



# LIFE WITH 6000 GENES

*celebrating 30 years since  
the sequencing of the *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* genome*

Organizing committee:

Duccio Cavalieri, Terrance Cooper, Ed Louis, John Morrissey, Jens Nielsen, Irene Stefanini.

## **Life with 6000 genes-Celebrating 30 years of the *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* genome sequence.**

The first complete sequence of the yeast genome was published and showcased worldwide in 1996. It was the first eukaryotic genome sequenced and the discovery served as a jumpstart for the sequencing of the human genome as well as of other fungal, plant and animal genomes.

From a technological standpoint the *S. cerevisiae* sequence was instrumental to the development of genome wide analysis technologies, such as DNA microarrays, Next generation Sequencing, and of the computational tools used today for interpreting genome wide data.

The conference celebrates this historic event and the scientists that made it happen, presenting the current state of yeast genomics research to specialists from all over the world, discussing the importance of moving from the genome of the type strain to pangenomics, and synthetic biology. The conference will involve as speakers some of the most prominent scientists worldwide and demonstrate the importance of supporting studies on microbial models for the understanding of fundamental biological processes ranging from cancer to evolutionary genetics and genomics.

## **Preliminary program**

**August 31<sup>th</sup> 2026**

**Location: Sala Luca Giordano, Palazzo Medici Riccardi, Via Camillo Cavour 3, Florence**

08:30 am – 09:30 am Registration

09:30 am – 10:00 am Welcome Ceremony

Duccio Cavalieri: SIMGBM & FEMS: (AISL-ICYGMB), The Major of Florence, the Dean of Florence University, The members of organizing committee

*Chairs: Duccio Cavalieri & Ed Louis.*

10:00 am – 10:30 am Bernard Dujon  
*Sorbonne University & Institut Pasteur (FR)*

DNA sequencing in the early 1990s.

10:30 am – 11:00 pm Isak Pretorius  
*McQuarie University (AU)*

Tailoring wine yeast for the new millennium: the *S. cerevisiae* synthetic genome.

11:00 am – 11:30 pm Kenneth Wolfe  
*University College Dublin (IR)*

2004: Discovering the Whole-genome duplication

11:30 am – 12:00 pm Brenda Andrews  
& Charlie Boone  
*University of Toronto (CA)*

The yeast deletion collection in the past and the future of yeast research.

12:00 pm – 12:30 pm Johan Thevelein  
*KU Leuven (BE)*

The impact of the yeast genome on Biotechnology.

12:30 am – 02:00 pm Lunch break

*Chair: TBA*

02.00 pm – 02:30 pm Terrance Cooper  
*UTHSC (USA)*

Transforming, cloning and sequencing *S. cerevisiae*.

02:30 pm – 03:00 pm Mark Johnston  
*Washington University (USA)*

The legacy of the *S. cerevisiae* genome and the future of genomics.

03:00 pm – 03:30 pm Edward J. Louis  
*University of Leicester (UK)*

Sequencing subtelomeres: shedding light onto the dark matter of the genome.

03:30 pm – 04:00 pm Gilles Fischer  
*CNRS Paris (FR)*

The *S. cerevisiae* pan genome.

04:00 pm – 04:30 pm Jens Nielsen  
*Chalmers University of Technology (SE)*

Past Present and Future of Yeast research.

04:30 pm – 06:30 pm Personal perspective: Andrew Murray, Steve Oliver, Carol Newlon, Despina Alexandrakis

How yeast made me the person I am.

08:00 pm -11.00 pm Conference dinner.

**September 1<sup>st</sup> 2026**

**Location: Sala Luca Giordano, Palazzo Medici Riccardi, Via Camillo Cavour 3, Florence**

*Chair TBD:*

10:00 am – 10:30 am	Kevin Verstrepen <i>KU Leuven (BE)</i>	The genetic landscape of the beer strains.
10:30 am – 11:00 am	Ursula Bond <i>Trinity College Dublin (IR)</i>	<i>Saccharomyces carlsbergensis</i> and the heritage of the beer yeasts.
11:00 am – 11:30 am	Daniela Delneri <i>UMA (UK)</i>	<i>S. cerevisiae</i> and its hybrids.
11:30 am – 12:00 pm	Sylvie Dequin <i>INRA (FR)</i>	Sequencing the wine strains.
12:00 pm – 12:30 pm	Joseph Schacherer <i>University in Strasbourg (FR)</i>	One thousand yeast genome sequences from telomere to telomere map Phenotypes to Genotypes.
12:30 pm – 01:00 pm	Hiroshi Takagi <i>NAIST (JP)</i>	30 Years with Lovely Yeasts: Back to the Future
01:00 pm – 02:30 pm	Lunch break	
<i>Chair: Claudio De Virgilio &amp; Teresa Rinaldi</i>		
02:30 pm – 03:00 pm	Michael Cherry&Co <i>SGD (USA)</i>	From Sequence to Knowledge: Thirty Years of the <i>Saccharomyces</i> Genome Database
03:00 pm – 06:00 pm	Chairs Jurgen Wendland-Andrei Sibirny	Beyond the Yeast Genome (9x20 min Selected Talks)
06:00 pm – 06:30 pm	John Morrissey <i>FEMS YEAST RESEARCH.</i>	Closing Ceremony
06:30 pm – 07:00 pm	Farwell Cocktail	

## Under the auspices of



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