



XXVIII INTERNATIONAL BILE ACID MEETING: BILE ACIDS IN HEALTH AND DISEASE 2026

July, 3-4, 2026

Symposium 244
VIENNA, AUSTRIA



APPLICATION
FOR **CME**
CREDITS
SUBMITTED

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An application has been made to the UEMS EACCME® for CME accreditation of this event. The number of credits awarded will be printed in the final program.

PREFACE

Since the last International Bile Acid Meeting in Edinburgh in 2024, the field of bile acid research has continued to flourish. New insights have been gained into the role of bile acid signaling in the liver and intestine, the role of bile acids and their nuclear or membrane receptors in the gut-liver axis, bile acid microbiome interactions, bile acid control of immune reactions and malignant tumor development. Therapeutic bile acids like ursodeoxycholic acid (UDCA) and norucholic acid (NCA) as well as agonists for the nuclear farnesoid-X receptor (FXR) and the peroxisome proliferator-associated receptors (PPARs) α , β/δ and γ continue to be discussed as potential therapeutics not only for cholestatic liver diseases but more recently also for metabolic dysfunction-associated steatohepatitis (MASH) and other hepatobiliary disorders. Furthermore, availability of inhibitors of the ileal bile acid transporter ASBT for treatment of paediatric progressive familial intrahepatic cholestasis (PFIC) and Alagille's syndrome as well as inhibitors of the hepatic bile acid transporter NTCP for chronic HBV/HDV coinfection have opened potential therapeutic opportunities also for evaluation in other hepatopathies.

The XXVIII International Bile Acid Meeting will be dedicated to both, basic and clinical aspects of bile acid research with a focus on the role of bile acid transport and signaling in health and disease, the interaction of bile acids with the microbiome and the immune system, and the role of bile acids in tumor development. Novel aspects of therapeutic strategies using bile acid derivatives, bile acid receptor agonists or bile acid transporter inhibitors represent a focus of this conference. The latest findings will be presented by leading scientists and clinicians in these fields.

During the symposium, poster sessions will take place which will receive additional attention. In line with the tradition of the International Bile Acid Meetings several poster abstracts will be selected by the scientific committee and the authors will be invited for oral presentations.

The organizers of the XXVIII International Bile Acid Meeting look forward to welcoming you to Vienna.

Ulrich Beuers

Verena Keitel-Anselmino

Michael Trauner

XXVIII INTERNATIONAL BILE ACID MEETING: BILE ACIDS IN HEALTH AND DISEASE 2026

July, 3-4, 2026

Scientific Organization:

Ulrich Beuers, Amsterdam
Verena Keitel-Anselmino, Magdeburg
Michael Trauner, Vienna

Congress Venue:

Hyatt Regency Vienna
(formerly Andaz Vienna am Belvedere)
Arsenalstrasse 10
1100 Vienna
Austria

For admission to scientific events your name badge should be clearly visible.

Accompanying persons are not permitted during the conference at any time.

Call for Posters:

An ePoster session will be held.
For details see page 17.

Start of Registration:

Thursday, July 2, 2026
16:00 – 20:00 h
at the congress office

Publication Date of the Final Program:

June 2026

The final program will be available on the website www.falkfoundation.org one week before the start of the symposium.

FRIDAY, JULY 3, 2026

8:30 Welcome
Michael Trauner, Vienna

SESSION I

Bile acid transport in health and disease

Chairs *Paul A. Dawson, Atlanta; Stan F. J. van de Graaf, Amsterdam*

8:40 Molecular insights into the key bile acid uptake transporters NTCP and ASBT
Stan F. J. van de Graaf, Amsterdam

9:00 East Asian “intrahepatic cholestasis of pregnancy” may be linked to a historic HBV epidemic
Siyang Liu, Shenzhen

9:20 Repurposing reactions: How fatty acids use bile acid pathways to make and move bioactive molecules
Trisha J. Grevengoed, Copenhagen

9:40 Bulevirtide-induced elevation of plasma bile salt levels alleviates DSS-induced colitis and LPS-induced inflammation in mice
Coen Paulusma, Amsterdam

10:00 Novel insights to the multiorgan effects of systemic ASBT inhibition
Paul A. Dawson, Atlanta

