UNIVERSITY
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
ZURICH

SYMPOSIUM ON PRECISION DIAGNOSTICS FOR CHILDREN WITH LIFE-THREATENING INFECTIONS 2026

University Children's Hospital Zurich Switzerland
Friday 27 November 2026

PROGRAMME

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

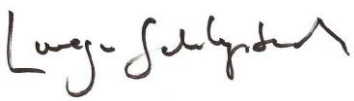
We are thrilled to invite you to our upcoming symposium on the scientific, clinical, technological, and implementation challenges that shape the future of precision diagnostics for children.

Join internationally leading researchers for a one-day symposium exploring the latest advances in precision diagnostics across paediatric infectious disease and critical care – from pathogen and host biology to bioinformatics, and real-world clinical implementation.

How can precision diagnostics improve the care of febrile and critically ill children? How can we improve the early diagnosis of sepsis, infection, and inflammation to target more effective treatments? How can we use technological innovation in omics and AI to advance our understanding of disease and treatability? How can we effectively implement novel biomarkers in clinical practice? How will precision diagnostics transform the field in the next decade?

The symposium marks the concluding scientific meeting of DIAMONDS, an EU Horizon 2020 project developing innovative diagnostic approaches for children with suspected infection, and is supported by the new Learn4Sepsis initiative by University Medicine Zürich (UMZH).

We look forward to welcoming you,



Prof. Luregn Schlapbach
Head of Department of Intensive Care and Neonatology
University Children's Hospital Zurich
Learn4Sepsis, University Medicine Zürich

DIAMONDS
MAKING DIAGNOSIS PERSONAL

Universität Zürich[UZH]

PROGRAMME, Friday 27 November 2026

08.30-09.00h Arrival

09.00h **Opening of Symposium**
Prof. Michael Levin, Imperial College London

09.30-10.30h **1st session: Clinical challenges**

The ED perspective: how do people use tests in infectious disease?
- Prof. Carrol Enitan, University of Liverpool

What do we need to improve care for children with high-risk conditions
- MD Fabian van der Velden, University of Newcastle

Precision diagnostics for critically ill children
- Prof. Luregn Schlapbach, University Children's Hospital Zurich

Break

10.45-12.10h **2nd session: From pathogen to host**

Forget the host, its all about the bugs – Causes of fever in 2026
- Dr Irene Rivero Calle, University of Santiago de Compostela

The immunological basis of inflammatory disease in children
- Dr Taco Kuijpers, Amsterdam University

Is severe paediatric infection written in the genes?
- Prof. Vanessa Sancho-Shimizu, Imperial College London

Are adults large children? Insights from adult host response studies
- Dr Emma Davenport, Wellcome Sanger Institute Cambridge

Lunch

13.00-14.20h **3rd session: Bioinformatics and technological innovation**

Using the host response for diagnosis – the beauty of multi class diagnosis
- Prof. Myrsini Kaforou, Imperial College London

Molecular taxonomy of paediatric infection and inflammation
- Dr Sam Channon-Wells, Imperial College London

Beyond transcriptomics – RNA velocity to decipher disease trajectories
- Prof. Aubrey Cunnington, Imperial College London

Transcript-based testing in the clinic: results from PERFORM and DIAMONDS diagnostic platforms
- Prof. Jethro Herberg, Imperial College London

Break

14.30-15.55h **4th session: Bringing innovation to the bedside**

Infection vs. Colonization: From Precision Diagnosis to Clinical Trials in Childhood Pneumonia
- Prof. Patrick M. Meyer Sauteur

Designing innovation for patients - the family perspective
- Dr Emma Lim, Imperial College London

Novel diagnostics - how can they affect healthcare delivery, and are they cost-effective?
- Shunmay Yeung, Imperial College London

Beyond COVID-19: from platform trials towards a learning health system
- Dr Michael Carter, University of Oxford

16.00h **End of the Symposium**

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Tickets and further information:
Ticket platform link onsite tickets
Ticket platform link online tickets

Credits: 6 SGP

Location:
Gebäude Forschung und Lehre, Kinderspital Zürich, August-Forel-Strasse 51, 8008 Zürich

Organiser:
Learn4Sepsis and DIAMONDS consortium,
University Children's Hospital Zürich and University of Zurich

Contact:
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Arrival:

From/to Airport Zurich
Train to Bahnhof Stadelhofen
Then Tram no. 4 to stop Balgrist **or**
Tram no. 18 to stop Balgrist (Forchbahn)

From/to Bahnhof Stadelhofen
Tram no. 4 to stop Balgrist
Tram no. 18 to stop Balgrist (Forchbahn)

From/to Zurich HB (main station)
Train to Bahnhof Stadelhofen & tram **or**
Tram no. 4 to stop Balgrist

