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Swiss *C. elegans* Meeting 2026

September 10th, 2026

Institute of Cell Biology, Baltzerstrasse 4, 3012 Bern

10:00 **Registration and poster set up**

10:25–10:30 **Welcome & practical information**

10:30–11:30 Ellen Nollen

ERIBA, University of Groningen, The Netherlands

*“Modifying mechanisms of proteotoxicity in aging and age-related diseases: lessons from *C. elegans*”*

11:30–11:50 Emmanouil Kyriakakis (Spang lab, Biozentrum, Basel)

*“Differential allocation of metabolic resources shapes development and aging under proteotoxic stress in *C. elegans*”*

11:50–12:10 Parvathi Sushama Gopinath (Glauser lab, University of Fribourg)

*“PKA bidirectionally regulates thermosensation and thermosensory plasticity in *C. elegans*”*

12:10–14:10 Lunch & Poster Session (2 h)

14:10–14:30 Ella Müller (Gönczy lab, EPFL, Lausanne)

*“Inducing cortical actomyosin flows triggers symmetry breaking in *C. elegans*”*

14:30–14:50 Cristina Tocchini (Mango lab, Biozentrum, Basel)

“Safeguarding epithelial junctions by a novel quality control pathway”

14:50–15:10 Ioana Gheorghe (Towbin lab, University of Bern)

“The MAPK phosphatase VHP-1 buffers pharynx-to-body proportions against tissue-specific growth imbalance in C. elegans”

15:10–15:30 Thomas Heimbucher (Group leader, University of Freiburg)

“Metabolic signaling controls intergenerational adaptive responses via peroxisomal catabolism”

15:30–16:10 Coffee Break and Poster Session (40 min)

16:10–16:30 Leonie Fabbro Burtshell (Grosshans lab, FMI, Basel)

“Diet-dependent roles of heterochromatin in developmental robustness”

16:30–16:50 Karthik Eswara (Meister lab, University of Bern)

“HP1 dimerization is the primary driver of H3K9me-marked chromatin condensation and segregation”

16:50–17:50 Germano Cecere

Institut Pasteur, Paris, France

“Small RNAs in Epigenetic Inheritance: Lessons from Worms”

18:00 Drinks and Pizza

Posters:

Kristin Dahl – *“How do diel temperature oscillations provide a benefit to health and longevity?”*

Gang Wu – *“Early life fasting protect worms from neurodegeneration in an Alzheimer’s disease model”*

Dipti Rai – *“Elucidating mechanisms of centriole elimination during C. elegans oogenesis”*

Nathan Schoonjans – *“Distorted organ proportions without malnutrition: a bioelectric route to growth coordination in C. elegans?”*

Benedikt Stratmann – *“Expanding roles of LIN-14 in developmental timing”*

Simona Ligorio – *“Post translational control of oscillatory gene expression during C. elegans development”*

Sruthi Sivadasan – *“Dissecting the PKC signalling cascade regulating noxious heat avoidance in *Caenorhabditis elegans*”*

Namra Tasnim – *“SK-like potassium channels regulate thermal nociceptive habituation in *Caenorhabditis elegans*.”*

Kalyan Ghadage – *“Investigating the molecular basis of cohesin-mediated gene regulation in nematodes”*

Siju Surendran – *“Multiple Somatostatin-like neuropeptides and their receptors act in concert to modulate *Caenorhabditis elegans* thermo-nociception”*

Enrica Brugnara – *“Rethinking the role of *lin-4* in the heterochronic pathway”*

Sinem Erkan – *“Characterization of dosage compensation specific nuclear bodies”*

Ce Zhang – *“A dual-fluorescent reporter to study nuclear RNAi activity in *C. elegans*”*

Gitartha Das – *“Regulation of PAR-2 cortical asymmetry by PLK-1 in the one-cell embryo”*

Quirin Niggli – *“Deciphering MYRF-1’s involvement in developmental timers”*

Valeryia Aksianiuk – *“Investigating heterochromatin’s role in aging using ChromID in *C. elegans*”*

Fenna Poppelaars – *“Investigating chromatin organization and mitochondria morphology in H3K9me-deficient *C. elegans* using expansion microscopy”*

The organizers: Benjamin Towbin, Iskra Katic, Peter Meister, Stephen Methot