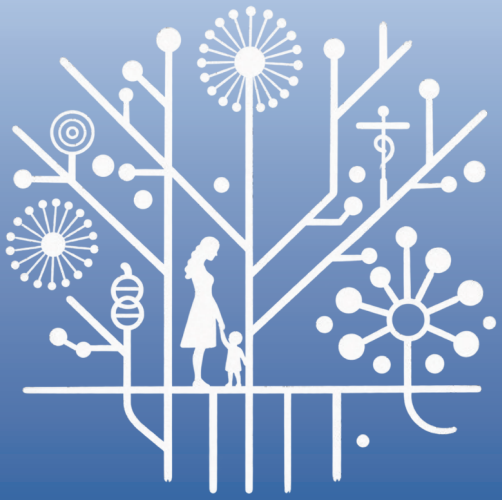


P-Paths

Perinatal and Pediatric Pathways in Health and Disease

November 27, 2026 | University Clinics St. Pölten | Dunant Saal, Haus C
p-paths.com

Contents

Program ---- 4

Friday, 27th November 2026 ---- 4

Biosketches Speakers ---- 7

General Information ---- 12

Sponsors ---- 13

Notes ---- 14

Publisher
Universitätsklinikum St. Pölten
Dunant-Platz 1, 3100 Sankt Pölten

Graphic Design
studio12 gmbh
Anichstraße 5, 6020 Innsbruck

Program

Friday, 27th November 2026

08:30–08:45	**Welcome Address** *Thomas Eiwegger (University Hospital St. Poelten)*
08:45–10:15	**Session 1: Perinatal management** *Chairs: Birgit Pfaller-Eiwegger (University Hospital St. Poelten), Susanne Schubert (University Hospital St. Poelten)*
08:45–09:10	Pregnancy as a Dual Cardiovascular Stress Test: Implications for Mother and Child *Federica Piani (Medical University Graz)*
09:10–09:35	From Hypertensive Pregnancy to Cardiovascular Disease Prevention: Lessons from the Swiss Postpartum Hypertension (PPHT) Registry *Thenral Socrates (University Hospital Basel)*
09:35–10:00	Kidney Disease and Pregnancy: GLP-1 Receptor Agonists and SGLT2 Inhibitors – Current Evidence and Future Perspectives *Kathrin Eller (Medical University Graz)*
10:00–10:15	Q&A with Experts
10:15–10:30	**Break**
10:30–12:20	**Session 2: Treating Inflammation early on** *Chairs: Eva Untersmayr-Elsenhuber (Medical University of Vienna), Zsolt Szépfalusi (Medical University of Vienna)*
10:30–10:50	Assessing severity and early prognostic factors in patients who required cooling due to severe perinatal asphyxia *Lisa Linauer (University Hospital St. Poelten)*
10:50–11:15	Treating premature neonates what to consider for immune constitution *Lukas Wisgrill (Medical University of Vienna)*

Program

Friday, 27th November 2026

11:15–11:40	Atopic dermatitis – What role does the skin microbiome play and what is the importance of anti-inflammatory therapy with biologicals *Nonhlanhla Lunjani (University of Cape Town)*
11:40–12:05	The Gut Decides: Microbiome Trajectories in Early Life and What They Mean for Allergy Treatment and Prevention *Liam O'Mahony (University College Cork)*
12:05–12:20	Q&A with Experts
12:20–13:00	**Lunch (in the exhibition area)**
13:00–14:30	**Session 3: Disease trajectory, disease burden and health equity** *Chairs: Adrienn Weingärtner (Medical University Graz), Julia Upton (Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto)*
13:00–13:25	The Unequal Burden of Sleep: Pediatric Sleep Disorders and Health Equity *Indra Narang (Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto)*
13:25–13:50	When to use biologicals in allergic patients with multiple co-morbidities? *Thomas Eiwegger (University Hospital St. Poelten)*
13:50–14:15	Increasing knowledge about allergic disease by means of citizen science projects – The Salzburg experience *Gabriele Gadermaier (University of Salzburg)*
14:15–14:30	Q&A with Experts
14:30–15:00	**Break**

