XLII. TURKISH MICROBIOLOGY CONGRESS
25–29 November 2026 / Rixos Sungate, Antalya

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

NOVEMBER 25, 2026, WEDNESDAY

COURSE PROGRAMS

Time	Room 1	Room 2	Room 3	Room 4	Room 5
13:00 16:30	**TMC Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing Standardization Working Group** **Gray Zone in Antibiotic Sensitivity Testing**	**TMC Mycobacteria Working Group** **Mycobacteria Course** **Diagnosis of Tuberculosis Infection**	**TMC Mycology Working Group** **Mycology Course** **Routine Diagnosis in Common Yeast and Mold Infections with Case Studies**	**TMC Molecular Epidemiology Working Group** **Molecular Epidemiology Course**	**Applied Course** **From SPSS to Jamovi: A Practical Path from Data Entry to Reporting Findings**
17:00 18:30	Hall A **Opening Ceremony of the XLII Turkish Microbiology Congress** **Welcome Addresses** Candan Çiçek President, Turkish Society of Microbiology Nuran Esen President, Clinical Microbiology Specialists Association				

NOVEMBER 26, 2026, THURSDAY

Hour	Hall A	Hall B	Hall C	Hall D - E
08:30 09:00	**Meet the Expert** **A Comprehensive Approach to HIV Diagnosis** Moderator: Rabia Can Speaker: Pervin Özlem Balcı	**Meet the Expert** **TMC Molecular Epidemiology Working Group** **Past, Present, and Future of Molecular Epidemiology** Speaker: Rıza Durmaz	**Interactive Session** **TMC Disaster and Epidemics Working Group** **If Life Offers You an Envelope** Moderators: Banu Sancak, Ayşegül Taylan Özkan	**Oral Presentation Session 1 - 2**
09:00 10:30	**Panel** **TMC Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing Standardization Working Group Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing from a Diagnostic Stewardship Perspective: Interactive Roundtable Discussion** Moderators: Güner Söyletir, Deniz Gür, Ufuk Hasdemir, Serap Süzük Panelists: Zeynep Ceren Karahan, Şöhret Aydemir, Gülşen Altınkanat Gelmez Infection Advisor: Sesin Kocagöz	**TMC Anaerobe Working Group** **Silent Anaerobic Actors in Carcinogenesis and Their Clinical Implications** Chairs: Arzu İlki, Mustafa Özyurt **The Role of Anaerobes in the Microbiota** Speaker: Nursen Topçuoğlu **Oncogenic Anaerobes** Speaker: Öncü Akgül **Clinical Implications: Case Presentations** Speaker: Arzu İlki	**Panel** **TMC Disaster and Epidemics Working Group** **A Tale of Two Cities,** **A Tale of Two Laboratories: A Crisis Game** Speakers: Hatice Nevgün Özen, Emrah Ruh, Ayşegül Taylan Özkan, İlvana Küçükkaya, Burçin Özer, Taylan Bozok	**Oral Presentation Session 3 - 4**
10:30 11:00	Coffee Break, Industry & Poster Visits			
11:00 12:00	Hall A **Satellite Symposium** **Innovative Solutions in Molecular Diagnostics** **Smart Laboratories and Full Automation** Speaker: Mustafa Kolukırık (Chairman of the Bioeksen Scientific Board) **Next-Generation Tuberculosis Diagnosis** Speaker: Harald Hoffmann (Director of the WHO Supranational Tuberculosis Reference Lab)			
