

**Provisional program for the 2025 Annual Symposium:
“amAlzing Microbiology: demystifying AI for all microbiologists”**

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| 08.30-09.00 | Registration and poster mounting |
| 09.00-10.35 | 09.00-09.05 Welcome address – Charles Van der Henst (VUB/VIB) |
| Plenary session | 09.05-09.50 Opening lecture “In the spotlight” – Chair: Karoline Faust (KU Leuven) Ophelia Venturelli (Duke University/ Wisconsin-Madison) – Understanding and engineering microbial communities across space and time |
| | 09.50-10.35 Plenary lecture Section A – General Microbiology – Chair: Charles Van der Henst (VUB/VIB) Seamus Holden (University of Warwick) – The role of cytoskeleton dynamics in bacterial cell division |
| 10.35-11.00 | Coffee break |
| 11.00-12.00 | 11.00-12.00 Parallel session Section A – General Microbiology – Chair: Gipsi Lima Mendez (UNamur) Speaker A1 (to be selected) Speaker A2 (to be selected) Speaker A3 (to be selected) Speaker A4 (to be selected) |
| | 11.00-12.00 Parallel session Section B – Applied and Environmental Microbiology – Chair: Peter-Jan Ceyskens (Sciensano) Speaker B1 (to be selected) Speaker B2 (to be selected) Speaker B3 (to be selected) Speaker B4 (to be selected) |

| | |
|--|--|
| | <p>11.00-12.00 Parallel session Section C – Host-Microbe Interactions – Chair: Anne Op de Beeck (ULB) and Marie Joossens (UGent)</p> <p>Speaker C1 (to be selected) Speaker C2 (to be selected) Speaker C3 (to be selected) Speaker C4 (to be selected)</p> |
| 12.00-14.30 | 12.00-12.40 Lunch break |
| | 12.40-14.30 Poster session |
| 14.30-16.00 Plenary session | <p>14.30-15.15 Plenary lecture Section B – Applied and Environmental Microbiology – Chair: Peter-Jan Ceysens (Sciensano)</p> <p>Kevin Verstrepen (KU Leuven) – Leveraging biotechnology to generate superior yeasts for industrial processes</p> |
| | <p>15.15-16.00 Plenary lecture Section C – Host-Microbe Interactions – Chair: Anne Op de Beeck (ULB) and Marie Joossens (UGent)</p> <p>Lucie Etienne (CIRI, Lyon) – Functional evolution of the antiviral innate immunity across scales</p> |
| 16.00-17.00 Plenary session | <p>16.00-16.45 BSM Honorary Lecture – Charles Van der Henst (VUB/VIB)</p> <p>Jan Michiels (KU Leuven) – Antibiotic persistence: a journey through mechanistic and evolutionary landscapes</p> |
| | <p>16.45-17.00 Announcement of poster and agar art awards – next BSM (2026) & closing words – Chair: Charles Van der Henst (VUB/VIB)</p> |
| 17.00 Reception | Goodbye Apero / Drinks (YBSM) |