

GBI Exchange of Experience 2026: Open Access to Imaging around the Globe

in person: [@Klaus Tschira Auditorium - ATC building - EMBL- Meyerhofstrasse 1, 69117, Heidelberg](#)

online: [ZOOM link placeholder]

Please note: All times are listed in [Central European Time \(CET\)](#). This is a live document and will be updated as additional information is confirmed. Talk titles, speaker order, and selected agenda items are currently **TBA (To Be Announced)** and will be revised as final details are received from speakers and participating companies.

Pre-conference Day: Monday, 26th of October

All times are in CET

11:30 - 13:30	ARRIVAL & REGISTRATION
13:45 - 14:00	Welcome & Opening
Online Training Resources & Accessibility	
14:00 - 14:30	Overview of available online training resources What is available (which format, what tech, level, paywall or free)
14:30 - 15:00	Audience discussion: Barriers and challenges to accessing training Identify key bottlenecks through interactive discussion and MENTI polling
15:00 - 15:30	Future training needs and opportunities Discussion on improving accessibility and defining future training formats and topics
15:30 - 16:00	Coffee Break
16:30 - 17:15	Mixer / Speed dating between regional networks and companies

	Our partner networks represent Africa, Australia, Europe, Latin America, North America, and Southeast Asia regions, as well as India and Japan
17:15 - 17:30	Wrap Up & Transition Break
17:30 - 18:00	<i>TBA: 3x Industry Workshops (only pre-registered participants)</i>
18:10 - 18:40	<i>TBA: 3x Industry Workshops (only pre-registered participants)</i>
18:50 - 19:20	<i>TBA: 3x Industry Workshops (only pre-registered participants)</i>
19:15 - 21:00	Pizza & drinks in the ATC auditorium (limited to workshop-registered participants)

Day 1: Tuesday, 27th of October

All times are in CET

08:15 - 09:30	REGISTRATION & COFFEE
09:30 - 10:15	Welcome & Reception Speech GBI, EMBL, Heidelberg
10:15 - 10:45	A decade of Global BioImaging Jan Ellenberg Director of SciLifeLab, Sweden Antje Keppler Founder and Coordinator of Global BioImaging, Germany
10:45 - 11:20	Coffee-Break

SESSION - I - Is open access essential for building global imaging infrastructure?

11:20 - 11:40	<i>TBA: Research Infrastructure Speaker</i>
11:40 - 12:00	Maria Augusta Arruda Director, Brazilian Biosciences National Laboratory (LNBio-CNPq), Brazil
12:00 - 12:20	Lise Korsten Co-Director, DSI Centre of Excellence in Food Security, Pretoria, South Africa

	President - Africa Academy of Science
12:20 - 12:40	<i>TBA: Research Infrastructure Speaker</i>
12:40 - 14:00	LUNCH
SESSION - II - Open Access around the Globe: a reality check	
14:00 - 14:20	Michael Reiche Facility Manager - University of Cape Town (UCT), South Africa <i>African BioImaging Consortium (ABIC)</i> <i>Insights from facilitating open access through the Africa Microscopy Initiative</i>
14:20 - 14:40	Michelle Itano Director of the Neuroscience Microscopy Core at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, United States <i>BioImaging North America (BINA)</i>
14:40 - 15:00	Linda Chaabane Section Director, Euro-BioImaging Med-Hub, Italy <i>Euro-BioImaging</i>
15:00 - 15:20	Kildare Miranda Director of the Advanced Microscopy Unit and vice-director of the National Centre for Structural Biology and Bioimaging (CENABIO), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil <i>The Latin America Bioimaging Network (LABI): A Regional Hub for Integration and Development of Hypothesis-Driven Discovery in Latin America</i>
15:20 - 15:40	<i>TBA: GBI Partners - Australia</i>
15:40 - 16:00	Satoshi Ogawa Associate Professor (Neuroscience) at Monash University Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia <i>iSEA — imaging South East Asia</i>
16:00 - 16:20	Teng-Leong Chew Director, Advanced Imaging Center at the HHMI Janelia Research Campus, United States <i>Open-access and global outreach through the lens of Janelia's AIC</i> <i>[Wrap-up of Global session]</i>

16:20 - 17:00	Coffee-Break & Transition Break
17:00 - 18:00	POSTER SESSION (even numbers)
18:00 - 19:00	POSTER SESSION (odd numbers)
Day 2: Wednesday, 28th of October All times are in CET	
08:15 - 09:00	REGISTRATION & COFFEE
SESSION - III - Enabling Open Access: Infrastructure, Platforms and Practice Technologies, platforms, and implementation strategies expanding access to imaging.	
09:00 - 09:20	Stephanie Alexander - Research & Service Coordinator EMBL Imaging Centre, EMBL, Germany <i>(Preliminary) The EMBL Imaging Centre: Open Access to Cutting-Edge Microscopy- Open access to technologies for all imaging needs</i>
09:20 - 09:40	Carlos Jaramillo - Staff Scientist at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama - STRI, Panama City, Panamá <i>PollenGeo: unlocking the full potential of Palynology</i>
09:40 - 10:00	John Eriksson - Director General. Euro-BioImaging Statutory Seat, Turku, Finland <i>(Preliminary) ACCESS2ACCESS Programme (EU)</i>
10:00 - 10:20	Santosh Podder Senior Technical Officer at Microscopy Facility IISER Pune, India <i>Scaling Imaging Data Sharing Across India: OME Implementation, Train-the-Trainer Initiatives, Challenges, Solutions, and Lessons Learned After One Year</i>
10:20 - 10:40	<i>TBA: GBI Partner - GerBI - Germany</i>
10:40 - 11:00	Toshihiko Fujimori Professor at the National Institute for Basic Biology (NIBB), Okazaki, Japan <i>(Preliminary) Open Access to Imaging in Japan with ABiS</i>