10:20 **Coffee break with ePoster session**

SESSION II

Bile acids in the intestinal microenvironment

Chairs *Bernd Schnabl, La Jolla; Mark S. Sundrud, Lebanon*

11:00 Bile salt hydrolases catalyse formation of amine-conjugated bile acids
Andrew D. Patterson, University Park

11:20 Effects of secondary and tertiary intestinal bile acid derivatives on host immune function
Jason M. Ridlon, Urbana

-
- 11:40** Low dietary fiber alleviates bile acid-induced cholangiopathy via microbiota-derived hepatoprotective ursodeoxycholic acid
Wenqiang Shen, Groningen
-
- 12:00** Multi-modal analysis defines bile acid-induced stress as a rewiring mechanism of epithelial-immune communication in Crohn's disease
Claudia Günther, Erlangen
-
- 12:20** **Lunch break with ePoster session**

SESSION III

Bile acids and immunity

- Chairs** *Clarissa Campbell, Vienna ; Alexander G. Miethke, Cincinnati*
-
- 14:00** Intestinal bile acid metabolism/signaling and immunity
Mark S. Sundrud, Lebanon
-
- 14:20** Bile acids engage the SIPR-STAT3 signaling axis to modulate regulatory T cell responses in fibrosing cholangiopathies
Alexander G. Miethke, Cincinnati
-
- 14:40** Carbonic anhydrase autoantibodies in PSC and IgG4-related cholangitis: Breaking cholangiocellular bile acid defence?
David Trampert, Amsterdam
-
- 15:00** Mitochondrial dynamics and autophagy are disturbed in patients' livers and experimental models of primary biliary cholangitis, contributing to disease pathogenesis
Irene Lasa Elosegi, Milan
-
- 15:20** Modifying bile acid synthesis (or UDCA) can improve tumor-specific T cell responses in liver cancer models
Siva K. Varanasi, Worcester
-
- 15:40** **Coffee break with ePoster session**

FRIDAY, JULY 3, 2026

INTERNATIONAL ADOLF WINDAUS AWARD

16:30 Presentation of the International Adolf Windaus Award
Ulrich Beuers, Amsterdam

16:40 International Adolf Windaus Award lecture

SESSION IV

“Old” and “new” bile acid receptors

Chairs *Grace L. Guo, Piscataway; Ronald J. P. Oude Elferink, Amsterdam*

17:00 FXR agonist-induced pruritus: Is MRGPRX4 the answer?
Xiaoguang Lei, Beijing

17:20 Discovery of novel MRGPRX4 agonists and antagonists with implications for hepatobiliary pruritus
Silvia M. Pickering, Zurich

17:40 Insights into FXR function from mutagenesis studies
Holger Gohlke, Düsseldorf

18:00 Hepatic FXR deficiency in mice: Lessons for MASH
Grace L. Guo, Piscataway

SATURDAY, JULY 4, 2026

8:30 Welcome - In memoriam
Ulrich Beuers, Amsterdam

SESSION V

Bile acids in metabolism and MASLD

Chairs *Peter Fickert, Graz; Kristina Schoonjans, Lausanne*

8:40 Bile acids may regulate metabolic pathways via central TGR5
Kristina Schoonjans, Lausanne

9:00 Microbial bile acid amidates are transported by ASBT, NTCP, and OATP1B1
Frank Schaap, Maastricht

9:20 Inhibition of bile acid conjugation improves cholestasis in humanized mice
Claudia Fuchs, Vienna

9:40 Panel discussion: Bile acids in MASLD
P. Fickert, G. L. Guo, S. Karpen, K. Schoonjans, B. Schnabl

10:00 **Coffee break with ePoster session**

SESSION VI

Bile acids as potential toxins

Chairs *Jan G. Hengstler, Dortmund; Michael Trauner, Vienna*

11:00 Bile acid excretion by renal ASBT inhibition: Tissue protection and reduction of hepatic cholesterol
Jan G. Hengstler, Dortmund

11:20 Silencing of the autophagy inhibitor Rubicon ameliorates liver injury in a PSC mouse model
Lukas M. Gulden, Graz

