



## PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

THURSDAY 16 APRIL	
08.30	Registration
09.00 – 13.00	Sponsored Pre-conference Workshop
10.00 – 18.00	Sponsored Pre-conference Workshop
13.00 – 18.00	Vitrolife Sponsored Pre-conference Workshop

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	Paternal age and offspring health <i>John Aitken, Emeritus Professor, University of Newcastle, Australia</i>
09.45 – 10.15	Discard or discover: Rethinking the fate of unused embryos <i>Mina Popovic, Professor, Ghent University, 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 &amp; 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 as emerging models for quality control <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	Kitazato Sponsored Lunchtime Symposium
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 – 15.00	Five papers will be presented followed by 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



**ALPHA**  
SCIENTISTS IN REPRODUCTIVE MEDICINE

**15<sup>th</sup> Biennial Alpha  
Conference 2026**

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



	<b>Global Voices: The Challenges and Opportunities of IVF</b>
<b>16.25 – 16.45</b>	<b>Perspectives from India</b> <i>Sujatha Ramakrishnan, President, ACE India</i>
<b>16.45 – 17.05</b>	<b>Perspectives from Croatia</b> <i>Dejan Ljiljak, President, Croatian Society of Clinical Embryologists</i>
<b>17.05 – 17.20</b>	<b>Discussion</b>
<b>17.20 – 18.10</b>	<b>Sponsored Evening Symposium</b>
<b>18.10</b>	<b>Alpha Scientists General Assembly</b>
<b>18.30</b>	<b>ALPHA 15<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference Welcome Reception in Exhibition</b>



## SATURDAY 18 APRIL

<b>08.00</b>	<b>Registration, welcome refreshments, exhibition and posters</b>
<b>08.00 – 08.45</b>	<b>Nexpring Health Sponsored Breakfast Symposium</b>
<b>09.00</b>	<b>Introduction to day two</b> <i>Alison Campbell, Vice President, Alpha Scientists</i>
<b>Session 5</b>	<b>Clinical Insights</b> <i>Chair: Irene Cuevas-Sáiz, Executive Committee Member, Alpha Scientists</i>
<b>09.05 – 09.40</b>	<b>Clinical case management explained</b> <i>Christophe Blockeel, Executive Committee Member, Alpha Scientists; Medical Director, Brussels IVF, Centre for Reproductive Medicine, University Hospital Brussels, Belgium</i>
<b>09.40 – 10.15</b>	<b>Embryo transfer: Evidence-based or empirical?</b> <i>Georgios Lainas, Scientific Director, Eugonia IVF, Athens, Greece</i>
<b>10.15 – 10.30</b>	<b>Discussion</b>
<b>10.30 – 11.15</b>	<b>Refreshments, exhibition and posters</b>
<b>Session 6</b>	<b>Embryologists to the Rescue</b> <i>Chair: Alison Campbell, Vice President, Alpha Scientists</i>
<b>11.15 – 11.35</b>	<b>Can we prevent meiotic aneuploidies in Oocytes?</b> <i>Chloe Charalambous, Co-Founder &amp; COO, U-Ploid Biotechnologies, Oxford, UK</i>
<b>11.35 – 11.55</b>	<b>Can we prevent mitotic aneuploidies in embryos?</b> <i>Cerys Currie, Post Doc, University of Warwick, UK</i>
<b>11.55 – 12.15</b>	<b>Strategies for optimising embryo utilisation</b> <i>Giovanni Coticchio, Science and Research Manager, IVIRMA Global Research Alliance, IVIRMA ITALIA, Italy</i>
<b>12.15 – 12.30</b>	<b>Discussion</b>
<b>12.30 – 13.45</b>	<b>Lunch, exhibition and posters</b>
<b>12.45 – 13.30</b>	<b>Gedeon Richter Suisse Sponsored Lunchtime Symposium</b>
<b>Session 7</b>	<b>Oral Abstract Presentations</b> <i>Chairs: Laura Rienzi and Keshav Malhotra, Executive Committee Members, Alpha Scientists</i>
<b>13.45 – 13.50</b>	<b>Welcome and introduction</b>
<b>13.50 – 15.00</b>	Five papers will be presented followed by discussion
<b>15.00 – 15.45</b>	<b>Afternoon refreshments, exhibition and posters</b>
<b>Session 8</b>	<b>One in a Million: Sperm in the Spotlight</b> <i>Chair: Christophe Blockeel, Executive Committee Member, Alpha Scientists</i>
<b>15.45 – 16.10</b>	<b>Sperm selection techniques</b> <i>John Aitken, Emeritus Professor, University of Newcastle, Australia</i>
<b>16.10 – 16.35</b>	<b>Sperm quality: New diagnostics and therapies</b> <i>Jackson Kirkman-Brown, Professor of Human Reproductive Science, University of Birmingham, UK</i>
<b>16.35 – 16.45</b>	<b>Discussion</b>
	<b>Special Presentation</b>
<b>16.45 – 17.20</b>	<b>Climate change and reproduction</b> <i>Hartley George, Senior Aquarium Curator, Project Coral, Horniman Museum and Gardens, UK</i>
<b>17.20 – 18.05</b>	<b>Sponsored Evening Symposium</b>
<b>19.30 – 23.00</b>	<b>ALPHA 15<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference Party</b>



**SUNDAY 19 APRIL**

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

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