

GBI Exchange of Experience 2026: Open Access to Imaging around the Globe

In person: [Klaus Tschira Auditorium – ATC building – EMBL, Meyerhofstrasse 1, 69117 Heidelberg](#)

Online: [Zoom registration](#) – Meet our [online moderators](#)

Please note: All times are listed in UTC+1 (= [Central European Time, CET](#)). This is a live document and will be updated as additional information is confirmed. Talk titles, speaker order and selected agenda items are currently **TBA (To Be Announced)** and will be revised as final details are received from speakers and participating companies.

Pre-conference Day: Monday, 26th October

All times are in UTC+1 (CET)

11:30 – 13:30	Arrival & Registration
13:45 – 14:00	Welcome & Opening Yara Reis, Global BioImaging & Herbert Schaden, ZEISS
Online Training Resources & Accessibility <i>Moderators: Marko Lampe (Goethe-Universität Frankfurt), Janina Hanne (German BioImaging) and Claudia Pfander (Euro-BioImaging Industry Board)</i>	
14:00 – 14:30	Overview of available online training resources What is available (which format, what tech, level, paywall or free) • Featured presentations: Six selected submitted resources will be presented to the wider audience (3 min each). • Featured resource: MicroscopyDB — Aditi Dhabekar, BioImaging North America (BINA)
14:30 – 15:00	Audience discussion: Barriers and challenges to accessing training Identify key bottlenecks through interactive discussion and Menti polling
15:00 – 15:30	Future training needs and opportunities Discussion on improving accessibility and defining future training formats and topics
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee Break
16:00 – 17:15	Mixer / Speed dating between regional networks and companies Our partner networks represent Africa, Australia, Europe, Latin America, North America and Southeast Asia, as well as India and Japan
15 min	Wrap Up & Transition Break
17:30 – 18:00 18:10 – 18:40 18:50 – 19:20	TBA: 3× Industry Workshops (pre-registration required)
19:20 – 21:00	Pizza & drinks on the ATC Rooftop Limited to workshop-registered participants

Day 1: Tuesday, 27th October

All times are in UTC+1 (CET)

08:15 – 09:30	Registration & Coffee
09:30 – 10:00	Welcome & Reception Speech Antje Keppler and Yara Reis, Global BioImaging Welcome to EMBL Jan Korbel, Head of EMBL Heidelberg Welcome to Heidelberg, Germany Eckart Würzner, Lord Mayor of the City of Heidelberg
10:00 – 10:45	A decade of Global BioImaging Antje Keppler, Founder and Coordinator of Global BioImaging, Germany Jan Ellenberg, Director of SciLifeLab, Sweden Yara Reis, Strategic Alliances Manager of Global BioImaging, Germany
10:45 – 11:20	Coffee Break
Session I – Is open access essential for building global imaging infrastructure? Moderators: Claire Brown (McGill University, Canada) & Mai Atef Rahmoon (The American University in Cairo, Egypt)	
11:20 – 11:30	Video message from Mr Abou Amani , Assistant Director-General for Sciences, a.i., UNESCO
11:30 – 11:50	Jessica Lindvall Director, EOSC Association <i>Open Access needs Open Practice – Building infrastructure through People, FAIRness, and Trust</i>
11:50 – 12:10	Maria Augusta Arruda Director, Brazilian Biosciences National Laboratory (LNBio-CNPq), Brazil <i>Equitable Access to Research Infrastructure at CNPq: Advancing Science and Collaboration in the Global South</i>
12:10 – 12:30	Lise Korsten Co-Director, DSI Centre of Excellence in Food Security, Pretoria, South Africa President, African Academy of Sciences <i>Title TBA</i>
12:30 – 12:50	Ulla Gro Nielsen Director, Technical Sciences – Novo Nordisk Foundation <i>Research infrastructure: Supporting or Shaping Science?</i>
12:50 – 12:53	CSR BioTech <i>Techbite</i>
12:53 – 14:15	Lunch