11:40 Altered serum bile acids predict liver injury after portoenterostomy in biliary atresia
Iiris Nyholm, Helsinki

SATURDAY, JULY 4, 2026

12:00 Role of pathobionts in liver disease
Bernd Schnabl, La Jolla

12:20 **Presentation of Poster Awards**

12:40 **Lunch break with ePoster session**

SESSION VII

Bile acids and fibrosis

Chairs *Ulrich Beuers, Amsterdam; Gideon Hirschfield, Toronto*

14:00 Bezafibrate plus UDCA: Advocating the “Old” pan-PPAR agonist as
2nd line treatment for PBC and PSC
Atsushi Tanaka, Tokyo

14:20 Novel PPAR agonists as 2nd line treatment for PBC and PSC: Strengths and
weaknesses
Gideon Hirschfield, Toronto

14:40 Norucholic acid (NCA) for PSC and beyond
Michael Trauner, Vienna

15:00 Panel discussion: Present and future therapeutic strategies in fibro-
obliterative cholangiopathies
U. Beuers, G. Hirschfield, A. Tanaka, M. Trauner, C. Williamson

SESSION VIII

Bile acids in genetic diseases

Chairs *Saul Karpen, Richmond; Verena Keitel-Anselmino, Magdeburg*

15:30 Genetic abnormalities in LPAC (low phospholipid associated cholelithiasis) syndrome
Verena Keitel-Anselmino, Magdeburg

15:50 Impaired biliary phospholipid secretion in PFIC3/ABCB4 deficiency: Molecular consequences and therapeutic priorities
Emmanuel Gonzales, Paris

16:10 Enterohepatic circulation of bile acids as therapeutic target in genetic cholestatic diseases of children
Saul Karpen, Richmond

16:30 ABC transporter variants in adult cholestatic liver diseases
Deepak Joshi, London

16:50 **Closing Remarks**
Verena Keitel-Anselmino, Magdeburg

ADOLF WINDAUS (1876-1959)



Adolf Windaus was born on Christmas Day in 1876 in Berlin, where his father owned a factory. Even as a young student in the Berlin gymnasium, he was fascinated by the epochal discoveries of Koch and Pasteur, and by his 18th birthday he had decided on a scientific career. He entered medical school, taking his pre-clinical year at the University of Freiburg and his clinical years in Berlin. However, he soon realized, especially during the lectures of Emil Fischer, that biological processes could be understood only when the chemical structure of organisms was known. Therefore, as soon as he had finished medical school, he returned to

Freiburg to study chemistry under the supervision of Heinrich Kiliani. In 1899, he completed his first research project which dealt with the chemical composition of digitalis. He then spent two years in compulsory military service in Berlin. During this time he also worked in the laboratory of Emil Fischer, carrying out studies on derivatives of aniline. On completing his military service, Windaus returned to the University of Freiburg where he began his life-long work on the structure of cholesterol. His thesis, which qualified him for the position of docent, had the simple title „Über Cholesterin“. The choice of this research topic originated from Windaus' logical belief that any substance which was so widely distributed in animal and plant tissues must have an important biological function, and that understanding of its structure and function might lead to unifying concepts, a hypothesis he would subsequently prove so brilliantly. In addition to initiating studies on cholesterol, he and his colleague Knoop soon discovered that an amino acid containing the imidazole ring, histidine, was present in proteins, and could be decarboxylated to give histamine. The discovery of histamine opened a vast area of pharmacological research.

In 1913, Adolf Windaus accepted a call to direct the prestigious Institute of Medical Chemistry in Innsbruck, Austria, where earlier Pregl had founded microanalytical chemistry. Two years later, in 1915, he was called to be Director of the Chemical Laboratories of the University of Göttingen, laboratories rich in tradition since the time of Wöhler. Here, he could pursue his work on elucidating the structure of cholesterol in a series of integrated investigations that were truly Herculean in scope. In the year 1919 a most significant discovery was made. Windaus found that coprostane could be oxidized to cholanic acid. With the knowledge of this transformation, came the realization of the close structural similarity of cholesterol and bile acids; one could now apply the existing knowledge of cholesterol structure to that of bile acids and that of bile acids to cholesterol. The work of elucidating the exact structure of the condensed steroid rings of steroids was extraordinarily difficult. To understand

the structural isomerism of the A / B ring juncture, it was necessary to study the simplest model compounds, cis and trans decalin. This was done with Hueckel, who later became one of the world's greatest physical chemists.