12:00 12:30	**Mini Conference** **Microbes in Space: Microgravity, Biofilms, and the New Frontier of Antimicrobial Resistance** Chair: Tanıl Kocagöz Speaker: Barış Otlu	**KLİMUD Mini Panel** **Sterilization Disinfection Antisepsis Working Group** **Sustainability and Green Transition in Sterilization, Disinfection, and Antisepsis Practices** Chair: Dilek Yeşim Metin **Material Selection and Resource Saving in Sterilization: Environmental and Economic Perspectives** Speaker: Süreyya Gül **Green Disinfectants: Is It Possible to Protect Nature Without Compromising Efficacy?** Speaker: Dolunay Gülmez	**Young Scientists Session** **The Future of Microbiology: New Horizons in Diagnostics, Epidemiology, and Research** Chairs: Nurver Ülger, Nuri Özkütük **CRISPR Technology: From Diagnosis to Treatment** Speaker: Ayşegül Ateş **From Culture to Metagenomics: Next-Generation Sequencing Era in Diagnostics** Speaker: Elif Seren Tanrıverdi **Bioinformatics: Essential Skills for the Clinical Microbiologist** Speaker: Hacer Aytekin Börü	**Oral Presentation Session 5 - 6**
12:30 13:00	**Mini Conference** **A New Era in Respiratory Tract Viruses: A/H5N1, H3N2, RSV, SARS-CoV-2** Chair: Candan Çiçek Speaker: Özgür Appak			
13:00 14:00	Lunch, Industry & Poster Visits			
14:00 15:00	Hall A **Satellite Symposium** **Supporting Antimicrobial Stewardship Through an Integrated Microbiology Laboratory: Digital solutions** Chair: Alicia Martin			
15:00 16:00	**Panel** **Innovations in Tuberculosis Diagnosis** Chair: Nuri Özkütük **New Horizons in Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis** Speaker: Zübeyde Lale **Advantages and Clinical Benefits of Automated Systems in Tuberculosis Diagnosis** Speaker: Ebru Evren Yurtçu	**Mini Panel** **TMC Sepsis Working Group** **Evolution of Microbiological Diagnosis in Sepsis** Chair: Özgen Eser **From Gram Staining to Next-Generation Molecular Diagnostics in Sepsis** Speaker: Neslihan Arıcı **Novel Molecular Approaches in Sepsis Diagnosis** Speaker: Neval Yurttutan Uyar	**Interactive Case Session** Facilitators: Onur Karatuna, Hüsnü Pullukçu, Gülçin Bayramoğlu, Meltem Taşbakan, Selda Erensoy	**Oral Presentation Session 7- 8**
16:00 16:30	Coffee Break, Industry & Poster Visits			
16:30 17:30	**Panel** **TMC Virology Working Group** **Recent Trends in Hepatitis Viruses and HIV** Chair: Sinem Akçalı **Hepatitis A ve E** Speaker: Sinem Akçalı **Hepatitis B ve C** Speaker: Bedia Dinç **HIV** Speaker: İmran Sağlık	**TMC One Health Working Group** **From Sewage to Clinical Decision: Measuring the Invisible** Chair: Ahmet Arslantürk **Cities Are Talking: Outbreak Tracking from Wastewater** Speaker: Selçuk Kılıç **What Does Hospital Wastewater Tell Us?** Speaker: Serap Süzük	**Silent Invaders in the Lung: Atypical Pneumonia Agents** Chair: Gönül Aslan Speakers: Tuğçe Bozok, Şinasi Karvar	**Oral Presentation Session 9 - 10**
17:30 18:00		**Mini Conference** **Biomarkers** Chair: Ayşe Kalkancı Speakers: Taylan Bozok, Yeliz Tanrıverdi Çaycı	**Mini Panel** **Vaccines: FAQ** Moderators: Hüsnü Pullukçu, Meltem Taşbakan	