Session II – Open Access around the Globe: a reality check <i>Moderator: Teng-Leong Chew (Janelia, United States)</i>	
14:15 – 14:40	Michael Reiche Facility Manager, University of Cape Town (UCT), South Africa African BioImaging Consortium (ABIC) <i>Insights from facilitating open access through the Africa Microscopy Initiative</i>
14:40 – 15:05	Michelle Itano Associate Professor and Administrative Director of Carolina Microscopy, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, United States BioImaging North America (BINA) <i>Community as Infrastructure: Advancing Open Imaging in North America</i>
15:05 – 15:30	Linda Chaabane Section Director, Euro-BioImaging Med-Hub, Italy Euro-BioImaging <i>Open Access at Euro-BioImaging ERIC</i>
15:30 – 15:50	Espresso Break
15:50 – 16:15	Kildare Miranda Director of the Advanced Microscopy Unit and Vice-Director of the National Centre for Structural Biology and Bioimaging (CENABIO), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil <i>The Latin America Bioimaging Network (LABI): A Regional Hub for Integration and Development of Hypothesis-Driven Discovery in Latin America</i>
16:15 – 16:35	Lisa Yen CEO, Microscopy Australia <i>Celebrating 20 years of open access to microscopes and expertise</i>
16:35 – 17:00	Satoshi Ogawa Associate Professor (Neuroscience), Monash University Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia iSEA — Imaging Southeast Asia <i>Bridging Borders through Open Imaging: iSEA's Journey and the Future of Open Access Bioimaging in Southeast Asia</i>
17:00 – 17:20	Teng-Leong Chew Director, Advanced Imaging Center at the HHMI Janelia Research Campus, United States <i>Open-access and global outreach through the lens of Janelia's AIC</i> <i>[Wrap-up of Global session]</i>
Posters & Community Spaces <i>with drinks & snacks</i>	
17:30 – 18:15	Posters with ODD numbers
18:15 – 19:00	Posters with EVEN numbers

Day 2: Wednesday, 28th October

All times are in UTC+1 (CET)

08:15 – 09:00	Registration & Coffee
Session III – Enabling Open Access: Infrastructure, Platforms and Practice Technologies, platforms and implementation strategies expanding access to imaging. Moderators: Luz María Fuentealba Pérez (Universidad Mayor, Chile) & Matúš Kalaš (University of Bergen, Norway)	
09:00 – 09:20	Stephanie Alexander Research & Service Coordinator, EMBL Imaging Centre, EMBL, Germany <i>The EMBL Imaging Centre: Open Access to Cutting-Edge Imaging Technologies Across Biological Scales</i>
09:20 – 09:40	Santosh Podder Senior Technical Officer, Microscopy Facility, IISER Pune, India <i>Scaling Imaging Data Sharing Across India: OME Implementation, Train-the-Trainer Initiatives, Challenges, Solutions, and Lessons Learned After One Year</i>
09:40 – 10:00	John Eriksson Director General, Euro-BioImaging Statutory Seat, Turku, Finland <i>The Future of Open Access in the AI Age</i>
10:00 – 10:20	Carlos Jaramillo Staff Scientist, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI), Panama City, Panamá <i>PollenGeo: unlocking the full potential of Palynology</i>
10:20 – 10:40	Toshihiko Fujimori Professor, National Institute for Basic Biology (NIBB), Okazaki, Japan <i>Promoting bioimaging networking in Japan through the activities of ABiS</i>
10:40 – 11:00	Stefanie Weidtkamp-Peters Head of Centre for Advanced Imaging, Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf, Germany (NFDI4BIOIMAGE, German BioImaging) <i>Local Roots, Global Standards: NFDI4BIOIMAGE as a Bioimage Data Services Enabler in the OME world</i>
11:00 – 11:40	Coffee Break
Session IV – (Human) Imaging Data in the AI Era: Access, Governance & Ownership Moderators: Shuichi Onami (RIKEN, Japan) & Henry Njoku (University of Ibadan, Nigeria)	
11:40 – 12:00	Aastha Mathur Head of Image Data Services, Euro-BioImaging ERIC <i>Founding a Global Image Data Ecosystem: From image data interoperability to global impact</i>
12:00 – 12:20	Adriana Tavares Professor, University of Edinburgh, Scotland <i>Global efforts towards data sharing and imaging facility sustainability</i>

