

EAACI Symposium on Epithelial Barriers, Microbiome and Planetary Health 2026

Program:

Day 1 (01.October.2026)

08:00 - Registration

08:15 - 08:30 - Opening Ceremony

Speakers: Mohamed Shamji, Cezmi Akdis

08:30 – 10:00 - Session 1: Immune and epithelial mechanisms in allergic diseases

Learning objective: The session will highlight how innate immune cells, epithelial barrier dysfunction and single-cell spatial approaches to understanding the pathogenesis allergic diseases.

Chair 1: Maria J. Torres, Chair 2: Umit Sahiner

08:30 - 09:00 – Innate immune cells and their contribution to pathogenesis and resolution of allergic diseases

Keywords: Allergic inflammation, innate immunity

Speaker: **Mohamed Shamji**

09:00 - 09:30 – Single-cell spatial mapping of the airway wall in health and asthma

Keywords: Airway remodeling, asthma

Speaker: **Clare M Lloyd**

09:30 - 10:00 Oral presentation (x3)

Timing: 25-minute lecture + 5-minute Q&A after each lecture; CME credits: 1.5

8-minute lecture + 2-minute Q&A after each oral presentation

10:00 - 10:30 – Industry symposia

10:30 - 11:00 – Coffee break

11:00 - 12:30 - Session 2: Epithelial barrier and immune pathways driving allergic diseases

Learning objective: The session will highlight key mechanisms underlying the development of allergic diseases, including epithelial barrier dysfunction and inflammatory pathways and develop new therapeutic approaches.

Chair 1: Mohammed Shamji, Chair 2: Arzu Bakirtas

11:00 - 11:30 – Pathogenesis of allergic diseases and implications for prevention

Keywords: Allergic diseases, disease prevention

Speaker: **Maria Torres**

11:30 - 12:00 – Epithelial barrier dysfunction as a driver of food allergy

Keywords: Epithelial barrier, food allergy

Speaker: **Umit Sahiner**

12:00 - 12:30 Oral presentation (x3)

Timing: 25-minute lecture + 5-minute Q&A after each lecture; CME credits: 1.5

8-minute lecture + 2-minute Q&A after each oral presentation

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch

13:30 – 15:00 - Session 3 - Modeling and Mechanisms of Epithelial Barrier Function

Learning objective: This session will highlight recent advances in understanding epithelial barrier biology and dysfunction in airway diseases, including insights from organoid models and environmental exposures.

Chair 1: Cezmi Akdis, Chair 2: Clare M Lloyd

13:30 – 14:00 The tight junction barrier: from molecules to disease

Keywords: Epithelial barrier, tight junction

Speaker: **Sandra Citi**

14:00 – 14:30 Recapitulating the pulmonary epithelial barrier to understand environmental stress responses

Keywords: Airway epithelial barrier, nanoplastic

Speaker: **Ozlem Celik-Yesiltas**

14:30 - 15:00 Oral presentation (x2)

Timing: 25-minute lecture + 5-minute Q&A after each lecture; CME credits: 1.5

8-minute lecture + 2-minute Q&A after each oral presentation

15:30 – 19:00 Social program (Cappadocia tour)

20:30 – 22:00 Poster session

Topic 1 name: Focus on the airway epithelium, *Chair: Ozlem Celik-Yesiltas*

Topic 2 name: Focus on the skin epithelium, *Chair: Sandra Citi*

Topic 3 name: Focus on the gut epithelium, *Chair: Rodrigo Jimenez Saiz*

Day 2 (02.October.2026)

08:30 - 10:00 - Session 4: Epithelial injury and microbiota-driven regulation of immune responses

Learning objectives: This session will provide how epithelial injury and microbiota interactions shape immune responses and contribute to the development of allergic and inflammatory diseases.

Chair 1: Mubeccel Akdis, Chair 2: Rodrigo Jimenez Saiz

09:00 - 09:30 – Environmental modulation of immune resilience via epigenetic regulation

Keywords: Epithelial cell, lung

Speaker: **Ali Onder Yildirim**

09:00 - 09:30 – Wildling mice with a microbiota and allergic immune response

Keywords: Microbiota, wildling mice

Speaker: **Jonathan M. Coquet**

09:30 - 10:00 Oral presentation (x3)

Timing: 25-minute lecture + 5-minute Q&A after each lecture; CME credits: 1.5

8-minute lecture + 2-minute Q&A after each oral presentation

10:00 - 10:30 – Industry symposia slot 2

10:30 - 11:00 – Coffee break

11:00 - 12:30 - Session 5: Environmental and planetary drivers of epithelial barrier dysfunction in allergic diseases

Learning objectives: This session will highlight how environmental and planetary factors, including climate change and pollution, contribute to epithelial barrier dysfunction and drive the development and progression of allergic diseases.