NOVEMBER 27, 2026, FRIDAY

Hour	Hall A	Hall B	Hall C	Hall D - E
08:30 09:00	**Uzmanıyla Tartışalım** **Artificial Intelligence Integration into Hospital Information Systems and Smart Molecular Diagnostics** Speaker: Mesut Yılmaz	**13th National Molecular and Diagnostic Microbiology Congress** **Opening Session**	**Mini Conference** **Importance of Incorporation of Teaching-Research Nexus into Student Learning for Sustainable Futures** Chair: Ahmet Celal Başustaoğlu Speaker: İpek Kurtböke	**Oral Presentation Session 11 - 12**
09:00 10:30	**Panel** **TMC Mycobacteria Working Group** **Host–Pathogen Balance: The Two Faces of Immune Response in Tuberculosis** Chair: Nuran Esen **First Contact: The Silent War of Macrophages and *M. tuberculosis*** Speaker: Leyla Ersoy **Granuloma: A Prison or a Sanctuary?** Speaker: Melike Yaşar Duman **If the Balance Breaks: From Immune Response to Disease** Speaker: Deniz Gazel	**Evolutionary Connection from CRISPR-Cas9 to the Human Immune System** Chair: Yakut Akyön Yılmaz Speaker: Tanıl Kocagöz **Detection of Autoantibodies via Automated Computer-Aided Microscopy Systems: Pros and Cons** Chair: Burçin Şener Speakerlar: Nilgün Kaşifoğlu, Tutku Taşkınoğlu **Artificial Intelligence and Its Use in Microbiology** Chair: Dilek Menenmenlioğlu, Öznur Gürpınar Speaker: Tunca Doğan	**Interactive Panel** **Mirror and Shield** **TTV and HGV: Excluded from the Hepatitis Viruses — Where Are They Now?** Speakers: Selma Gökahmetoğlu, Selda Erensoy, Mehmet Soylu **Mini Conference** **The Role of Microplastics in Antimicrobial Resistance Transfer** Chair: Gülçin Bayramoğlu Speaker: Nükhet Sivri	**Oral Presentation Session 13 - 14**
10:30 11:00	Coffee Break, Industry & Poster Visits			
11:00 12:00	Hall A **Satellite Symposium** **Laboratory Experience** Chair: Selda Erensoy Speaker: Rüçhan Sertöz			
12:00 12:30	**Panel** **Understanding Syndromic Testing: Where is the Real Difference?** Moderator: Candan Çiçek Speakers: Gürkan Bozan, Aynur Karayol Akın, Yusuf Yakupoğulları	**Innovations in Immunological and Molecular Approaches in Fungal Infections** Chair: Dolunay Gülmez Kıvanç **A Sugar Code used by the Immune System to Recognize the Cell Wall of Fungal Pathogens** Speaker: Neil Gow (Online) **Translational Approach in Fungus-Host Interaction** Speaker: Özlem Doğan	**Mini Conference** **TMC Immunology Working Group** **Trained Immunity** Chair: Tuğba Kula Atik Speaker: Diğdem Yöyen Ermiş Ermiş	**Oral Presentation Session 15 - 16**
12:30 13:00			**Mini Conference** **Food Safety and Bacteriophages** Chair: Banu Kaşkatepe Speaker: Yeşim Soyer	
13:00 14:00	Lunch, Industry & Poster Visits			
14:00 15:00	Hall A **Satellite Symposium** **The Role of Autobio Microbiology Systems in Modern Laboratory Practice** Chair: Altay Atalay Speaker: Pınar Sağıroğlu			
15:00 15:30	**Mini Conference** **Innovative Approaches in Antifungal Drug Development: What Has Changed and What Lies Ahead?** Chairs: Semra Kuştimur, Ayşe Kalkancı Speaker: Takashi Sugita	**Molecular Approach to Current Threats in One Health** Chair: Serra Örsten **Antifungal Resistance in a One-health Context: Global Challenges and Opportunities** Speaker: Neil Gow (Online) **Zoonotic Hepatitis E** Speaker: Gülşen Özkaya Şahin (Online	**Interactive Session** **Adaptation of Rapidly Changing AI Tools to Academia** Moderators: Seyfi Durmaz, Gözde Akkuş Kayalı, Alper Özarslan	**Oral Presentation Session 17 - 18**
15:30 16:00	**Mini Conference** **Next-Generation Approaches in Preclinical Sepsis: Experimental Modeling and the Rise of Cell-Based Therapies** Chair: Aynur Karayol Akın Speaker: Gökçen Dinç			
16:00 16:30	Coffee Break, Industry & Poster Visits			
16:30 18:00	**TMC Mycology Working Group** **Fungal Threat from Ecosystem to Immunity: One Health, Clinical Evolution, and Cellular Interaction** Chair: Asuman Birinci **Evolution of the Fungal Crisis from Nature to Clinic Under the Grip of Climate Change: Changing Epidemiology** Speaker: Çağrı Ergin **Has Mycological Diagnosis Evolved?** Speaker: Beyza Ener **Evolution in the Host-Fungus Battle: How Do Fungi Manipulate Immune Cells?** Speaker: Kemal Bilgin	**Mini Panel** **Threatening Mycobacterial Agents** Chairs: Gönül Aslan, Ebru Us **New Sources of *Mycobacterium bovis*** Speaker: Kaya Köksalan **Mycobacterium abscessus Infections** Speaker: Zeynep Sarıbaş **There Is One More Possibility: Could It Be the Syndromic Panel?** Chair: Banu Sancak Speakears: Canset Nur Aydoğan, Tuğrul Hoşbul	**Escape Rooms:** **Two Groups Competing** Contestants: Can Berk Kurt, Merve Kanat, Egemen Bolat, Sıtkı Özgür Altop, Deste Işık, Fatih Emin Işık **Room 1: Culture Crisis** **Room 2: The Clinician is Calling You** **Escape Rooms in Education** Speaker: Hatice Şahin	**Oral Presentation Session 19 - 20**
18:00 18:30	**Mini Konferans** **Kanser Tedavisinde Tümörü Hedefleyen Mikroorganizmalar: Yaşayan İlaçlara Doğru** Oturum Başkanı: Gülay Aral Akarsu Konuşmacı: Ayşe Caner	**Beyond Resistance Genes: Microbial Epigenetics and Antimicrobial Resistance** Chair: Barış Otlu Speaker: Evren Doruk Engin **13th National Molecular and Diagnostic Microbiology Congress Closing Session**	**Mini Conference** **Culture Collections and Gene Bank** Chair: İpek Kurtböke Speaker: Demet Yumuşak	
20:00 22:00	**General Assembly**			

