

5th International *Blastocystis* Conference

2nd September – 4th September 2026

“Salón de Grados” (First floor), Faculty of Pharmacy, Universidad de La Laguna,
Avda Astrofísico Francisco Sánchez SN, 38203 SAN Cristobal de La Laguna,
Tenerife, Canary Islands

Date	Time	Presentation	Speaker
2 nd September 2026, Wednesday	09:30 - 10:00	<i>Welcome and logistics</i>	Anastasios Tsaousis, Jacob Lorenzo-Morales
	10:00 - 10:30	<i>Blastocysts Under One Health - 4 years of the COST Action</i>	Eleni Gentekaki and Anastasios Tsaousis
	10:30 - 11:00 <i>Coffee Break</i>		
	11:00 - 12:00	<i>WG2 workshop - Blastocystis subtyping</i>	Rune Stensvold and Eleni Gentekaki
	12:00 - 12:20	<i>Re-reading the Blastocystis SSU rRNA database</i>	Raul Tito
	12:20 - 12:35	<i>Occurrence and molecular characterization of Blastocystis sp. isolates in dairy cattle from northern Italy: insights from a gastrointestinal parasite survey</i>	Carolina Allievi
	12:35 - 12:45	<i>Implementation of a novel droplet digital</i>	Alma Garcia Ramos

		<i>PCR for Blastocystis detection in environmental samples</i>	
	12:45 - 12:50	<i>BlastoDB</i>	William Edwards
	12:50 - 12:55	<i>The Blastocystis Biobank: a curated, multi-host biological resource of cultures, nucleic acids, metabolites, and stool-derived aliquots with a controlled-access virtual catalogue for global research</i>	Jaya Makkimane
	12:55 – 13:00	<i>Blastocystis occurrence and subtype diversity in a cohort of individuals with HIV, HCV, and HIV/HCV coinfection in Latvia</i>	Aiva Enija Mihejeva (online talk)
	13:00 - 14:00 <i>Poster session and Lunch</i>		
	14:00 - 15:00	<i>WG4 workshop - Blastocystis in vitro and in vivo investigations</i>	Katerina Jirku, Kevin Tan and Anastasios Tsaousis
	15:00 - 15:15	<i>How common is the transmission of Blastocystis via deep-frozen faecal microbiota transplantation? Observations from a randomised study with 50 patients, 100 faecal microbiota transplantations and 555 stool samples.</i>	Agáta Čermáková
	15:15 - 15:30	<i>A longitudinal pilot study of Blastocystis in healthy participants</i>	Daisy Shaw

	15:30 - 16:00 <i>Coffee Break</i>		
	16:00 - 16:20	<i>Tracing Blastocystis from Epidemiology to Experimental Function</i>	Katerina Jirku
	16:20 - 16:30	<i>Long-term effects of Blastocystis colonization on the rat caecal microbiome</i>	Marie Pazoutova
	16:30 - 16:45	<i>Intestinal eukaryotes associate with taxon-specific, age-independent bacteriome gut microbiome signatures across the developmental stages of production pigs</i>	Yohannes Seyoum (online talk)
	16:45 - 17:00	<i>Longitudinal observation of Blastocystis sp. in children and young persons: a very rare occurrence in chronic diseases with gut dysbiosis</i>	Jakub Hurych
	17:00 - 17:15 <i>Break</i>		
	17:15 - 18:00	<i>Blastocystis Big Questions and how we should tackle them</i>	Round table discussion
3 rd September 2026, Thursday	09:30 - 10:30	<i>WG1 workshop - Epidemiology</i>	Funda Dogruman Al and David Carmena
	10:30 - 10:40	<i>Development of loop-mediated isothermal amplification (LAMP) assay</i>	Mehmet Aykur

		<i>combined with lateral flow dipstick for rapid and sensitive detection of Blastocystis spp.</i>	
	10:40 - 10:50	<i>Mapping Blastocystis in Spain: Molecular insights from a multicentre clinical study (2017–2019)</i>	David Carmena
	10:50 - 10:55	<i>BLASTOCYSTIS SP. IN URBAN WILD BOARS INHABITING NORTHERN POLAND</i>	Anna Lass
	10:55 - 11:00	<i>A Novel Invertebrate Host? Detection of Blastocystis in Hermetia illucens</i>	Abbey Ruffell
	11:00 – 11:10	<i>What does not work in Blastocystis research: a community-sourced inventory of pitfalls and failed experiments</i>	Jaya Makkimane and Daisy Shaw
	11:10 - 11:30 <i>Coffee Break</i>		
	11:30 - 11:40	<i>Molecular Diversity of Blastocystis in Farmed Red Deer (Cervus elaphus) in Southern Spain</i>	Ana Figueiredo
	11:40 - 11:50	<i>Comparison of Blastocystis Subtype Analysis from Culture and Direct Stool Samples</i>	Eylem AKDUR ÖZTÜRK
	11:50 - 12:00	<i>Circulation of Blastocystis sp. in pigs, dairy cattle and farm water sources from a high-density livestock area</i>	Chiara Stocchero