Program

Friday, 27th November 2026

15:00–16:45	**Session 4: Treating food allergy and Anaphylaxis** *Chairs: Marija Geroldinger-Simic (Karl Landsteiner University, Linz), Thomas Eiwegger (University Hospital St. Poelten)*
15:00–15:25	**How to measure burden of care in the field of allergic and respiratory disease?** *Zsolt Szépfalusi (Medical University of Vienna)*
15:25–15:40	**Cases from the OIT Program** *Dorothea Holter (University Hospital St. Poelten)*
15:40–16:05	**Multi-food Allergic individuals – What therapeutic options do we have?** *Thomas Eiwegger (University Hospital St. Poelten)*
16:05–16:30	**Nasal epinephrine – How to apply, what to consider and who will profit most?** *Julia Upton (Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto)*
16:30–16:45	**Q&A with Experts**
16:45	**Closing remarks**

Biosketches Speakers

Thomas Eiwegger
has successfully completed training in Pediatrics, Pediatric Allergy and Pediatric Respiratory Medicine. He is the head of the Department of Pediatrics at the University Clinics St. Pölten, holds a chair as Full Professor of Pediatric Allergy at the Karl Landsteiner University, Krems, and is an adjunct Professor at the Department of Immunology, University of Toronto. Since his transition to Austria in May 2021, he has been an adjunct scientist at the Research Institute at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. He currently leads research groups at the Research Institute of SickKids, Toronto, and the Karl Landsteiner University Krems, Lower Austria, that focus on the mechanisms of tolerance development in the context of atopic diseases and on novel treatment approaches to food allergy. Dr. Eiwegger is an associate editor of Allergy and on the board of OEGAI, OEGKIM, and OEGKJ.

Kathrin Eller
MD, is Professor of Translational Nephrology and Deputy Head of the Division of Nephrology at the Medical University of Graz. She also serves as Vice-Dean for Doctoral Studies and is a member of the Scientific Board of the Austrian Science Fund (FWF). As a clinician-scientist, her work is positioned at the interface of nephrology and immunology, with a particular focus on immune-mediated kidney diseases, glomerular inflammation, and the mechanisms linking immune activation to tissue injury and fibrosis. Her research combines experimental immunology with translational and clinical approaches, aiming to identify novel disease mechanisms, biomarkers and therapeutic targets. Following her training in internal medicine and nephrology, she completed an EMBO Research Fellowship at the MRC Centre for Immunity and Inflammation in Birmingham, UK. Since then, she has established an internationally connected translational research program and has contributed to numerous interdisciplinary and collaborative research initiatives. Beyond her scientific and clinical activities, Kathrin Eller is strongly engaged in academic leadership, research evaluation, doctoral education and the promotion of early-career researchers.

Gabriele Gadermaier
is an Associate Professor in Molecular Biology and Immunology at the Department of Biosciences and Medical Biology at the University of Salzburg. Her expertise is molecular allergology, novel allergens, production and physico-chemical characterization of recombinant proteins, in vitro and in vivo, endolysosomal processing, hypoallergen development, citizen science and research communication. She was a principal investigator in 16 national and international projects in basic and translational research. She has >120 peer-reviewed publications and >1.2 Mio grant money income. Dr. Gadermaier acts as expert in the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), WHO/IUIS Allergen Nomenclature Sub-Committee and COMPARE allergen database.

Biosketches Speakers

Dorothea Holter
is a pediatrician in training with a focus on pediatric allergology and pulmonology at University Hospital St. Pölten and a PhD student at Karl Landsteiner University of Health Sciences in Krems. She previously gained clinical experience at the University Medical Center Freiburg, Germany. She graduated from the Medical University of Vienna, where she also conducted research on mast cell–macrophage interactions at the Laboratory of Infection Biology and the Center for Molecular Medicine (CeMM) as part of her medical studies. Her research interests focus on pediatric allergic diseases, especially food allergy and anaphylaxis.