In the twenties, Adolf Windaus, with his pupils, established the relationships between cholesterol and other important steroids such as sitosterol, the saponins, and the various classes of cardiac steroids. He showed that all shared the cyclopentanophenanthrene nucleus. Inspired by Windaus, his pupil Butenandt isolated and determined the structure of the adrenal steroids whose origins from cholesterol had not been suspected by anyone. Butenandt was able to rapidly determine the structure of estrone, androsterone, and progesterone, for which he received the Nobel Prize in 1939.

Probably the climax in the extraordinary research output of Adolf Windaus was his elucidation of the structure and biosynthesis of vitamin D. Hess in New York had made the observation that ultraviolet radiation of a lipid extract induced the formation of active vitamin D. In the next 8 years, Adolf Windaus and his students succeeded in identifying the provitamin as ergosterol and 7-dehydrocholesterol and also in clarifying the structure of vitamin D₂ and vitamin D₃. The complex steps in photoactivation of the vitamin were clarified, and each intermediate was crystallized and its structure determined.

Thus, the research area of the chemical structure of cholesterol, which Adolf Windaus had selected when still a young docent in Freiburg led to studies spanning over 30 years – studies which opened up a vast – almost limitless field that continues to be active today. His work has been of inestimable significance for the practice of medicine. Adolf Windaus, however, insisted that his research was not aimed at applications, but only at understanding the mysteries of nature.

Adolf Windaus had a legendary reputation among his colleagues and students. He was a man of infinite energy and extraordinary insight, who could reduce scientific problems to their essence. He had the art to ask the right question and do the definitive experiment. Nature disclosed her secrets quickly to a man of such talent. His former associates had continuous admiration for his clarity of speech, both in conversation and scientific discussion. He was a man of modesty and dignity who combined the highest scientific standards with great personal generosity.

For his many discoveries, Adolf Windaus received many honors and awards. Under his leadership, the Chemical Institute in Göttingen became known throughout the world. He was honored by being chosen to receive the Nobel Prize for chemistry in 1928, and his lecture is a masterpiece of erudition, clarity and modesty.

W. Gerok (†)

INTERNATIONAL ADOLF WINDAUS AWARD

The "International Adolf Windaus Award" was founded by the Falk Foundation e.V. and will, for the twenty-fourth time, be presented on the occasion of the XXVIII International Bile Acid Meeting on July 3, 2026. The Award amounts to €15,000 and is awarded for outstanding contributions in the field of bile acid research.

Members of the Award Committee:

U. Beuers (Amsterdam)
P. A. Dawson (Atlanta)
V. Keitel-Anselmino (Magdeburg)
M. Trauner (Vienna)

Windaus Award Winners:

1980 - C. Einarsson (Stockholm) & K. Hellstrom (Stockholm)
1982 - E. H. Mosbach (New York) & H. Danielsson (Uppsala)
1984 - M. C. Carey (Boston)
1986 - I. Bjorkhem (Huddinge)
1988 - J. L. Boyer (New Haven)
1990 - P. B. Hylemon (Richmond) & P. J. Meier-Abt (Zurich)
1992 - K. Okuda (Hiroshima)
1994 - Z. R. Vlahcevic (Richmond)
1996 - W. Kramer (Frankfurt)
1998 - P. A. Dawson (Winston-Salem)
2000 - D. J. Mangelsdorf (Dallas)
2002 - D. W. Russell (Dallas)
2004 - K. D. R. Setchell (Cincinnati)
2006 - R. Poupon (Paris)
2008 - N. Ballatori (Rochester)
2010 - J. Auwerx & K. Schoonjans (Lausanne)
2012 - G. Paumgartner (Munich)
2014 - S. Kliewer (Dallas)
2016 - D. Keppler (Heidelberg)
2018 - B.B. Stieger (Zurich)
2020 - D. D. Moore (Berkeley)
2022 - R.J.P. Oude Elferink (Amsterdam)
2024 - D. Häussinger (Dusseldorf)

