Programme

MONDAY, 25th October - 12 to 15.30 CET

Session 1 – COVID-19 pandemic, where we are?

12.00-12.20 Opening talk on ICGEB response to COVID
Alessandro Marcello, ICGEB, Trieste, Italy

12.20-12.40 The challenges in Covid 19 testing in response to the pandemic in resources constrain countries: Nigeria experience
Marycelin Baba, University of Maiduguri, Nigeria

12.40-13.00 Research in times of the COVID-19 pandemic: A view of the WHO R&D Blueprint
Cesar Muñoz-Fontela, Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine, Hamburg, Germany

13.00-13.20 Public Health Diagnosis: the Slovenian experience
Miroslav Petrovec, Insitute of Microbiology and Immunology, Ljubljana, Slovenia

13.20-13.30 Break

Session 2 – Mechanisms of disease

13.30-13.50 SARS-CoV-2 N-protein impairs DNA damage response and repair
Ubaldo Gioia, IFOM, Milano, Italy

13.50-14.05 Development and production of an RT-qPCR diagnostic kit for the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus.
Abla Djebbar, University Hassiba Benbouali of Chlef, Algeria - CRP awardee

14.05-14.20 Facing the coronavirus crisis: Genomic evolution of SARS-CoV-2
Marta Giovanetti, Oswaldo Cruz Institute, FIOCRUZ, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil - CRP awardee

14.20-14.45 SARS-CoV-2 Reverse Genetics
Pei-Yong Shi, University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, USA

14.45-15.30 Meet the speakers
**TUESDAY, 26th October - 12 to 15.30 CET**

**Session 3 – Drugs**

12.00-12.20  COVID-19: from lung pathology to novel drug discovery  
**Mauro Giacca**, King’s College London, UK and ICGEB Trieste, Italy

12.20-12.40  Antiviral drug discovery  
**Alessandro Marcellino**, ICGEB Trieste, Italy

12.40-12.55  Focused drug discovery against SARS-CoV-2: Targeting cell invasion and replication  
**Gloria Virginia López**, Institut Pasteur de Montevideo, Uruguay - **CRP awardee**

12.55-13.10  Break

**Session 4 – Vaccines and immunity**

13.10-13.30  How did COVID-19 vaccine development benefit from mRNA cancer vaccine platform?  
**Fulvia Vascotto**, TRON, Mainz, Germany

13.30-13.50  Human Monoclonal Antibodies to SARS-CoV-2  
**Anmol Chandele**, ICGEB New Delhi, India

13.50-14.05  Distribution of COVID-19 associated genetic variants across biobanks from Latin America and the Pacific  
**Andrés Moreno-Estrada**, Centro de Investigación y de Estudios Avanzados del Instituto Politécnico Nacional - CINVESTAV, Guanajuato, Mexico - **CRP awardee**

14.05-14.20  Detection of SARS CoV-2 virus antibodies in both domestic and wild animals in Kenya  
**Tindih Sheltone Heshborne**, School of Pure and Applied Sciences, Machakos University, Kenya - **CRP awardee**

14.20-14.35  Design and application of nanoparticle formulations into a new platform technology for therapeutic antibody production against SARS-CoV-2  
**Hilda Minerva González Sánchez**, Instituto Nacional de Salud Pública, Morelos, Mexico - **CRP awardee**

14.35-14.55  Closing remarks  
**Serena Zacchigna**, ICGEB Trieste, Italy

14.55-15.30  Meet the speakers