

An artistic illustration of a church with a tall steeple situated on a small island in a blue lake. The church is surrounded by dark green trees. In the background, there are blue mountains under a sky with yellow, dotted clouds. The entire scene is reflected in the water.

9th International *C. difficile* Symposium

SEPTEMBER 8-10, 2026, BLED, SLOVENIA

ICDS PROGRAMME

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

14:00–14:10			Opening		
14:10–15:40			SESSION 1	Innovations in the <i>C. difficile</i> field	Chair: Frédéric Barbut
14:10–14:40	INV1	Wiep Klaas Smits	Experimental colonization and infection with <i>C. difficile</i> in healthy volunteers		
14:40–15:10	INV2	Diana López-Ureña	Characterisation of a novel <i>C. difficile</i> virulence factor that alters host activity		
15:10–15:40	INV3	Ines Moura	Assessing individual risk of CDI using a Miniature Gut (MiGut) model		
15:40–16:20			COFFEE BREAK		
16:20–18:00			SESSION 2	Epidemiology and OneHealth	Chair: Tom Riley
16:20–16:50	INV-4	Caroline Le Maréchal	<i>C. difficile</i> : a foodborne pathogen?		
16:50–17:20	INV-5	Christian Seyboldt	<i>C. difficile</i> in small animals and its role in community CDI		
17:20–17:40	OP-1	Sarah Willis	<i>C. difficile</i> infection among adults with immunocompromising and chronic health conditions in the United States, 2018–2024: an administrative claims-based study		
17:40–18:00	OP-2	Elisabeth Dietz	Risk factors for <i>C. difficile</i> infection recurrence across three decades		
18:00			Welcome reception, Rikli Balance Hotel (Hall Arnold and Restaurant)		

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2026

08:30–10:00	SESSION 3	<i>C. difficile</i> and public health	Chair: Maja Rupnik
08:30–09:00	INV-6	Dazhi Jin	<i>C. difficile</i> epidemiology in China
09:00–10:00		Open forum discussion	
10:00 – 10:30		COFFEE BREAK	
10:30–12:10	SESSION 4	CDI Treatment	Chair: Erik Dubberke
10:30–11:00	INV-7	Maria Vehreschild	New microbiota based therapies – pipeline and legislation
11:00–11:30	INV-8	Paul Feuerstadt	Is there still a place for FMT in a world with LBP?
11:30–11:50	OP-3	Carolina Altaf Figueiredo	<i>C. difficile</i> biofilm formation in the gut context
11:50–12:10	OP-4	Bastien Castagner	Small-molecule allosteric triggers of <i>C. difficile</i> toxins auto-proteolysis as a therapeutic strategy
12:10 – 13:00		POSTER SESSION	
13:00 – 14:00		LUNCH (Hotel Rikli Balance)	
14:00 – 15:00		POSTER SESSION + COFFEE	
15:00–16:30	SESSION 5	Molecular biology and physiology	Chair: Paula Salgado
15:00–15:30	INV-9	Johann Peltier	Beyond classical resistance mechanisms: antibiotic resistance in <i>C. difficile</i>
15:30–15:50	OP-5	Claire Morvan	Cyclic fatty acids in <i>C. difficile</i> cyclic life
15:50–16:10	OP-6	Isabel Roseiro	A single amino acid substitution in CspA increases germination sensitivity and broadens bile salt germinant specificity in <i>C. difficile</i> spores
16:10–16:30	OP-7	Janet Wackenreuter	A stress-responsive sRNA modulates sporulation in <i>C. difficile</i> via Spo0A
16:30 – 17:00		COFFEE BREAK	
17:00–18:30	PARALLEL SESSIONS		
17:00–18:30	Session 6A Chair: Johann Peltier	<i>C. difficile</i> on the bench — Open forum discussion	
17:00–18:30	Session 6B Chair: Stuart Johnson	<i>C. difficile</i> in preclinical and clinical settings — Open forum discussion	
EVENING		Free evening	

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2026

08:30–09:50		SESSION 7		Clinical trials and developmental research	Chair: Mark Wilcox
08:30–08:50	OP-8	Mark Riddle	A phase 2 randomized study to evaluate the safety, tolerability and immunogenicity of a <i>C. difficile</i> adjuvanted vaccine in healthy adults		
08:50–09:10	OP-9	Jason Norman	Biological predictors of response to VE303, a defined bacterial consortium, in recurrent <i>C. difficile</i> infection: phase 2 consortium study		
09:10–09:30	OP-10	Mayur Ramesh	Evaluation of the safety, tolerability and pharmacokinetics of AZD5148, a long-acting monoclonal antibody against <i>C. difficile</i> toxin B		
09:30–09:50	OP-11	Erik Dubberke	Development of a novel colonic release metronidazole formulation for treatment of <i>C. difficile</i> infection		
9:50 - 10:30					
COFFEE BREAK					
10:30–12:10		SESSION 8		<i>C. difficile</i> virulence	Chair: Aimee Shen
10:30–11:00	INV-10	Qiwen Dong	Phenotypic heterogeneity in <i>C. difficile</i> virulence		
11:00–11:30	INV-11	Michael Abt	Impact of <i>C. difficile</i> toxins on developing immunity		
11:30–11:50	OP-12	Ashley Weiss	<i>C. difficile</i> remodels the intestinal epithelium through persistent epigenetic reprogramming spanning acute and recurrent infection		
11:50–12:10	OP-13	Tor Savidge	Microbial GABA and pharmacologic GABA _A receptor activation increase host susceptibility to <i>C. difficile</i> infection		
12:10 - 13:00					
POSTER SESSION					
13:00 - 14:00					
LUNCH (Hotel Rikli Balance)					
14:00 - 15:00					
POSTER SESSION + COFFEE					
15:00–16:30		SESSION 9		Emerging therapeutics and biological insights	Chair: Kevin Garey
15:00–15:20	OP-14	Andrew Skinner	From antimicrobial resistance to metabolic adaptation: quantifying the shift toward endemicity in <i>C. difficile</i>		
15:20–15:50	OP-15	Liam Keogh	Baseline microbiota determines <i>C. difficile</i> infection severity and prebiotic response		
15:50–16:10	OP-16	Alyssa Ehni	Multi-specific nanobody-Fc fusions against toxin B protect in vivo from diverse <i>C. difficile</i> strains		
16:10–16:30	OP-17	Nebojsa Janjic	Narrow spectrum of CRS3123 is rooted in target phylogeny and translates to low recurrence rates in CDI patients with preservation of healthy gut microbiota		
16:30 - 18:30					
NETWORKING					
19:00					
CONGRESS DINNER (Grand Hotel Toplice)					