Coordinator of the Award Committee:

Prof. Dr. Ulrich Beuers

LIST OF SPEAKERS, MODERATORS AND SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZERS

Prof. Dr. Ulrich Beuers

Tytgat Institute for Liver &
Intestinal Research
Department of Gastroenterology &
Hepatology
Amsterdam University Medical Center
Meibergdreef 69-71
1105 BK Amsterdam
The Netherlands

Clarissa Campbell, PhD

CeMM Research Center for Molecular
Medicine of the Austrian Academy of
Sciences
Lazarettgasse 14
1090 Wien
Austria

Prof. Paul A. Dawson

Division of Pediatric Gastroenterology,
Hepatology & Nutrition
Emory University School of Medicine
1760 Haygood Drive
Atlanta, GA 30322
United States

Prof. Dr. Peter Fickert

Klinische Abteilung für Gastroenterologie
und Hepatologie
Universitätsklinikum für Innere Medizin
Medizinische Universität Graz
Auenbruggerplatz 15
8036 Graz
Austria

Prof. Dr. Claudia Fuchs

Klinische Abt. für Gastroenterologie &
Hepato-logie
Medizinische Universität Wien
Währinger Gürtel 18-20
1090 Wien
Austria

Prof. Dr. Holger Gohlke

Professor for Pharmaceutical
And Medicinal Chemistry
Institut für Pharmazeutische und
Medizinische Chemie
Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf
Universitätsstr. 1
40225 Düsseldorf
Germany

Prof. Emmanuel Gonzales

Hépatologie et Transplantation
Hépatique
Pédiatriques
AP-HP Université Paris Saclay
78, rue du Général Leclerc
94270 Le Kremlin-Bicêtre
Paris
France

Trisha J. Grevengoed

Department of Biomedical Sciences
University of Copenhagen
Blegdamsvej 3B
2200 Copenhagen
Denmark

Prof. Dr. Claudia Günther

Translational Research Center IV (TRC IV)
Centre for Personalised Medicine and
Research (CESAR)
Department of Medicine 1
University Hospital Erlangen
Kussmaulallee 4
91054 Erlangen
Germany

Lukas Michael Gulden

Division of Gastroenterology and
Hepatology
Dept. of Internal Medicine
Medical University Graz
Auenbruggerplatz 15
8036 Graz
Austria

Prof. Grace L. Guo

Environmental and Occupational Health
Sciences Institute
Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy
Rutgers University
170 Frelinghuysen Rd
Piscataway, NJ 8854
United States

Prof. Dr. Jan G. Hengstler

Systemtoxikologie
Leibniz-Institut für Arbeitsforschung
an der TU Dortmund
Ardeystr. 67
44139 Dortmund
Germany

Prof. Gideon Hirschfield, MD

Division of Gastroenterology and
Hepatology
Toronto Centre for Liver Disease
200 Elizabeth St
M5G 2C4 Toronto
Canada

Dr. Deepak Joshi

Institute of Liver Studies, Cheyne Wing
King's College Hospital
Denmark Hill, Brixton
SE5 9RS London
United Kingdom

Saul J. Karpen, MD, PhD, FAASLD

CSO, Stravitz-Sanyal Liver Institute
Virginia Commonwealth University
Richmond, VA 23284
United States

Prof. Dr. Verena Keitel-Anselmino

Klinik für Gastroenterologie/
Infektiologie
Universitätsklinikum Magdeburg
Leipziger Str. 44
39120 Magdeburg
Germany

Dr. Irune Lasa Elozegi

Humanitas University
Via Rita Levi Montalcini 4,
Pieve Emanuele (mi)
20072 Milan
Italy

Xiaoguang Lei, PhD

Boya Distinguished Professor
of Chemistry and Chemical Biology
College of Chemistry and Molecular
Engineering
Peking University (PKU)
Beijing 100871
China

Siyang Liu, MSc, PhD

Associate Professor
Section of Medical Statistics and
Systems Biology
School of Public Health
Sun Yat-sen University
Shenzhen
China