Chair 1: Ibon Eguiluz Gracia, Chair 2: Ozlem Goksel

11:00 - 11:30 – Environmental exposures and epithelial barrier disruption

Keywords: Barrier integrity, environmental exposures

Speaker: **Cezmi Akdis**

11:30 - 12:00 – Early-life microbiome, environment and nutrition at the crossroads of climate change, health and allergic disease

Speaker: **Ruby Pawankar**

12:00 – 12:30 Oral presentation (x3)

Timing: 25-minute lecture + 5-minute Q&A after each lecture; CME credits: 1.5

8-minute lecture + 2-minute Q&A after each oral presentation

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch

13:30 - 15:00 - Session 6: Metabolism and biomarkers in allergic inflammation

Learning objectives: This session will provide insight into how metabolic and mitochondrial pathways regulate mucosal immunity in allergy and infection, and will explore emerging biomarkers for the detection and monitoring of mucosal allergic inflammation.

Chair 1: Claudia Traidl-Hoffmann, Chair 2: Ali Onder Yildirim

13:30 - 14:00 – Metabolic and mitochondrial control of mucosal immunity in asthma, allergy and infection

Keywords: Allergic diseases, mucosal immunity

Speaker: **Milena Sokolowska**

14:00 – 14:30 – Biomarkers for mucosal allergic inflammation

Keywords: Biomarkers, allergic inflammation

Speaker: **Ibon Eguiluz Gracia**

14:30 - 15:00 Oral presentation (x3)

Timing: 25-minute lecture + 5-minute Q&A after each lecture; CME credits: 1.5

8-minute lecture + 2-minute Q&A after each oral presentation

15:00 - 15:30 – Industry symposia slot 3

15:30 - 16:00 – Coffee break

16:00 - 17:30 - Session 7: Mucosal homeostasis and epithelial barrier function in gut and lung

Learning objective: This session will provide insights into the key determinants and molecular mechanisms regulating mucosal homeostasis and epithelial barrier function in the gut and lung and how their disruption contributes to disease.

Chair 1: Milena Sokolowska, Chair 2: Ruby Pawankar

16:00 - 16:30 – Determinants of mucosal homeostasis in the gut and lung

Keywords: Mucosal homeostasis, gut, lung

Speaker: **Nicola Harris**

16:30 - 17:00 – Molecular mechanisms underlying gut epithelial barrier dysfunction

Keywords: Gut epithelial barrier, molecular mechanisms

Speaker: **Ismail Ogulur**

17:00 - 17:30 Oral presentation (x3)

Timing: 25-minute lecture + 5-minute Q&A after each lecture; CME credits: 1.5

8-minute lecture + 2-minute Q&A after each oral presentation

17:30-18:30 Activity (Uchisar Castle climb and speaker dinner)

19:00 - 22:00 – Speaker Dinner

Day 3 (03.October.2026)

08:30 – 10:00 - Session 8 Microbial and dietary influences on allergic inflammation

Learning objective: This session will highlight how cannabinoids and microbial metabolism of food allergens influence mucosal inflammation and epithelial defence.

Chair 1: Jonathan M. Coquet, Chair 2: Nicola Harris

08:30 – 09:00 – Cannabinoids show anti-inflammatory properties and strengthen epithelial defenses

Keywords: Cannabinoids, epithelial barrier

Speaker: **Oscar Palomeras**

09:00 - 10:00 – Microbial metabolism of food allergens determines the severity of IgE-mediated anaphylaxis

Keywords: Food allergens, microbial metabolism

Speaker: **Rodrigo Jimenez Saiz**

10:00 - 10:30 Oral presentation (x3)

Timing: 25-minute lecture + 5-minute Q&A after each lecture; CME credits: 1.5

8-minute lecture + 2-minute Q&A after each oral presentation

10:00 - 10:30 – Coffee break

10:30 - 12:00 - Session 9: Environmental regulation of epithelial barrier integrity and the microbiome in allergic diseases

Learning objective: This session will highlight how environmental factors shape epithelial barrier integrity and the microbiome, influencing susceptibility to and progression of allergic diseases.

Chairs 1: Ismail Ogulur, Chair 2: Oscar Palomeras

10:30 – 11:00 - Environmental risk and protective factors affecting epithelial barrier integrity and allergic diseases

Keywords: Allergic diseases, immune regulation

Speaker: **Arzu Bakirtas**

11:30 - 12:00 – Regulation of the epithelial barrier and microbiome by environmental factors

Keywords: Epithelial barrier, microbiome

Speaker: **Claudia Traidl-Hoffmann**

11:30 - 12:00 Oral presentation (x3)

Timing: 25-minute lecture + 5-minute Q&A after each lecture; CME credits: 1.5

8-minute lecture + 2-minute Q&A after each oral presentation

12:00 - 12:15 - Closing Ceremony

Speakers: Cezmi Akdis, Ismail Ogulur

Best poster presentation (x3), best oral presentation (x2) – Allergy x2