

Invitation to the BALR Annual Conference 2025

Cardiff, September 8-10, 2025

Dear Colleagues & Friends,

It is our great pleasure to invite you to **Cardiff** for the **Annual British Association of Lung Research (BALR) Conference 2025**.

We are excited to bring together the UK's leading respiratory scientists for three days of engaging scientific exchange, developing collaborative opportunities, and sharing new ideas. This year's conference theme, "**New Horizons in Respiratory Research**," features a dynamic programme exploring emerging technologies and cross-disciplinary approaches that have the potential to transform our understanding and treatment of lung diseases.

A highlight of the programme is our **expert panel discussion on research priorities** across various respiratory conditions, alongside plenary sessions led by distinguished national and international speakers.

Supporting and showcasing **early-career researchers (ECRs)** remains central to the BALR mission. We are proud to offer a range of opportunities for ECRs, including oral presentation awards, poster sessions, and abstract-selected talks integrated throughout the programme.

The conference will be held at the **Hadyn Ellis Building at Cardiff University**, a modern and well-connected venue in the heart of the city.

We are also delighted to host the **conference dinner** at the iconic **Coal Exchange Hotel**, just 450 yards from Cardiff Bay. This **Grade II*** listed heritage building is one of Cardiff's most treasured landmarks, beautifully restored as a luxury hotel while preserving its rich architectural character. Once central to the global coal trade, the Coal Exchange now stands as a symbol of the city's proud industrial past—an atmospheric and elegant setting for an evening of networking, fine dining, and celebration.

We warmly invite you to join us this **September in Cardiff**,

Local BALR 2025 Organising Committee

Renata Jurkowska

& Lung Epigenetics Team

(Stephanie Pohl, Amy Ward, Petar Popov, Darius Pease, Phoebe Ross and Krishna Kerai)

Organising Committee

Conference organisers:

Dr Renata Z. Jurkowska (Cardiff)

Dr Stephenie Pohl (Cardiff)

Dr Amy Ward (Cardiff)

Petar Popov (Cardiff)

Darius Pease (Cardiff)

Phoebe Ross (Cardiff)

Krischna Kerai (Cardiff)

Prof. Karl Staples (Southampton), BALR Chair
& BALR Committee

Topics & Session Highlights

New Horizons in Respiratory Diseases – Expert Panel Discussion

Generic Drivers of Lung Diseases

Epigenetics & Environmental Interactions

New Omics Technologies

Cellular Interactions in the Lung

AI-assisted Drug Discovery

Novel Cell, Organoid & Tissue models

Competitions & Awards

Spoken sessions:

Postgraduate prize (including technicians, MSc and PhD students)

Early Career prize (up to 6 years after award of PhD or equivalent)

Mid-Career prize (7 years or more post-PhD or equivalent)

Poster sessions & Flash talks:

Awards available for all career stages

Our big thanks to the BALR 2025 Meeting Sponsors

Gold:



Silver:



**CARDIFF CHEST
FEDERATION**

Bronze:



Others:



BALR 2025 – program draft
Cardiff, September 8th- 10th, 2025
 Hadyn Ellis Building, Maindy Road, Cardiff, CF24 4HQ

12:30 am – 2:00 pm	Registration Opens	Hadyn Ellis Building reception area
--------------------	--------------------	-------------------------------------

Day 1: Opening: 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

2:00 pm – 2:15 pm	Welcome by the Organizers and Housekeeping	Lecture Hall
Opening Keynote	Chaired by: TBC	
2.15 pm – 3.00 pm	Sir Peter Barnes , (Imperial College London, UK)	The future of COPD

Day 1: Session 1: 3:00 pm – 4:45 pm

Session 1: New Horizons in Respiratory Diseases Chaired by: TBC		
3:00 pm – 3:25 pm	James Chalmers (University of Dundee, UK)	New Horizons in bronchiectasis
3:25 pm – 3:50 pm	Amanda Tatler (Nottingham University, UK)	New Horizons in fibrotic lung diseases
3:50 pm – 4:15 pm	Sailesh Kotecha (Cardiff University, UK)	New Horizons in prematurity-associated lung disease
4:15 pm – 4:45 pm	Panel discussion	
Coffee break: 4:45 pm - 5:15 pm		

Day 1: Session 2: 5:15 pm – 6:00 pm

Session 2: Early Career Researcher Competition Chaired by: TBC Judged by: TBC		
5:15 pm – 5:30 pm		
5:30 pm – 5:45 pm		
5:45 pm – 6:00 pm		

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Poster session and welcome finger food (possibly 2 BALR summer studentship 5 min presentation each, plus 1 min flash talks (25 min) followed by poster session) Chairs: Julie Worrell and Stephanie Pohl		
--	--	--

