Wednesday, 25th November 2026

13:30 – 14:00 Registration

14:00 Welcoming remarks

14:00 – 14:05 Herbert Kiss – Head of the Department Obstetrics and Gynaecology

14:05 – 14:15 EPG Organizing Committee, Isabella Ellinger, Claudia Gundacker, Sandra Haider

14:15 – 15:10 Trophoblast Biology – Chairs: Martin Knöfler and Christian Wadsack

14:15 – 14:24 **01** Terezia Vcelkova: "Deciphering the Role of Morc4 in Human Trophoblast Identity and Differentiation"

14:24 – 14:33 **02** Jasmin Wächter: "Decidual LIF Shapes Extravillous Trophoblast Maturation Through STAT3 Signaling"

14:33 – 14:42 **03** Kristina Helml: "LIF-STAT3 Signaling as a Multifaceted Regulator of EVT Differentiation"

14:42 – 14:51 **04** Anna-Maria Prandstetter: "Direct Placental Contact Shapes the Decidua – Single-Cell Insights into EVT–Gland Interactions"

14:51 – 15:00 **05** Désirée Forstner: "Priming of maternal platelets during pregnancy"

15:00 – 15:09 **06** Emilie Derisoud: "Immunomodulation of Extravillous Trophoblast Derived from Non-Conventional Trophoblastic Organoids: Promising Results from in Vitro Assays"

15:10 – 15:50 Placental vessels – Chairs: Nadia Alfaidy and Luboš Molčan

15:10– 15:19 **07** Theresa Maxian: "Stage-Specific Cellular Interactions Drive Vascular Morphogenesis in the First-Trimester Placenta"

15:19 – 15:28 **08** Sarah Jones: "The Birth of a New Ex-Vivo Haemostasis Model Using Placental Vessels for Cardiovascular and Pregnancy Related Research"

15:28– 15:37 **09** Monika Horvat Mercnik: "From cobblestone to spindle: distinguishing phenotypic changes from contamination in primary fetoplacental endothelial cultures"

15:37 – 15:46 **10** Tanja Lotteritsch: "The Role of Succinate as a Signalling Molecule in Human Fetoplacental Endothelial Cells"

15:50 – 16:20 Coffee Break

16:20 – 16:50 Reproductive Immunology – Chairs: Jürgen Pollheimer and Sarah Jones

16:20– 16:29 **11** Barbara Öhler: "Distinct Macrophage States Shape the Microenvironment of the Human Decidua Basalis"

16:29 – 16:38 **12** *Presentation cancelled*

16:38– 16:47 **13** Wenting Cao: "Allogeneic T-Cell Interaction and Tissue Entry Across Complementary Human Placental *Ex Vivo* Models"

16:50 – 17:40 Technical Improvements and novel systems in Term Placenta – Chairs: Jürgen Pollheimer and Sarah Jones

16:50 – 16:59 **14** Franziska Fazekas: "An integrated workflow for the isolation and culture of multiple primary human cell populations from a single delivery"

16:59 – 17:08 **15** Hazel Hassan: "Preserving Placental Mitochondrial Function: An Optimised Workflow for Isolation, Purification and Cryopreservation"

17:08 – 17:17 **16** Kylie Belchamber: "Precision Cut Tissue Slicing as a Novel Ex Vivo Model of the Human Placenta and Decidua"

17:17 – 17:26 **17** Irene Stevenson: "Human Placental Explants as a Model for Investigating Placental Handling of Igg: A Pilot Study"

17:26 – 17:35 **18** Lois Brewer: "Combining Computational Modelling and Experimental Uptake Assays to Investigate Mechanisms of Igg Transfer Across the Term Human Placenta"

17:40 – 19:30 Get together – Drinks & Snacks

Thursday, 26th November 2026

9:00 – 9:45 **Placental Model Systems** – Chairs: Hanna Allerkamp and Paul Brownbill

9:00 – 9:09 **19** Marie-Theres Löschner: "Long-Term Study on the Effect of Docetaxel Treatment on Tumor Metastases in a Placental Tissue Co-Culture

9:09 – 9:18 **20** Defne Cobanoglu: "Fetoplacental microvasculature on-chip: barrier function under inflammation"

9:18 – 9:27 **21** Beatrice Brugger: "Beyond Model Development: Towards Regulatory Readiness of a Human Placental Model (PlacentaFIT)"

9:27 – 9:36 **22** Melike Ucak-Demir: "A Multicellular Human Trophoblast Organoid Model Incorporating Endothelial and Immune Components"

9:36 – 9:45 **23** Marei Sammar: "A 3-D Multicellular Assembloid Model of Trophoblast, Decidual Stromal Cells, and Monocytes to Study the Placental Immune Microenvironment"