11:00 - 11:20	<i>TBA: Towards a Global Image Data Ecosystem</i>
10:20 - 11:40	Coffee-Break
SESSION - IV - (Human) Imaging Data in the AI Era: Access, Governance & Ownership	
11:40 - 12:00	Adriana Tavares Professor at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland <i>(Preliminary) Global efforts towards data sharing and imaging facility sustainability</i>
12:00 - 12:20	Sarah Flaim Chief Operating Officer of the National Imaging Facility (NIF), Australia
12:20 - 12:40	<i>TBA: AI-ready data from the funder's perspective</i>
12:40 - 13:00	<i>TBA: Invest in Open Infrastructure</i>
13:00 - 14:30	LUNCH
PARALLEL BREAKOUT ROOMS (BR):	
14:30 - 16:30	JOIN one of the BRs described below:
BR1	Challenges and Solutions for Implementing Open Access in Biomedical Imaging Facilities
BR2	Challenges and Solutions for Implementing Open Access in Bioimaging Facilities
BR3	International Collaboration and Training for Imaging Scientists
BR4	Showcasing the Impact of Imaging Scientists and Core Facilities
BR5	The Future of GBI Current Landscape, Future Directions, and Community Needs
**Virtual Room	<i>TBA: Building Career Pathways for Core Facility Professionals</i>

**Virtual Room	<i>TBA: Showcasing the Impact of Imaging Scientists and Core Facilities</i>
Closing discussion - Main BR Outcomes Klaus Tschira Auditorium - ATC building - EMBL	
16:30 - 17:30	Open Discussion with audience (10min/each BR)
18:30 - 20:00	GLOBAL DINNER <i>@EMBL canteen- included to all #GBI_EoE2026 registered participants</i>
20:00 - 23:00	10th Anniversary Global BioImaging <i>ATC foyer - DJ - dance floor</i>
Day 3: Thursday 29th of October All times are in CET	
09:00 - 09:30	REGISTRATION & COFFEE
SESSION - V - Imaging 4 All (i4A)	
09:30 - 09:50	Deniz Saltukoglu Scientific Project Manager Global BioImaging <i>Imaging 4 All</i>
09:50 - 10:00	<i>TBA: Wellcome Trust</i>
10:00 - 10:15	Fiorela Ghilini Research Assistant INIFTA-UNLP Conicet, Argentina <i>Implementing OpenFlexure-Based Nanomotion Microscopy for Rapid Antimicrobial Evaluation</i>
10:15 - 10:30	Marshita Idris Senior Technical Officer Monash University Malaysia Optical Imaging Platform, Malaysia <i>Starting with the Basics, Building for the Future: A Journey Towards Stronger Bioimaging Capability in Malaysia and Beyond</i>
10:30 - 10:45	Brice Tonfack Associate Professor in Plant Biotechnology University of Yaoundé I, Faculty of Science, Cameroon

	<i>From Access to Impact: Leveraging Imaging 4 All Mobility to Strengthen Seed Phenotyping Capacity in Tropical Plant Research</i>
10:45 - 11:00	Stuti Mukherjee PhD Student Indian Institute of Science, India <i>Mechanical interrogation of molecular recruitment at the early immunological synapse</i>
11:00 - 11:30	Coffee-Break
11:30 - 11:45	Juan Pablo Barrientos Research Assistant BiomedLab, Universidad Galileo, Guatemala <i>NatalIA: AI-Assisted Prenatal Ultrasound for Resource-Limited Settings in Guatemala</i>
11:45 - 12:00	**Rafael Dantas (tbc: virtual) Deputy Head Laboratory of Experimental and Computational Biochemistry of Drugs at the Oswaldo Cruz Institute (Fiocruz), Brazil
12:00 - 12:15	<i>TBA: Somruthai Chaowongdee</i> PhD Student <i>Kasetsart University, Thailand</i>
12:15 - 12:30	<i>TBA: placeholder for i4A grantee</i>
Panel Discussion: Democratising Open Access	
12:30 - 13:15	● Peter O'Toole - Professor of Microscopy and Cytometry and Director of the Tech Facility, University of York, United Kingdom ● Mahmood Maina - Professor at Biomedical Science Research and Training Centre (BioRTC), Yobe State, Nigeria ● Rachel Mellwig - Operational Manager of the Electron Microscopy Core Facility, EMBL ● Caron Jacobs - Imaging Scientist at the University of Cape Town, South Africa ● Leonel Malacrida - Professor at the Advanced BioImaging Unit at the Institute Pasteur Montevideo, Uruguay
13:15 - 14:40	LUNCH

SESSION - VI - From Vision to Roadmap - Sustainable access to Imaging	
14:40 - 15:20	<i>TBA: GBI Panel with Funders</i> <i>The Future of Open Access to Research Infrastructures: A Funder Perspective</i>
15:20 - 15:50	Clara Prats Professor and Director University of Copenhagen, Center for Core Facilities, Danish BioImaging <i>The Evolving Role of Bioimaging Infrastructures</i>
15:50 - 16:10	Event Closing Remarks and EoE2027 Announcement _ the virtual program ends here _
	Transition Break
16:30 - 17:30	EMBL- Core Facilities Tours (1) ALMF - Advanced Light Microscopy Facility (2) EM- Electron Microscopy Core Facility (3) IC (EM + LM)- Imaging Center (4) LEICA- @Imaging Center (5) TREC- Mobile Laboratories (6) TBA: Microbial Automation and Culturomics Core Facility + Flow Cytometry Core Facility (combined) Alternative Tour: (7) The World of Molecular Biology