



PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

THURSDAY 16 APRIL	
08.30	Registration
09.00 – 13.00	Sponsored Pre-conference Workshop tba
10.00 – 18.00	Sponsored Pre-conference Workshop tba
13.00 – 18.00	Sponsored Pre-conference Workshop
	VITROLIFE GROUP™ <small>EXCELLENCE IN REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH</small>

FRIDAY 17 APRIL	
08.00	Registration, welcome refreshments, exhibition and posters
08.45	Welcome remarks and introduction <i>Mina Alikani, President, Alpha Scientists</i>
Session 1	Beginnings and Beyond <i>Chair: Jacques Cohen, Founding Member, Alpha Scientists; Chief Scientific Officer, Conceivable Life Sciences, New York, USA</i>
09.00 – 09.45	Research: Paving the way (title tbc) <i>Laura Rienzi, Associate Professor, Department of Biomolecular Sciences, University of Urbino, Italy</i>
09.45 – 10.15	Discard or discover: Rethinking the fate of unused embryos <i>Mina Popovic, Professor, Department of Reproductive Medicine, Ghent University Hospital, Ghent, Belgium</i>
10.15 – 10.30	Discussion
10.30 – 11.15	Refreshments, exhibition and posters
Session 2	Culture and Quality: Evolving Standards, Emerging Models <i>Chair: Jason Swain, Chief Laboratory Officer & President of Laboratory Operations, CCRM Fertility, USA</i>
11.15 – 11.35	The evolution of culture media for IVF <i>Dean Morbeck, Executive Committee Member, Alpha Scientists; Chief Scientific Officer, Genea Fertility, Australia</i>
11.35 – 11.55	Redefining quality control in IVF <i>Kelly Tilleman, Director, IVF Laboratory, University Hospital Ghent, Belgium</i>
11.55 – 12.15	Blastoids: Next-gen modelling platform of embryogenesis and implantation for drug discovery <i>Julieta Del Valle, Senior Scientist, dawn-bio</i>
12.15 – 12.30	Discussion
12.30 – 13.45	Lunch, exhibition and posters
12.45 – 13.30	Sponsored Lunchtime Symposium KITAZATO®



Session 3	Oral Abstract Presentations <i>Chairs: Francesca Farlie and Sasha Sadowy, Alpha Scientists Ambassadors</i>
13.45 – 13.50	Welcome and introduction
13.50 – 14.00	Identifying morphological features of AI-based oocyte quality assessments and developmental predictions: preliminary work towards more explainable AI <i>Jullin Fjeldstad, Head of Clinical Embryology and Scientific Operations, Future Fertility, Canada</i>
14.00 – 14.10	Deep learning AI “co-pilot” for accelerated rare sperm identification in poor-prognosis non-obstructive azoospermia <i>Dale Goss, PhD Student, University of Technology (Sydney), Australia</i>
14.10 – 14.20	Effect of Gx-IVF vs HEPES buffer during ICSI procedure: A sibling oocyte study on embryological outcomes <i>Matija Kronic, PhD, Uz Brussel, Brussels IVF, Belgium</i>
14.20 – 14.30	Testicular responses to caloric restriction and GLP-1 treatment: sirtuins, acetylation, and beyond <i>Diana André, PhD Student, University of Aveiro, Portugal</i>
14.30 – 14.40	Why human embryos are mosaic: the role of the spindle assembly checkpoint in chromosome segregation in the zygote <i>Franka de Jong, PhD Candidate, Erasmus MC, Netherlands</i>
14.40-15.00	Discussion
15.00 – 15.45	Afternoon refreshments, exhibition and posters
Session 4	Reproductive Biomedicine Online (RBMO) Session <i>Chairs: Mina Alikani and Alison Campbell, Alpha Scientists</i>
15.45 – 15.55	Introduction <i>Mina Alikani, President, Alpha Scientists; Editor, RBMO</i>
15.55 – 16.25	Robert G Edwards prize paper presentations
	Global Voices: The Challenges and Opportunities of IVF
16.25 – 16.45	Perspectives from India <i>Sujatha Ramakrishnan, President, ACE India</i>
16.45 – 17.05	Perspectives from Croatia <i>Dejan Ljiljak, President, Croatian Society of Clinical Embryologists</i>
17.05 – 17.20	Discussion
17.20 – 18.10	Sponsored Evening Symposium  GEDEON RICHTER Are we ready for polygenic embryo screening? <i>Chair: Christophe Blockeel, Medical Director, Brussels IVF, Centre for Reproductive Medicine, University Hospital Brussels, Belgium</i> <i>Speakers: Antonio Capalbo & Francesca Forzano</i>
18.10	Alpha Scientists General Assembly
18.30	ALPHA 15th Biennial Conference Welcome Reception in Exhibition



SATURDAY 18 APRIL

08.00	Registration, welcome refreshments, exhibition and posters
08.00 – 08.45	Nexpring Health Sponsored Breakfast Symposium
	
