

Programme

Thursday 12 February 2026, 1.30pm to 4.30 pm
Hugh Robson Building, Central Campus



13.30 Opening Remarks

13.35 Early Career Data Blitz

Tissue-specific ageing proteomics in *C. elegans*

Dr Rebekah White (INCR)*

Comparing the Effect of Alzheimer's Disease Brain Soluble Extract on Synapse Loss and Glial Engulfment in Live Mouse and Human Brain Cultures

Dr Calum Bonthron (INCR)

Split decisions: Altered mitochondrial dynamics in Parvalbumin neurons in multiple sclerosis

Kellie Horan (IRR)**

Investigating the role of tau in mechanisms of synaptic resilience

Danilo Negro (INCR)

Can we rejuvenate the brain by reprogramming astrocytes?

Katrine Gaasdal-Bech (INCR)

14.00 Public engagement: showcase, reflections and inspiration

Public engagement is an inherently important facet of research, encouraged by the University and increasingly required by funders. But public engagement comes in many forms and it can be hard to know how to get started, what's already going on that you could join in with, or how to scale up your engagement. In this session, we are joined by a selection of colleagues who have led a range of engagement activities and will share what they have done, learned and gained from it. Speakers include:

- Dr Rana Fetit, Postdoctoral research fellow (IRR)
- Dr Barbora Skarabela, Knowledge Exchange Coordinator, Lothian Birth Cohorts
- Prof Cathy Abbott, EN Co-Director (INCR)
- Prof Sharon Abrahams, School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences
- Dr Dom Cairns-Gibson (BioQuarter Community Impact Team)
- Prof Sinead Rhodes, Public Engagement Lead (INCR)

15.05 Refreshments (HRB Common Room)

15.30 Keynote Lecture

Mapping the rules of human brain disorders with multi-omics: lessons from autism and glioblastoma

Dr Omer Bayraktar, Wellcome Sanger Institute

16.30 Drinks and Snacks (HRB Common room)

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