



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 the computational tools used today for interpreting genome-wide data.

The conference celebrates this historic event and the scientists who 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 31th 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, and the members of the 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 1st 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	
Chair: Claudio De Virgilio & Teresa Rinaldi		
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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