12:20 – 12:40	Rishma Vidyasagar Senior Manager and National Coordinator, Advanced Human Imaging, National Imaging Facility (NIF), Australia <i>Developing national human imaging networks for an AI-driven future – an Australian National Imaging Facility perspective</i>
12:40 – 13:00	Oliver Gray Product Manager, Human Imaging – UK Biobank <i>The Global Use, Impact, and Future of UK Biobank</i>
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch
14:30 – 14:33	TissueGnostics <i>Techbite</i>
14:33 – 14:53	Sarah Lippincott Senior Researcher, Invest in Open Infrastructure (IOI) <i>Sustaining the Commons in the AI Economy: Reflections from the BRIDGE Project</i>
14:53 – 16:20	GBI Panel with Funders <i>The Future of Open Access to Research Infrastructures: A Funder Perspective</i> <i>Panel moderated by Maddy Parsons (King's College London, United Kingdom)</i> • BioHub (CZI) — Vladimir Ghukasyan, Senior Program Manager & Imaging Community Program Lead • Carl Zeiss Stiftung — Phil-Alan Gärtig, Program Manager • National Research Foundation — Michael Nxumalo, Director: International Grants and Partnerships (<i>online participation</i>) • Novo Nordisk Foundation — Ulla Gro Nielsen, Director, Technical Sciences • Wellcome Trust — Shaakir Salam, Research Manager
16:20 – 17:00	Group Photo + Transition Break & Coffee
17:00 – 18:30	Join one of the breakout rooms
BR1	Challenges and Solutions for Implementing Open Access in Biomedical Imaging Facilities Biomedical WG Co-Chairs and the winners of the GBI Sustainathon: Adesola Emmanuel Adepoju , University of Ibadan, Nigeria – SMART Africa Initiative Aishwarya Mishra , University of Edinburgh, Scotland Daniel Amaya , Translational Research Institute (TRI), Australia
BR2	Challenges and Solutions for Implementing Open Access in Bioimaging Facilities Co-Chairs: Ben Loos , Stellenbosch University, South Africa – SABI/ABIC Julia Fernandez-Rodriguez , University of Gothenburg, Sweden – CTLS/EUBI Rodrigo Portugal , CNPEM, Brazil – CEBEM/LABI
BR3	International Collaboration and Training for Imaging Scientists Co-Chairs: Samira Benadda , France BioImaging, France Alfonso Schmidt , Malaghan Institute of Medical Research, New Zealand Paul McMillan , University of Melbourne, Australia

BR4	Showcasing the Impact of Imaging Scientists and Core Facilities <u>Co-Chairs:</u> Laurence Lejeune , McGill University – Canada BioImaging Gunjan Mehta , Indian Institute of Technology – India BioImaging Daniela Aviles Huerta , Euro-BioImaging
BR5	The Future of GBI Current Landscape, Future Directions, and Community Needs <u>Co-Chairs (GBI Management Board):</u> Shinya Komoto (MB Chair), Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology – ABiS Lia Pietrasanta (MB Vice-Chair), University of Buenos Aires – LABI Yara Reis , EMBL – Global BioImaging
BR6	<i>Virtual Room: Showcasing the Impact of Imaging Scientists and Core Facilities</i> <u>Co-Chairs:</u> Alison North , The Rockefeller University – BioImaging North America (BINA), US Camilo Guzman , Euro-BioImaging, Finland (GBI WG) Jian Wei Tay , Van Andel Institute (ABRF), US Meghan Kraft , The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (ABRF), US
18:30 – 20:00	Global Dinner <i>@ EMBL canteen – included for all #GBI_EoE2026 registered participants</i>
20:00 – 23:00	10th Anniversary of Global BioImaging <i>ATC foyer – DJ – dance floor</i>

Day 3: Thursday, 29th October

All times are in UTC+1 (CET)