Alexander G. Miethke, MD

Associated Professor of Pediatrics
Center for Autoimmune Liver Disease
Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology
& Nutrition
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical
Center
3333 Burnet Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45229-3026
United States

Iiris Nyholm, MD, PhD

Pediatric Research Center
University of Helsinki
Biomedicum 2U
Tukholmankatu 8B
00290 Helsinki
Finland

Prof. Dr. Ronald J. P. Oude Elferink

Tytgat Institute for Liver & Intestinal
Research
Amsterdam University Medical Center
Meibergdreef 69-71
1105 BK Amsterdam
The Netherlands

Coen Paulusma, PhD

Tytgat Institute for Liver & Intestinal
Research
Amsterdam University Medical Center
Meibergdreef 69
1105 BK Amsterdam
The Netherlands

Andrew D. Patterson, PhD

Department of Veterinary and
Biomedical Sciences
322 Life Sciences Building
University Park, PA 16802
United States

Silvia Mary Pickering

Dept. of Gastroenterology and
Hepatology
University Hospital Zurich
Sternwartstrasse 14
8091 Zurich
Switzerland

Jason M. Ridlon, PhD

Division of Nutritional Sciences
University of Illinois at Urbana
Campaign
1207 Gregory Dr.
Urbana, IL 61801
United States

Dr. Frank Schaap, PhD

Faculty of Health, Medicine and Life
Sciences,
Department of Surgery
Maastricht University
P. O. Box 616
6200 MD Maastricht
The Netherlands

Prof. Dr. Bernd Schnabl

Division of Gastroenterology,
Department of Medicine
UCSD School of Medicine,
University of California
9500 Gilman Drive
La Jolla, CA 92093
United States

Prof. Dr. Kristina Schoonjans

Laboratory of Metabolic Signaling
École Polytechnique Fédérale de
Lausanne
Station 15
1015 Lausanne
Switzerland

Wenqiang Shen

Laboratory of Pediatrics
University Medical Center Groningen
Hanzeplein 1
9711XC Groningen
The Netherlands

Mark S. Sundrud, PhD

Professor of Medicine
Borwell Research Building
Walter and Carole Young Center for
Digestive Health
Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth
1 Medical Center Drive
Lebanon, NH 03756
United States

Prof. Atsushi Tanaka, MD

Department of Medicine
Teikyo University School of Medicine
2-11-1, Kaga, Itabashi-ku
Tokyo 173-8605
Japan

Dr. David Trampert, MD

Department of Gastroenterology &
Hepatology
Tytgat Institute for Liver & Intestinal
Research
Amsterdam University Medical Center
Meibergdreef 69-71
1105 BK Amsterdam
The Netherlands

Prof. Dr. Michael Trauner

Klinische Abt. für Gastroenterologie &
Hepatology
Medizinische Universität Wien
Währinger Gürtel 18-20
1090 Wien
Austria

Prof. Dr. Stan F. J. van de Graaf

Tytgat Institute for Liver & Intestinal
Research
Amsterdam University Medical Center
Meibergdreef 69-71
1105 BK Amsterdam
The Netherlands

Dr. Siva K. Varanasi

Department of Medicine
The Varanasi Lab
364 Plantation St
Worcester, MA 01605
United States

Prof. Dr. Catherine Williamson

Institute of Reproductive and
Developmental Biology
Imperial College London
Du Cane Road
London W12 0NN
United Kingdom

POSTER SESSION

ePosters will be displayed on our screens on July 3-4, 2026. We kindly ask the authors to be present during coffee and lunch breaks on both days to discuss their work.

CALL FOR POSTERS

Please submit your abstract by April 3, 2026, using our online submission system (<https://poster.falkfoundation.org>). The system will guide you through the submission process and provide further information on formatting requirements.

The abstracts will be reviewed by the scientific organizers, with preference given to those that align thematically with one of the final meeting sessions.

Accepted abstracts will be published in the final program.

Abstract submitters will be informed about acceptance and receive further instructions in April 2026.

For the first author of an accepted abstract, registration fee and accommodation (July 2-5, 2026) will be covered during Symposium 244.

POSTER AWARDS

Prizes of up to EUR 3.000, along with coverage of travel expenses, will be awarded for the best posters.