Day 2: Session 3: 9:00 am – 10:00 am

Time	Speaker	Talk Title
Session 3: Gene-environment interactions Chaired by: TBC		
9:00 am – 9:20 am	Louise Wain (Leicester, UK)	Genetics of lung fibrosis – promises and challenges
9:20 am – 09:40 am	Catherine Hogan (Cardiff, UK)	Deregulated cell extrusion triggers early KRAS-driven disease in the lung epithelium
09:40 am – 09:55 am	Selected from abstracts	

Coffee break 09.55 am – 10.30 am

Day 2: Session 4: 10:30 am – 11:30 am

Time	Speaker	Talk Title
Session 4: It's not all in your genes - epigenetics comes into play Chaired by: TBC		
10:30 am – 10:50 am	Renata Jurkowska (Cardiff, UK)	From omics to targets – epigenetic regulation in COPD
10:50 am – 11:10 pm	Rachel Clifford (Nottingham, UK)	Cell-type and sex-specific epigenetics in IPF
11:10 pm – 11:30 pm	John Holloway (Southampton, UK)	Legacies of tobacco smoke: epigenetics and early life environment in the origins of respiratory disease

11.30 am – 1.00 pm (2 BALR studentships talks, 5 min each, 1 min flash talks (25 min))
 followed by Poster session 2

Chairs: Julie Worrell and Stephanie Pohl

Lunch 1.00 pm – 2.15 pm

Day 2: Session 5: 2:15 pm – 3:00 pm

Time	Speaker	Talk Title
Session 5: Postgraduate competition Chaired by: TBC Judged by: TBC		
2:15 pm – 2:30 pm		
2:30 pm – 2:45 pm		
2:45 pm – 3:00 pm		

Day 2: Session 6: 3:00 pm – 4.00 pm

Time	Speaker	Info
Session 6: New kids on the block – leveraging new omics technologies for the discovery of new biomarkers and drug targets Chaired by: TBC		
3.00 pm – 3:20 pm	Alison John (London, UK)	Investigating the fibrotic niche in IPF using spatial transcriptomics

3:20 pm – 3:40 pm	Luis Muir (Aberystwyth University)	Using metabolomics to inform the diagnosis and treatment of respiratory disease
3:40 pm – 4:00 pm	Timothy Hinks (Oxford, UK)	Single-cell and spatial studies in asthma
4.00 pm – 4.15 pm	Selected from abstracts	
Coffee break 4:10 pm – 4.45 pm		

Time	Speaker	Info
Session 7: Interactions at play – understanding cellular interactions for patient benefit Chaired by: TBC		
4.45pm – 5:05 pm	Carly Bliss (Cardiff University, UK)	Intranasal vaccines against respiratory viruses
5:05 pm – 5:20 pm	Julian Forton (Cardiff University, UK)	Home spit for studying respiratory infections in cystic fibrosis
5:20 pm – 5:35 pm	TBC	Metabolic reprogramming in fibrotic lung diseases
5.35 pm – 5.50	Selected from abstracts	

Day 2: Keynote: 5.50 pm – 6.35 pm

Chaired by Renata Jurkowska		
Keynote 5.50 pm – 6.35 pm	Alex Zhavoronkov (Insillico medicine) online	AI-assisted drug discovery and the tale behind the discovery of TNIK inhibitor for lung fibrosis

7.30 pm - 10:30 pm Conference dinner and party

Day 3: Session 8: 9:00 am – 10:00 am

Time	Speaker	Talk Title
Session 7: Mid-career researcher competition Chaired by: TBC Judged by: TBC		
9:00 am – 9:15 am		
9:15 am – 9:30 am		
9:30 am – 9:45 am		

Time	Speaker	Speaker / Info
Session 8: Modelling lung development, repair and disease Chaired by: Katie Roach and TBC		
9:45 am – 10:05 am	Charlotte Dean (Imperial College London, UK)	Precision-cut lung slices to study lung injury and repair
10.05 am – 10:20 am	Anna Krasnodembskaya (Queen's University Belfast)	Disease modelling in epithelial-mesenchymal-endothelial organoids

10:20 am – 10:35 am	Selected from abstracts	
10:35 am – 10:50 am	Selected from abstracts	
Coffee break 10:50 am – 11:20 am		

Day 3: Closing Keynote 3 11:20 am – 12:05 pm

Chaired by Renata Jurkowska		
Closing Keynote 11:20 am – 12:05 pm	Purushothama Rao Tata (Duke University, USA)	Multi-lineage circuits in lung regeneration

12:05 pm – 12:30 pm Awards and closing ceremony		
12:30 pm – 1:30 pm lunch or pick up lunch		