testing	A.M. Örmälä-Tiznado	
Sun 19 Apr	16:15– 17:15	Symposium ESGNTA co- sponsored	Future of clinical phage susceptibility testing	Chairs : Saima Aslam & Laurent Frédéric	Hall B0-1
			Bacteriophage potency & QC: guidelines vs real life	Pieter-Jan Ceysens	

Date	Time	Session	Topic	Key Speakers / Chairs	Location
			EUCAST perspectives on phage susceptibility testing	Annika Classen	
Sun 19 Apr	17:30-18:30	ePoster Flash Session	Beyond the cocktail: advances in phage therapy	Chair: Maria Vehreschild	Arena 4
Sun 19 Apr	19:00-on		<b>PHAGE NIGHT OUT!</b>		<b>TBD</b>
Mon 20 Apr	16:15-17:15	Symposium ESGNTA co-sponsored	Bacteriophages in implant-related infections	Chairs: Gina Suh & Andrej Trampuz	Hall BO-1
			Phage therapy in cardiac and orthopaedic device infections	Tristan Ferry	
			Challenges & future directions of phagotherapy in MDR implant infections	Thomas Moriarty	
Mon 20 Apr	14:45-15:45	Case Session	Phage therapy for complex infections	Chairs: Zuzanna Drulis-Kawa & Spyros Pournaras	Hall BO-1
			Personalised phage therapy for multidrug-resistant infections in thoracic organ transplant recipients	C. Kuehn	
			Breaking the cycle of relapse: personalised phage therapy in MDR <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> LVAD infection	S. Ferin	
			Novel antibiotic-phage therapy duo rapidly resolves XDR-AB pneumonia after liver transplant	W. Wang	
			Precision-matched bacteriophage therapy for prosthetic aortic graft infections: a single-centre observational case series	E. Rubalskii	
			Phage therapy for refractory, native joint <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> arthritis with infected bone necrosis	M. Dekel	

Date	Time	Session	Topic	Key Speakers / Chairs	Location
Tue 21 Apr	11:00–12:00	Oral Session	Making phages GMP-ready: the manufacturing challenge	Chairs: Ran Nir-Paz & Jean-Paul Pirnay	Hall ICM 13a
			Guideline on personalised bacteriophage therapy	S. Würstle	
			Scalable manufacturing for therapeutic phages	R. Ng	
			Prophage induction during therapeutic phage production	P. Pastouriaux	
			Cell-free system for next-generation phage therapy	S.C. Nang	
			French public platform for GMP therapeutic phages	L. Frédéric	

## 2. Study group elections - Congratulations to our new executive committee!



Shawna McCallin    Ran Nir-Paz



Novella Cesta



Jean-Paul Pirnay



Gina Suh

The individual roles will be determined shortly. Please attend the ESGNTA Business Meeting on Saturday April 18 at 0930-1030 in Room ICM3 for a review of the past year and the vision for the future!

The new board will select an **early-career member or trainee** to join the EC from those who have expressed interest.

# 3. Upcoming Workshops and Conferences

## 3.1 Postgraduate course Bacteriophage Therapy and Phage-Derived Proteins: Dual Strategies Against Antimicrobial Resistance and for Diagnostic Innovation

May 11-13, 2026

Tbilisi, Georgia

Workshop details are published and registration is open here, as well as updated program: <https://www.escmid.org/event-detail/bacteriophage-therapy-and-phage-derived-proteins-dual-strategies/>

Please be aware that there are 16 attendance grants, and details on how to apply are listed in the workshop site.

### 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 Vashakmadze</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>
Sweden	<b>Federico Iovino</b>



### 3.2 Jafral Phage Summit '26

Jafral is hosting its first global phage summit in **Ljubljana, Slovenia May 19-21, 2026** to bring together biotech and pharma innovators, clinicians, regulators, pharmacists, industry leaders and researchers to advance phage therapy and combat antimicrobial resistance.

Here is the link to find out more: <https://www.jafral.com/phage-summit-2026>

### 3.3 VoM - Viruses of Microbes 2026

VoM 2026 is going to take place in **Prague, Czech Republic 6 – 10 July, 2026**. The clinical session will be ESGNTA-supported and will be in 2 consecutive days. The sessions will have 2 pre-selected speakers and the rest will be selected from submitted abstracts.

You can find more information here : <https://www.vom2026.org>

Registration and hotel booking is now open!



### 3.3 ESGNTA Workshop – Rome 2027!

ESGNTA is planning a two-day international workshop in Rome, bringing together leaders of ongoing trials, regulatory authorities, and other phage experts to discuss key challenges and opportunities to advance phage therapy into clinical practice. Stay tuned for the full program!



## 4. Publications of ESGNTA Members

Don't forget to include the ESGNTA affiliation in your publication—every mention helps! If your publication involves members from multiple countries, it further enhances our visibility within ESCMID, so please ensure ESGNTA is listed as an additional affiliation. Additionally, let us know about your publication so we can help promote it here.

**ESGNTA affiliation for publications: Add “ESCMID Study Group for Non-traditional Antibacterial therapy (ESGNTA)” after your university affiliation**

## 5. Welcome new members!

As of March 12, 2026, ESGNTA now has **1284** members!!

**On behalf of the ESGNTA Executive Committee,**

**Chair: Prof. Ran NIR-PAZ**

**Treasurer: Prof. Zuzanna DRULIS-KAWA**

**Secretary: Dr. Gina SUH**

**Science Officer: Dr. Jean-Paul PIRNAY**

**Education Officer / Clinical Officer: Prof. Tristan FERRY**

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Follow us on Twitter! [@ESGNTA](https://twitter.com/ESGNTA)