

**BALR 2025 – program draft**  
**Cardiff, September 8<sup>th</sup>- 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

Hadyn Ellis building, Maindy Road, Cardiff, CF24 4HQ

12:30 am – 2:00 pm	Registration Opens	Hadyn Ellis Building reception area
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**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	<b>Sir Peter Barnes</b> , (Imperial College London, UK)	Lessons from the past. Looking to the future in COPD research...

**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	<b>James Chalmers</b> (University of Dundee, UK)	New Horizons in bronchiectasis
3:25 pm – 3:50 pm	<b>Amanda Tatler</b> (Nottingham University, UK)	New Horizons in fibrotic lung diseases
3:50 pm – 4:15 pm	<b>Sailesh Kotecha</b> (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)	
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## 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	<b>Louise Waine</b> (Leicester, UK)	Genetics of COPD and IPF – promises and challenges
9:20 am – 09:40 am	<b>Catherine Hogan</b> (Cardiff, UK)	Cancer-driving mutations and cell competition 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	<b>Renata Jurkowska</b> (Cardiff, UK)	From omics to targets – epigenetic regulation in COPD
10:50 am – 11:10 pm	<b>Rachel Clifford</b> (Nottingham, UK)	Sex differences and epigenetics of IPF, Nanopore sequencing
11:10 pm – 11:30 pm	<b>John Holloway</b> (Southampton, UK)	Transgenerational epigenetics/smoking/asthma/early life exposures

11.30 am – 1. 00 pm (2 BALR studentships talks, 5 min each, 1 min flash talks (25 min))  
followed by Poster session 2

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	<b>Ali John</b> (London, UK)	Spatial transcriptomics in IPF

3:20 pm – 3:40 pm	<b>Luis Muir</b> (Aberystwyth University)	Using metabolomics to inform the diagnosis and treatment of respiratory disease
3:40 pm – 4:00 pm	<b>Timothy SC Hinks</b> (Oxford, UK)	Deep phenotyping of immune phenotypes in asthma using multi-omics
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	<b>Carly Bliss</b> (Cardiff University, UK)	Universal vaccines against respiratory viruses
5:05 pm – 5:20 pm	<b>Julian Forton</b> (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 abstract	

Day 2: Keynote: 5.50 pm – 6.35 pm

Chaired by Renata Jurkowska		
Keynote 5.50 pm – 6.35 pm	<b>Alex Zhavoronkov</b> (Insillico medicine) <b>online</b>	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: TBC		
9:45 am – 10:05 am	<b>Charlotte Dean</b> (Imperial College London, UK)	Precision cut lung slices to study lung injury and repair

10.05 am – 10:20 am	<b>Anna Krasnodembskaya</b> (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	<b>Purushothama Rao Tata</b> (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		