9:50 – 10:45 **Placental Barrier and Transport** – Chairs: Tina Bürki-Thurnherr and Lizzy Cottrell

9:50 – 9:59 **24** Sina Ruhstaller: "Assessing Placental Responses to Environmentally Relevant Micro-Nanoplastics"

9:59 – 10:08 **25** Cheryl Koh: "Investigating Direct Effects of Air Pollution Particles on Placental Barrier Function in Vitro"

10:08 – 10:17 **26** Katherine Bethell: "Spatial mass spectrometry reveals airborne pollutant nanoparticle translocation across the human placental barrier"

10:17 – 10:26 **27** Vivien Michaelis: "Interactions Between the Essential Trace Element Copper and Toxic Methylmercury at the Placental Barrier"

10:26 – 10:35 **28** Benedetta Caniglia: "Human Stem Cell-Based Models Reveal Bleomycin-Induced Placental and Fetal Developmental Toxicity"

10:35 – 10:44 **29** Anandita Umapathy: "Spatial organisation of transport and endocytic proteins within the human syncytiotrophoblast microvillous membrane**"**

10:45 – 11:15 Coffee Break

11:15 – 12:30 Gestational Disease - 1 – Chairs: Federica Piani and Katrien De Clercq

11:15 – 11:24 **30** Sarah Hutchinson: "Assessment of Maternal-To-Fetal Placental Transfer of Incretin Based Therapies in Gestational Diabetes Mellitus"

11:24 – 11:33 **31** Maja Perić: "Coordinated Expression of Placental Steroid, Kynurenine, and Serotonin Pathway Genes in Normal and Gestational Diabetes Mellitus Pregnancies"

11:33 – 11:42 **32** Tanja Groten: "CGM use in Pregnancy mitigates Placental Fibrosis and Glycation after Pregnancies with Type 1 Diabetes"

11:42 – 11:51 **33** Anne Sørensen: "Weighted Fetal MRI as a Marker of Fetal Oxygenation in Pregnancies Complicated by Type 1 Diabetes"

11:51 – 12:00 **34** Margareta Mayer: "Vaginal and Meconium Microbiomes Associate with Clinical Subtypes of Preterm Birth"

12:00 – 12:09 **35** Ainslie Hancock: "Characterising Placental Morphology and Immune Cell Composition in a Population of Women with a Family History of Autism**"**

12:09 – 12:18 **36** Fiona Kumnova: "Placental Inflammatory Profile Across Gestation and Inflammatory and Lipid Responses to Metabolic and Pharmacological Challenges"

12:18 – 12:27 **37** Patricia Okiro: "A Decade of Placental Pathology in Kenya: Vascular and Inflammatory Lesions Across Adverse Pregnancy Phenotypes"

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 15:30 Gestational Disease - 2 – Chairs: Olivia Nonn and Cilia Abad

14:00 – 14:09 **38** Ella Turner: "Investigating the Placental Regulation of Haemostasis and Thrombosis in Pre-Eclampsia**"**

14:09 – 14:18 **39** Navya Sree Boga: "Placental MFSD2A And FADS2 Expression and Cord Blood Phospholipid ARA and DHA Status Are Associated with Head Circumference in Preterm Neonates"

14:18 – 14:27 **40** Rui Zhou: "Multiscale mapping of the human placenta reveals regional biomechanical alterations and extracellular matrix remodeling in pre-eclampsia"

14:27 – 14:36 **41** Lisa-Sophia Haase: "Effects of Metformin Exposure on Preeclampsia-Related Gene Expression in Human Placental Explants"

14:36 – 14:45 **42** Ella Kirsty Vincent: "Decidua-trophoblast co-culture and in silico models identify functionally linked decidual gland secreted proteins deficient in early-onset pre-eclampsia"

14:45 – 14:54 **43** Ana Costa Braga: "Compartment-Resolved Placental Proteomics in Pre-Eclampsia Spectrum Disorders"

14:54 – 15:03 **44** Milica Gajić Bojić: "Diazepam- and Sodium Nitroprusside-Induced Relaxation of Human Umbilical Arteries from Pregnancies with Hypertensive Disorders: A Pilot Study"

15:03 – 15:12 **45** Shannon Wolf: "MicroRNA Expression In Placental Tissue Of Growth Restricted Newborns"

15:15 – 16:00 Coffee Break

16:00 – 17:20 Exposure studies – Chairs: Pascale Chavatte-Palmer and Kylie Belchamber

16:00 – 16:09 **46** Mohammad Rida Ghaddar: "Characterization of Endocannabinoid System Expression Across Human Trophoblast Models and Differentiation States"

