

Thursday May 21st 2026	
9:00 - 10:00	Registration, poster set-up, and coffee in the Claustro (Serrano 121)
10:00 - 10:30	Welcome session at the Assembly Hall of the Blas Cabrera (former Rocasolano) Institute (Serrano 119). Natalia Fernández-Borges and Juan Carlos Espinosa (Congress Chairpersons)
10:30 - 13:00	Prion Structure & Biology I (Chairs: Jesús Requena – Leticia Lucero)
10:30 - 11:00	Invited speaker: Sanaz Sabzehei (University of Santiago de Compostela) <i>Unfold to refold: tracking PrP^C unfolding as a pre-requisite of PrP^{Sc} propagation</i>
11:00 - 11:15	Chiara Zucchelli (Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele) <i>Structural determinants of dual anti-prion activity: investigating Zn(II)-BnPyP binding to the PrP^C octapeptide repeat region</i>
11:15 - 11:30	Marta Rigoli (Italian Institute of Technology) <i>Exploring the toxicity of mutant prion proteins: an in silico study</i>
11:30 - 11:45	Pedro Fernández-Fúnez (University of Minnesota Medical School) <i>The $\beta 2\alpha 2$ loop confers high conformational dynamics and toxicity to the human prion protein</i>
11:45 - 12:00	Human Rezaei (INRAe) <i>Non-fibrillar prion protein oligomers transmit structural information during early assembly</i>
12:00 - 12:15	Emiliano Biasini (University of Trento) <i>Preclinical development of folding-interfering degraders targeting the cellular prion protein</i>
12:15 - 12:30	Leire Hervella-Barrio (CICbioGUNE) <i>Beyond nature's designs: rational engineering of artificial prions to better understand protein misfolding</i>
12:30 - 14:00	Lunch (Cafetería Serrano 117)
14:00 - 15:15	Prion Structure & Biology II (Chairs: Emiliano Biasini - Josu Galarza)
14:00 - 14:15	Francesca Peccati (CICbioGUNE) <i>Structural basis of glycoform preferences in prion strains RML and ME7</i>
14:15 - 14:30	Vincent Béringue (INRAe) <i>Prion infection disrupts endosomal trafficking and induces vacuolation in epithelial cells</i>
14:30 - 14:45	Giuseppe Legname (SISSA) <i>The non-octa-repeat region is the main structural determinant of prion conversion</i>
14:45 - 15:00	Anna Burato (SISSA) <i>Prion protein deficiency results in synaptic, neural network and behavioral alterations</i>
15:00 - 15:15	Elisa Nicolini (University of Trento) <i>A BiFC-based CRISPR screening platform for the identification of early genetic regulators of PrP biogenesis</i>
15:15 - 16:45	Prion Diseases in Animals I (Chairs: Juan María Torres - Diego Sola)
15:15 - 15:45	Invited speaker: Barry Bradford (The Roslin Institute) <i>Microglia regulate the rate of prion neuropathogenesis</i>
15:45 - 16:00	Vincent Béringue (Veterinary Research. Editor in Chief) <i>Publishing prion research in Veterinary Research: from fundamental mechanisms to population-level</i>
16:00 - 16:15	Glenn Telling (Colorado State University) <i>Updates on the properties of emergent CWD prions</i>
16:15 - 16:30	Gage Rowden (University of Minnesota) <i>Growing evidence for dust-borne, environmental, Chronic Wasting Disease prions: Insights from Northern Minnesota</i>
16:30 - 16:45	Lars A. Folkman (Norwegian University of Life Sciences) <i>Oral inoculation of sheep with reindeer CWD results in prion amplification in the gut-associated lymphoid tissues and the central nervous system</i>
16:45 - 18:30	Poster party in the Claustro (Serrano 121) (coffee, soft drinks, snacks and sandwiches)



Friday May 22nd 2026	
9:00 - 10:30	Prion Diseases in Animals II (Chairs: Vincent Béringue - Carlos M. Domínguez)