NOVEMBER 28, 2026, SATURDAY

Hour	Hall A	Hall B	Hall C
08:30 09:00	**Meet the Expert** **The Clinical benefits of Fecal Calprotectin and Elastase testing, reducing the need of endoscopies and their monitoring value** Konuşmacı: Rolando Paolucci	**Meet the Expert** **Mycology** Moderators: Dilek Yeşim Metin, Nedret Koç	**Interactive Session** **“Suspects at the Table: Tracing Foodborne Infections”** Chair: Hatice Nevgün Özen Panelists: Canberk Çınar, Yağmur Merdan
09:00 10:30	**Panel** **TMC Molecular Epidemiology Working Group Reinterpreting Resistance, Outbreaks and Environment from a Molecular Epidemiology Perspective** Chair: Rıza Durmaz **Genomic Analysis of Hospital-Acquired Outbreaks** Speaker: Rıza Durmaz **From Environmental Reservoirs to Hospital Outbreaks** Speaker: Özgen Eser **Molecular Epidemiology of Community-Acquired and Vaccine-Preventable Outbreaks** Speaker: Nuran Karabulut	**KLIMUD Panel** **Commission on Quality and Accreditation in Laboratory Practices** **We Are Discussing Quality Requirements in Medical Laboratory Management** Chairs: Pervin Özlem Balcı, Aydan Özkütük **What Are the Principles of Quality Control Implementation in the Analytical Process?** Speaker: Esra Karakoç **Is Measurement Uncertainty Required in Microbiological Analyses?** Speaker: Özgür Appak **Quality Indicators for Continuous Improvement in Our Laboratory** Speaker: Sultan Gülbahçe Orhan	**Panel** **TMC-KKTC Platform** **Re-reading Infections** Chair: Emrah Ruh **AI-Supported Systems in the Diagnosis of Infectious Diseases** Speaker: Buket Baddal **Opportunities and Limitations in Microbiology with Deep Learning** Speaker: Ayşe Seyer **The Impact of Urbanization, Climate Change, and Ecosystem Transformation on the Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases** Speaker: Emrah Ruh
10:30 11:00	Coffee Break, Industry & Poster Visits		
11:00 12:00	Salon A **Satellite Symposium** **A New Era in Syndromic Diagnosis of Sepsis: From Diagnosis to Antimicrobial Resistance** **From Test Ordering to Clinical Decision-Making** Speaker: Zeynep Ceren Karahan		
12:00 13:00	**Panel** **HPV and Other Sexually Transmitted Infections** Chair: Pınar Sağıroğlu **How Can We Increase Participation in National HPV Screening Programs?** Speaker: Partha Basu (WHO, IARC, Head of Early Detection, Prevention and Infections Branch) **Social and Spatial Elements of Sexual Behavior** Speaker: Pelin Karakuş **CHEMSEX** Speaker: Pınar Sağıroğlu	**Panel** **TMC Parasitology Working Group** **Current Topics in Parasitology** Chair: Funda Doğruman Al **Interpretation of Serological Test Results in Toxoplasmosis** Speaker: Özlem Ulusan Bağcı **Blastocystis: Parasite or Partner?** Speaker: Funda Doğruman Al **Leismaniasis** Speaker: Umut Berberoğlu	**Interactive Mini Panel** **Bioterrorism** **The Role of Microbiology Laboratories in the Invisible Battlefield** Panelists: Selçuk Kılıç, Meral Turan, Mustafa Erdem Sarp, Eylül Beren Tanık
13:00 14:00	Lunch, Industry & Poster Visits		