16:09 – 16:18 **47** Mia Salma Al Souki: "Comparative Analysis of HHC And THC Effects on Villous and Extravillous Trophoblast Cell Lines: Implications for Redox Signaling and Placental Functions"

16:18 – 16:27 **48** Tetiana Synova: "Major and Minor Cannabinoids Attenuate LPS-Induced Inflammatory Responses in The Human Placenta"

16:27 – 16:36 **49** Carine El Hajjar: "Impact of PFAS Exposure on Placental Development and Pregnancy Outcomes"

16:36 – 16:45 **50** Magdalena Novotna: "Caffeine Affects Placental Nucleos(T)Ide Metabolism and Associated Gene Expression, Protein, Metabolomic and Epigenetic Changes"

16:45 – 16:54 **51** Neva Kandzija: "Placental Extracellular Vesicles Transfer Insulin Receptor to Receptor-Deficient Recipient Cells"

16:54 – 17:03 **52** Signe Schmidt Kjølner Hansen: "PLACENTA VOICES: Resonant dialogues between science and publics"

17:15 – 17:45 EPG Meeting – Rohan Lewis

Evening Discover Vienna´s Christmas Markets (https://www.wien.info/en/now-on/christmas/christmas-markets-342664)

Friday, 27th November 2026

9:00 – 9:30 **Uterine Environment** – Chairs: Günter Wagner and Martin Knöfler

9:00 – 9:09 **53** *Presentation cancelled*

9:09 – 9:18 **54** Lingshan Yang: "Extracellular Vesicle-Mediated Regulation of Endometrial Angiogenesis by miR-141"

9:18 – 9:27 **55** Stefan Pavloski: "The Open Wound: Co-Option of Fibroblast Activation During the Evolution of Endometrial Decidualization"

9:30 – 10:15 **Comparative Placentation - 1** – Chairs: Günter Wagner and Martin Knöfler

9:30 – 9:39 **56** Sophie Pohlert: "Metabolomics of Murine Uterine Decidualization"

9:39 – 9:48 **57** Marianna Onori: "Metformin Reduces Pregnancy Loss and Remodels Placental and Fetal-Membrane Inflammatory Programs in a Murine Model of LPS-Induced Pregnancy Inflammation"

9:48 – 9:57 **58** Luboš Molčan: "Mitochondrial Transcriptional Responses in Rat Placentas Following Light- and Dark-Phase Maternal Hypoxia"

9:57 – 10:06 **59** Seppe Gevaert: "Analysis of Mouse Placenta Spatial Transcriptomics Data"

10:06 – 10:15 **60** Alejandro A. Candia: "Obesogenic Diet and Placental Endocrine Disruption Interact to Influence Maternal Metabolism During Mouse Pregnancy"

10:15 – 10:24 **61** Mar Chic Campos: "Maternal Obesity-Associated Changes in Sphingolipid Metabolism"

10:25 – 10:45 Coffee Break

10:45 – 12:10 **Comparative Placentation - 2** – Chairs: Paulina Latos and Mohamed Benharouga

10:45– 10:54 **62** Benoît Gendrot: "Lack of Peripheral Serotonin Leads to Alterations in Placental Structure"

10:54 – 11:03 **63** Fariz Kahhaleh: "Maternal Antibiotic Exposure Alters Placental Vascularization, Fetal Hematopoiesis, and Bile Acid Homeostasis"

11:03 – 11:12 **64** Vahide Zeynep Ünal: "Maternal THC Exposure Alters Tryptophan and Endocannabinoid Pathways Along the Placenta–Fetal Brain Axis in Wistar Rats"

11:12 –11:21 **65** Annika Wieneke: "Contact Between the Bovine Trophectoderm and the Maternal Epithelium on Day 102 of Pregnancy"

11:21 – 11:30 **66** Julia Przeborowska: "Feto-Maternal Interface – Ultrastructure Observations of Equine Placenta at Birth"

11:30 – 11:39 **67** Leticia Casarotto Trevisan: "Late Gestation Heat Stress Alters Placental Mitochondrial, Cellular Stress, and Vascular Pathways in Ewes"

11:39 – 11:48 **68** Pilar Van Mechelen: "Elucidating the Structural Organization of the Syrian Hamster Placenta"

11:48 – 11:57 **69** Julia Rodewald-Tölle: „The Effect of Interferon-Tau and Steroid Hormones on the Expression of Epithelial Cell Markers in Bovine Caruncular Epithelial Cells in vitro"

11:57 – 12:06 **70** Vimal Veeriah: "Antigestagen Treatment Disrupts Extracellular Vesicle Signaling in a 3D Decidualized Canine Uterine Stromal Model"

12:10 – 12:30 Coffee Break (Award Decision Meeting)

12:30 – 12:50 Closing session: Awards, Sponsor Prize Draw & Closing Remarks