9:00 - 9:15	Samia Hannaoui (University of Calgary) <i>When prions travel South: gastrointestinal dysfunction as a route- and strain-dependent feature of CWD</i>
9:15 - 9:30	Sabine Gilch (University of Calgary) <i>Of mice and deer: understanding prion conformational variability and transmission barriers in chronic wasting disease</i>
9:30 - 9:45	Oihane Alzuguren (INRAe) <i>When scrapie masks BSE in co-infected sheep: limitations of standard discriminatory tests</i>
9:45 - 10:00	Cristina Sampedro-Torres-Quevedo (CICbioGUNE) <i>Rapid generation of prion disease models using AAV-delivered PrP variants in knockout mice</i>
10:00 - 10:15	Sonja Ernst (Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut) <i>A comparative analysis of animal prion strains around the globe</i>
10:15 - 10:30	Jason C. Bartz (Creighton University) <i>Emergence of minor prion strains following heat treatment</i>
10:30 - 11:15	Coffee Break and posters discussion in the Claustro (Serrano 121)
11:15 - 12:30	Prion and Prion-like Diseases in Humans I (Chairs: Ana Rita Alvaro - Valentino Panico)
11:15 - 11:45	Invited speaker: Giuseppe Bufano (Istituto Neurologico Carlo Besta) <i>Prion detection in the urine of individuals at genetic risk for fatal familial insomnia</i>
11:45 - 12:00	Ralf Ernsberger (BMG LABTECH GmbH, Ortenberg, Germany) <i>The perfect match for RT-QuIC: FLUOstar Omega microplate reader from BMG LABTECH</i>
12:00 - 12:15	Bárbara Ramalho (Center for Neuroscience and Cell Biology. University of Coimbra) <i>Altered circadian and clock gene profiles as potential biomarkers for fatal familial insomnia</i>
12:15 - 12:30	Remarh Bsoul (Danish Reference Center for Prion Diseases, Rigshospitalet) <i>Prodromal detection of skin α-Synuclein and clinical relevance of Seed Amplification Assay</i>
12:30 - 14:00	Lunch (Cafetería Serrano 117)
14:00 - 15:45	Prion and Prion-like Diseases in Humans II (Chairs: Joaquín Castilla – Alba González)
14:00 - 14:15	Cécile Voisset (INSERM) <i>Anti-prion drugs reduce endoplasmic reticulum stress and protect human dopaminergic neurons from death</i>
14:15 - 14:30	Nerea Isusi-Ranero (Atlas Molecular Pharma) <i>Evaluation of different substrates for the optimization of an amyloid propagation assay for the diagnosis and monitoring of proteinopathies</i>
14:30 - 14:45	Sara Canoyra (CISA-INIA-CSIC) <i>Generation of a G114V humanized transgenic mouse model and phenotypic characterization of the spontaneous disease</i>
14:45 - 15:00	Ilaria Vanni (ISS) <i>Evaluation of PrP endoproteolytic processing in a humanized G114V transgenic mouse model</i>
15:00 - 15:15	Ana Rita Alvaro (Center for Neuroscience and Cell Biology. University of Coimbra) <i>Patient-derived iPSC-generated hypothalamic neurons as a model for fatal familial insomnia</i>
15:15 - 15:30	Jorge Moreno Charco (Atlas Molecular Pharma) <i>An oral small molecule inhibitor of PrP translocation extends survival by nearly 50% in a transgenic mouse model of human GSS prion disease</i>
15:30 - 15:45	Sara González-Navarro , President (Spanish Prion Disease Foundation) <i>The power of synergy</i>
15:45 - 16:00	Poster prize
16:00 - 16:15	Next meeting announcement. 15 th Iberian Prion Congress
16:15 - 16:30	Recapitulation. Natalia Fernández-Borges and Juan Carlos Espinosa (Congress Chairpersons)
16:30 - 18:30	Farewell party (coffee, soft drinks, snacks), poster removal and closing in the Claustro (Serrano 121)
≈19:00	Informal walk through Madrid on the way to the symposium venue
20:00	Conference Symposium (networking about prions with food): 1881 Madrid Ventas Hotel (Calle Alcalá 269)