Lisa Linauer
is a senior physician at University Hospital St. Pölten. After completing her residency in general pediatrics, she is now focusing on neuropediatrics. She currently heads the developmental outpatient clinic at University Hospital St. Pölten, where she does the follow-up care for all premature infants and has a special interest in children with rare diseases.

Nonhlanhla Lunjani
MD, PhD, is a clinician and dermatology scientist at the APC Microbiome Ireland, Cork, Ireland. Her research focus is in skin immunology and allergy particularly focusing on disease mechanisms in early childhood atopic dermatitis. Her work which was carried out in Red Cross Children's Hospital/University of Cape Town and Swiss Institute of allergy and Asthma Research (SIAF) demonstrates unique immune developmental trajectories in early life that associate with distinct environmental exposures. Her work has been recognized by awards from organisations such as the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC), Allergy Society of South Africa (ALLSA) and International Society of Atopic Dermatitis (ISAD). She is a member of the Allergy Society of South Africa, European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI) and Irish Association of Allergy and Immunology. She acts as a reviewer for some of the leading allergy and immunology journals. She is a co-PI of several studies underway in South Africa and Ireland.

Liam O'Mahony
is the Prof. of Immunology at the Department of Medicine and School of Microbiology, APC Microbiome Ireland, National University of Ireland, Cork, Ireland. His research interests are focused on the molecular basis for microbe and metabolite modulation of mucosal inflammatory responses. In particular, Prof. O'Mahony is investigating the basic mechanisms by which microbes influence allergic sensitization and defense from viral infections. Prof. O'Mahony has published over 280 papers, with 51,850 citations and a h-index of 99. He is an Allergy journal editor and served as EAACI Treasurer from 2019 to 2022.

Biosketches Speakers

Indra Narang
is Vice President of Health Equity and Inclusion at The Hospital for Sick Children, a paediatric respirologist and sleep medicine specialist, clinician-researcher, and Professor of Pediatrics at the Temerty Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto. Her current CIHR-funded research program focuses on two major areas: (1) advancing the diagnosis of obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) through 3D photogrammetry, mathematical modeling, and artificial intelligence, with the goal of developing more accurate and equitable diagnostic approaches for diverse populations; and (2) evaluating novel therapeutic strategies for childhood OSA. Through her research and leadership, Dr. Narang has contributed significantly to advancing pediatric sleep medicine, driving innovation in diagnostic and therapeutic approaches while promoting equitable care for children with sleep disorders.

Birgit Pfaller-Eiwegger
is a clinician-scientist specializing in nephrology and internal medicine with an expertise in obstetric medicine at the University Hospital of St. Pölten. She is an Assistant Professor at Karl Landsteiner Private University for Health Sciences. She trained at the University Hospital in St. Poelten, the Mother Risk Program, SickKids, Toronto, and at the Toronto General Hospital, University of Toronto. Her clinical expertise focuses on managing high-risk pregnancies complicated by chronic kidney disease, hypertensive disorders, obesity, and postpartum cardiovascular and renal health. In 2021, Dr. Pfaller-Eiwegger initiated the PreCareFem project at St. Pölten University Hospital to enhance postpartum care for women at increased risk of cardiovascular and kidney diseases by identifying early biomarkers and developing lifestyle interventions. She collaborates with pediatric specialists to study the health outcomes of children born to mothers with pregnancy complications. She is a member of the ESH Women in Hypertension Working Group, contributing to ongoing efforts in hypertensive disorder research. By integrating clinical practice and research, she aims to improve long-term health for mothers and their children.

Federica Piani
MD, PhD, Internal Medicine Specialist, EACVI certified echocardiographist, Tenure-Track Assistant Professor at the Division of Physiology, Medical University of Graz, Austria.