09:00 – 09:30	Registration & Coffee
Session V – Imaging 4 All (i4A) Moderators: Johanna Bischof (Euro-BioImaging BioHUB) & Deniz Saltukoglu (Global BioImaging)	
09:30 – 09:50	Deniz Saltukoglu Scientific Project Manager, Global BioImaging <i>Imaging 4 All</i>
09:50 – 10:00	Shaakir Salam Research Manager, Wellcome Trust
10:00 – 10:15	Fiorela Ghilini Research Assistant, INIFTA-UNLP CONICET, Argentina <i>Implementing OpenFlexure-Based Nanomotion Microscopy for Rapid Antimicrobial Evaluation</i>
10:15 – 10:30	Marshita Idris Senior Technical Officer, Monash University Malaysia Optical Imaging Platform, Malaysia <i>From Imaging4All to Imaging for All: Establishing an Open Foundation for Light Microscopy Education in Malaysia</i>
10:30 – 10:45	Libert Brice Tonfack Associate Professor in Plant Biotechnology, University of Yaoundé I, Faculty of Science, Cameroon <i>From Access to Impact: Leveraging Imaging 4 All Mobility to Strengthen Seed Phenotyping Capacity in Tropical Plant Research</i>
10:45 – 11:00	Stuti Mukerjee PhD Student, Indian Institute of Science, India <i>Mechanical interrogation of molecular recruitment at the early immunological synapse</i>
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee Break
11:30 – 11:45	Juan Pablo Barrientos Research Assistant, BiomedLab, Universidad Galileo, Guatemala <i>NatalIA: AI-Assisted Prenatal Ultrasound for Resource-Limited Settings in Guatemala</i>
11:45 – 12:00	Rafael Dantas Deputy Head, Laboratory of Experimental and Computational Biochemistry of Drugs, Oswaldo Cruz Institute (Fiocruz), Brazil <i>Hands-on training on Cell Painting assay at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard</i>
12:00 – 12:15	Somruthai Chaowongdee PhD Student, Kasetsart University, Thailand <i>Bridging African Fields, Southeast Asian Research, and International Collaboration with Cryo-EM: Uncovering Cassava Virus Architectures to Safeguard a Global Carbohydrate Source</i>
12:15 – 12:30	Frederick Asamoah Chief Laboratory Technician, Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research, College of Health Sciences, University of Ghana <i>From Training to Transformation: Building Sustainable TEM Capacity in Ghana</i>

12:30 – 13:15	Panel Discussion: Democratising Open Access Panel moderated by Antje Keppler (Euro-BioImaging BioHUB Director and Global BioImaging Coordinator) • Peter O'Toole – Professor of Microscopy and Cytometry and Director of the Tech Facility, University of York, United Kingdom • Mahmood Maina – Professor, Biomedical Science Research and Training Centre (BioRTC), Yobe State, Nigeria • Rachel Mellwig – Operational Manager of the Electron Microscopy Core Facility, EMBL • Caron Jacobs – Imaging Scientist, University of Cape Town, South Africa • Leonel Malacrida – Associate Professor/PI, Universidad de la República – Institut Pasteur de Montevideo, Uruguay
13:15 – 14:45	Lunch
Session VI – From Vision to Roadmap: Sustainable Access to Imaging Moderator: Yara Reis (Global BioImaging)	
14:45 – 15:15	Clara Prats Professor and Director, University of Copenhagen, Center for Core Facilities, Danish BioImaging <i>The Evolving Role of Bioimaging Infrastructures</i>
15:15 – 15:35	Event Closing Remarks and EoE2027 Announcement
— The virtual programme ends here —	
15 min	Transition Break
16:00 – 17:30	EMBL Core Facilities Tours (1) ALMF – Advanced Light Microscopy Facility (2) EM – Electron Microscopy Core Facility (3) IC (EM + LM) – Imaging Centre (4) Leica – @ Imaging Centre (5) TREC – Mobile Laboratories (6) Microbial Automation and Culturomics Core Facility (7) Flow Cytometry Core Facility Alternative tour: (8) The World of Molecular Biology (90 min)