	12:00 - 12:05	<i>Towards harmonised sampling and molecular detection of Blastocystis spp.: a pilot workflow addressing temporal shedding variability</i>	Roland Wesolowski
	12:05 - 12:10	<i>Blastocystis spp. and Dientamoeba fragilis as the most common protist co-colonisation in a single Czech tertiary-care cohort</i>	Jolana Havlová
	12:10 - 12:15	<i>Observed Prevalence and Successful Culturing of Blastocystis from the rumen of cattle (Bos taurus)</i>	William Edwards
	12:15 - 12:25	<i>First survey on the prevalence, subtype distribution and circulation of the enteric protozoan Blastocystis sp. in French broiler chicken farms</i>	Constance Denoyelle
	12:25 - 12:35	<i>First epidemiological and molecular report of Blastocystis sp. in equines from the northern region of Algeria</i>	Yaseen Majid Salman Al-Adilee
	12:35 - 12:45	<i>Survey of Blastocystis sp. and microsporidia in farmed avian species in Tuscany, Central Italy</i>	Isabel Guadano Procesi
	12:45 - 13:00	<i>Bacterial and fungal biomarkers in irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) and inflammatory bowel disease (IBD): trans-kingdom interactions,</i>	Ayman A. Elbadry

		<i>Blastocystis carriage, and enterotype–succinotype stratification</i>	
	<i>13:00 - 14:00 Poster session and Lunch</i>		
	14:00 - 14:30	<i>WG3 Workshop - Omics' generation and analysis</i>	Marianna Marangi & Anastasios Tsaousis
	14:30 - 15:00	<i>Blastocystis phylogenomics</i>	Eleni Gentekaki
	15:00 - 15:15	<i>Genetic engineering of Blastocystis ST7-B</i>	MITCHELLREY MAGBANUA TOLECO
	15:15 - 15:20	<i>Drug discovery against Blastocystis: applying anti-protozoal screening with AI and Plant bioguided fractionation</i>	Ines Sifaoui
	15:20 - 15:25	<i>The Art of Seeing: Advanced Fluorescence Imaging for Blastocystis ST7-B and ST4-WR1</i>	Daniel Nagel
	15:25 - 15:30	<i>Blastocystis in Children with and without Diarrhea: Molecular Prevalence and the Association with Bacteriome Community Composition</i>	Funda Dogruman Al
	<i>15:30 - 16:30 Coffee Break and Posters</i>		
	16:30 - 16:45	<i>Evaluation of 16S-18S Amplicon NGS for Detection and Genetic Diversity Analysis of</i>	Marianna Marangi

		<i>Blastocystis in Hospitalized Patients</i>	
	16:45 - 17:00	<i>ST3 in vitro multiomics</i>	Daisy Shaw
	17:00 - 17:15	<i>Blastocystis and animal microbiome - A meta study</i>	Abbey Ruffell
	17:15 - 17:30	<i>Expanding the genomic landscape of Blastocystis hominis species in the human gut microbiome</i>	Federico Fontana
4 th September 2026, Friday	09:30 - 10:00	<i>WG5 Workshop - Dissemination and Education</i>	Pauline Scalnanand Anastasios Tsaousis
	10:00 - 10:15	<i>Unravelling the Role of Blastocystis in Colorectal Cancer Development</i>	Carolina Hernández Castro
	10:15 - 10:25	<i>Blastocystis Characterization in Rodent Populations in Türkiye: The Ovacık/Tunceli Experience Through a One Health Approach</i>	Ferhat Matur
	10:25 - 10:30	<i>Knowledge and awareness of Blastocystis spp. among graduate nursing students at a Croatian university: a cross-sectional survey analysis</i>	Tomislav Meštrović
	10:30 – 10:35	<i>Blastie, where are you, and where can you go?</i>	Anja Godfrey
	10:35 - 11:00 <i>Coffee Break</i>		
	11:00 - 11:20	<i>Emerging Roles of Protistan 'Dark Matter' in</i>	Kevin Tan

		<i>Microbiota-Host Interactions</i>	
	11:20 - 11:40	<i>Gut feelings: How diet influences Blastocystis colonization and diversity</i>	David Carmena
	11:40 - 12:00	<i>The Future of Blastocystis research</i>	Anastasios Tsaousis
	12:00 - 12:30	<i>Closing Remarks - Awards</i>	Anastasios Tsaousis