Biosketches Speakers

Susanne Schubert
is Head of the Clinical Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics at University Hospital St. Pölten, Austria, and Clinical Associate Professor at Karl Landsteiner Private University. Her clinical and research interests include gynecologic oncology, minimally invasive surgery, genetics, and maternal health, with a particular focus on cardiovascular and metabolic risks following pregnancy complications. She is actively involved in scientific research, medical education, and mentoring initiatives in gynecologic oncology.

Thenral Socrates
is a consultant physician and hypertension specialist at the University Hospital Basel, Switzerland, currently completing her specialist training in cardiology. Her clinical and research focus is arterial hypertension and women's cardiovascular health, particularly hypertensive disorders of pregnancy, pre-eclampsia, postpartum hypertension, and long-term cardiovascular risk. She is Principal Investigator of the Swiss Postpartum Hypertension Registry, a multicentre initiative including more than 600 women. PD Dr. Socrates is Vice-Chair of the European Society of Hypertension Working Group on Hypertension in Women and a member of the ESC Council on Hypertension. Together with Dr. Federica Piani, she is a co-founder of the European Society of Obstetric Medicine (EUSOM) and also serves on the Board of the Swiss Academy of Perinatal Pharmacology (SAPP).

Zsolt Szépfalusi
Early scientific activities focused on IgE-mediated allergies and in particular on the mode of materno-fetal immune interaction with emphasis on allergic sensitization (1993-1996). On an ex-vivo placenta model fetal allergen-exposure mediates fetal allergen-specific T cell responses towards a Th1-driven response, suggesting a potential way to tolerize the fetal immune system by early allergen exposure (1998-2012). Clinical studies were started focussing preventive effects of allergen-specific immunotherapy in young children (2005-ongoing). A first placebo-controlled, sensitization-preventive sublingual immunotherapy trial was implemented (2008-2012), immuno-modulatory effects in actively treated children were detected (2014). A confirmatory trial reveals similar immune-modulatory effects (2018-2024).

Biosketches Speakers

Julia Upton
is the Division Head of Immunology and Allergy at The Hospital for Sick Children, Professor of Paediatrics at the University of Toronto, and Co-Director of the SickKids Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Program. She is an elected member of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology and on the Healthcare Advisory board of Food Allergy Canada. She graduated from Western University Medical school, completed residency at McMaster University, Clinical Immunology and Allergy fellowship at the University of Toronto, and a Master's in Public Health at the Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health. Her clinical and research interests include the identification and care of children with allergies to food and vaccines and children with immunodeficiencies.

Adrienn Weingärtner
is a pediatrician specializing in pediatric pulmonology and allergology. She is currently at the beginning of her scientific career, with a particular interest in allergen immunotherapy and the evolving role of biological therapies in the management of pediatric allergic and respiratory diseases. Her research interests focus on exploring novel therapeutic approaches and their potential to improve patient care and long-term outcomes in children.

Lukas Wisgrill
is a consultant neonatologist and physician-scientist at the Medical University of Vienna, where he leads the Neonatal and Pediatric Systems Immunology research group. His research focuses on how the microbiome, infections, nutrition, and environmental exposures shape early-life immune development, particularly in preterm infants. A central interest is the microbiota–immune–brain axis and its implications for neurodevelopment. By combining clinical cohorts with experimental models and multi-omics approaches, his work aims to translate biological insights into strategies that improve neonatal health and long-term outcomes.

General Information

Organiser
Universitätsklinikum St. Pölten
Dunant Saal, Haus C, 1.Floor
3100 Sankt Pölten
Tel.: 027429004-0
office@stpoelten.lknoe.at

PCO
studio12 gmbh
Anichstraße 5
6020 Innsbruck
T +43 512 890438
E office@studio12.at

Venue
Universitätsklinikum St. Pölten
Dunant Saal, Haus C, 1st Floor
Dunant-Platz 1
3100 St. Pölten, Austria

Website
For more information, visit:
p-paths.com

With the support of

Sponsors

We thank the following companies for their support:

Gold Sponsors

Silver Sponsors

Bronze Sponsors

Notes