14:00 15:00	Salon A **Satellite Symposium** **Current Approaches to the Diagnosis of Latent and Active Tuberculosis** Speaker: Yeliz Tanrıverdi Çaycı		
15:00 15:30	**Mini Conference** **Antimicrobial Stewardship and AMR** Chair: Ufuk Hasdemir Speaker: Onur Karatuna	**Mini Conference** **Staying Up-to-Date in Science** Chair: Banu Sancak Speaker: Rüçhan Sertöz	**Mini Panel** Chair: Tekin Karslıgil **Meningitis and Pertussis** Speaker: Selin Nar Ötgün **Measles** Speaker: Elçin Kal Çakmaklıoğulları **Plague** Speaker: Esra Gül Tursun
15:30 16:00	**Mini Conference** **Blood Culture: Current Challenges and New Solutions for a 100-Year-Old Method** Chair: Şöhret Aydemir Speaker: Volkan Özenci	**Mini Conference** **Novel Approaches in Malaria: Challenges, Global Strategies, and Solution Proposals** Chair: Yakut Akyön Yılmaz Speaker: Özgür Kurt	
16:00 16:30	Coffee Break, Industry & Poster Visits		
16:30 18:00	**Panel** **TMC Immunology Working Group** **Vaccine Immunology and Advanced Vaccine Platforms** Chair: Haluk Barbaros Oral **Vaccine Immunology: T and B Cell Memory** Speaker: Yusuf Metin Gelmez **mRNA and Subunit Vaccine Platforms** Speaker: Resul Karakuş **Therapeutic Vaccines Against Chronic Infections** Speaker: Haluk Barbaros Oral	**Blood Banks and Transfusion Society of Turkey Panel** **The Three Dimensions of Blood Banking** Chair: Ramazan Uluhan **Immunohematological Concepts in Blood Banking** Speaker: L. Tufan Kumaş **How Should I Manage My Blood Bank?** Speaker: Berrin Uzun **Pathogen Inactivation** Speaker: Yasemin Heper	**KLIMUD Panel** **Sexually Transmitted Infections Working Group** **Molecular Microbiology and New Technologies in Diagnosing Genital Tract Infections** Chair: Yasemin Zer **Use of Syndromic Multiplex PCR Panels and Syndrome-Oriented Test Selection** Speaker: Melda Özdamar **Novel Methods in the Diagnosis of Genital Tract Infections** Speaker: Tuğçe Özyol Atkaya **Diagnosis and Reporting in Genital Tract Infections with Case Studies** Speaker: Hatice Yazısız

NOVEMBER 29, 2026, SUNDAY

Hour	Hall A	Hall B
09:00 10:30	**TTMYK** **From Specialty to Competency: Assessment, Certification, and Continuous Development in Medical Microbiology Training** Chair: Aydan Özkütük **Redesigning Specialty Training in the Age of AI: Competency, Learning Analytics, and the Specialist of the Future** Speaker: İmran Sağlık **Planning the Future in Subspecialty Training: Educational Institutions, Quality Assurance, and International Perspectives** Speaker: Elif Aktaş **The Future of Qualification Board Exams: Artificial Intelligence, Competency-Based Assessment, and Digital Transformation** Speaker: Ayhan Çalışkan	**TTMYK-ÖDSK Medical Microbiology Qualification (Board) Examination**
10:30 11:00	Coffee Break	
11:00 12:30	**Where Will the Next Pandemic Emerge?** Chair: Candan Çiçek **Current Zoonotic Threats** Speaker: Mehmet Ali Öktem **Genomic Surveillance, Digital Epidemiology: Early Detection of New Outbreaks** Speaker: Ayşe Hande Türk **Pandemic X** Speaker: Arzu Altunçekiç Yıldırım	
12:00 13:00	**Closing Session**	