Winners will be invited to give a short presentation (2-5 minutes) of their poster during the award ceremony.

REGISTRATION



You can register for the event via our homepage:

www.falkfoundation.org

Registration is only possible online.

You will receive an automatic confirmation of registration by e-mail.

Please transfer the congress fee to the bank account listed in the e-mail within two weeks.

CONGRESS FEES

Scientific Program of Symposium 244	EUR 300
Students (copy of student ID required)	EUR 150

The congress fees include:

- Pre-Opening and Welcome on July 2, 2026
- Refreshments during coffee breaks
- Lunch on July 3 and 4, 2026
- A copy of the final program

CONGRESS OFFICE AND REGISTRATION

Opening Hours:

Thursday, July 2	16:00 - 20:00 h
Friday, July 3	7:30 - 18:30 h
Saturday, July 4	8:00 - 17:00 h

The Falk Foundation will take pictures during the meeting. Additionally, parts of the meeting might be recorded. By participating all attendees consent and agree with the recording and the photo shoots.

ARRIVAL

Hyatt Regency Vienna

(formerly Andaz Vienna am Belvedere)
Arsenalstrasse 10
1100 Vienna
Austria

By car

Guests can use the parking garage (open 24 hours) to self-park their vehicles in the designated hotel area. An entrance connects the ground floor of the garage directly to the hotel lobby. Costs: € 4,--/hour; € 40,--/overnight
Electric Vehicle Parking: The hotel provides 15 charging stations for electric vehicles with an 11 kW/h capacity, and two e-scooter charging stations with a 3.7 kW/h capacity. A fee of € 5,-- per charge applies in addition to the parking garage fee, regardless of the amount charged.

By plane

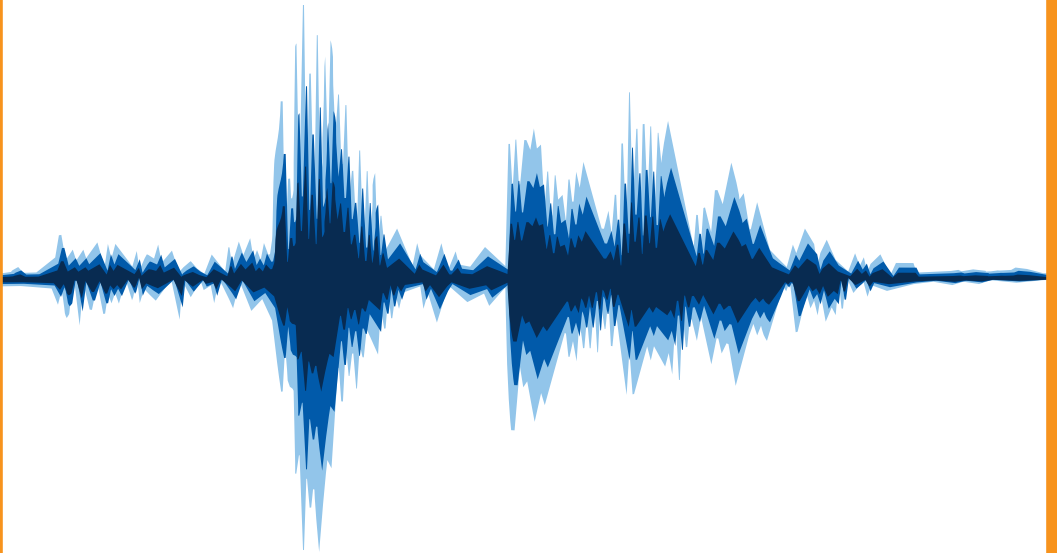
Vienna International Airport Schwechat is located 16 km away. By taxi it takes approx. 30 minutes, by train 20 minutes (please exit Vienna main station).

By train

Vienna main station is a 4 minutes walk to the Hotel.



**Registration via www.falkfoundation.org
or simply scan and register**



Together we know more. Together we do more.

Falk Foundation e.V. | Leinenweberstr. 5 | 79108 Freiburg | Germany
T: +49 761 1514-400 | F: +49 761 1514-460 | E-Mail: meeting@falkfoundation.org
www.falkfoundation.org