09.00	Introduction to day two <i>Alison Campbell, Vice President, Alpha Scientists</i>
Session 5	Clinical Insights <i>Chair: Irene Cuevas-Sáiz, Executive Committee Member, Alpha Scientists</i>
09.05 – 09.40	Clinical case management explained <i>Christophe Blockeel, Executive Committee Member, Alpha Scientists; Medical Director, Brussels IVF, Centre for Reproductive Medicine, University Hospital Brussels, Belgium</i>
09.40 – 10.15	Embryo transfer: Evidence-based or empirical? <i>Georgios Lainas, Scientific Director, Eugonia IVF, Athens, Greece</i>
10.15 – 10.30	Discussion
10.30 – 11.15	Refreshments, exhibition and posters
Session 6	Embryologists to the Rescue <i>Chair: Alison Campbell, Vice President, Alpha Scientists</i>
11.15 – 11.35	Can we prevent meiotic aneuploidies in Oocytes? <i>Eirini Bellou, Senior Applications Scientist, U-Ploid Biotechnologies, Oxford, UK</i>
11.35 – 11.55	Can we prevent mitotic aneuploidies in embryos? <i>Cerys Currie, Post Doc, University of Warwick, UK</i>
11.55 – 12.15	Strategies for optimising embryo utilisation <i>Giovanni Coticchio, Science and Research Manager, IVIRMA Global Research Alliance, IVIRMA ITALIA, Italy</i>
12.15 – 12.30	Discussion
12.30 – 13.45	Lunch, exhibition and posters
12.45 – 13.30	Sponsored Lunchtime Symposium
Session 7	Oral Abstract Presentations <i>Chairs: Laura Rienzi and Keshav Malhotra, Executive Committee Members, Alpha Scientists</i>
13.45 – 13.50	Welcome and introduction
13.50 – 14.00	Bi-phasic CAPA In Vitro Maturation (IVM) improves embryo availability in PCOS women with prior IVF failure: A prospective observational pilot study <i>Krishna Chaitanya Mantravadi, Oasis Fertility, India</i>
14.00 – 14.10	Evaluating the necessity of semen treatment in ICSI procedures <i>Marco Reschini, Researcher, Fondazione Irccs Ca' Granda Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico, Milan, Italy</i>
14.10 – 14.20	Artificial oocyte activation: A rescue approach for patients with no blastocyst formation <i>Mary Karagianni, Senior Clinical Embryologist, Embryolab Fertility Clinic, Greece</i>
14.20 – 14.30	Embryo abandonment patterns and patient disposition choices with automated digital billing: a single-centre study <i>Amy Ji, Embryologist, Markham Fertility Centre, Canada</i>
14.30 – 14.40	A high phytochemical diet positively impacts markers of fertility in adult males <i>Joanne Wilson, Fertility Exeter (NHS), UK</i>
15.00 – 15.45	Afternoon refreshments, exhibition and posters
Session 8	One in a Million: Sperm in the Spotlight



ALPHA
SCIENTISTS IN REPRODUCTIVE MEDICINE

**15th Biennial Alpha
Conference 2026**

Friday 17 April – Sunday 19 April
Valamar Lacroma Hotel,
Dubrovnik, Croatia



	<i>Chair: Christophe Blockeel, Executive Committee Member, Alpha Scientists</i>
15.45 – 16.10	Sperm selection techniques <i>Xavier Pollet-Villard,</i>
16.10 – 16.35	Sperm quality: New diagnostics and therapies <i>Jackson Kirkman-Brown, Professor of Human Reproductive Science, University of Birmingham, UK</i>
16.35 – 16.45	Discussion
	Special Presentation
16.45 – 17.20	Coral reproduction and the development of predictable spawning protocols <i>Hartley George, Senior Aquarium Curator, Project Coral, Horniman Museum and Gardens, UK</i>
17.20 – 18.05	Sponsored Evening Symposium
19.30 – 23.00	ALPHA 15th Biennial Conference Party - The President Hotel



SUNDAY 19 APRIL	
09.00	Registration, welcome refreshments, exhibition and posters
09.30	Introduction to day three <i>Mina Alikani, President Ex-Officio, Alpha Scientists</i>
Session 9	The Path to Predictable Outcomes <i>Chair: Laura Rienzi, Executive Committee Member, Alpha Scientists</i>
09.45 – 10.05	Environmental monitoring in IVF <i>Jayesh Shinde, Head of Embryology - Quality Improvement & Quality Control, Indira IVF, India</i>
10.05 – 10.25	KPI monitoring and benchmarking <i>Jason Swain, Chief Laboratory Officer & President of Laboratory Operations, CCRM Fertility, USA</i>
10.25 – 10.55	How to manage 18k IVF cycles per year at one site <i>Tadashi Okimura, Chief Laboratory Director, Kato Ladies Clinic, Tokyo, Japan</i>
10.55 – 11.15	Leading from the bench: Building high-quality IVF teams <i>Keshav Malhotra, Laboratory Director, Rainbow IVF, Agra, India</i>
11.15 – 11.35	Discussion
11.35 – 12.10	Refreshments, Exhibition and Posters
Session 10	What Awaits? <i>Chair: Mina Alikani and Alison Campbell, Alpha Scientists</i>
12.10 – 12.40	Fear not: AI and automation in IVF <i>Jacques Cohen, Founding Member, Alpha Scientists; Chief Scientific Officer, Conceivable Life Sciences, New York, USA</i>
12.40 – 12.55	Closing remarks <i>Alison Campbell, President, Alpha Scientists in Reproductive Medicine</i>
12.55	Close of 15th Biennial Conference

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