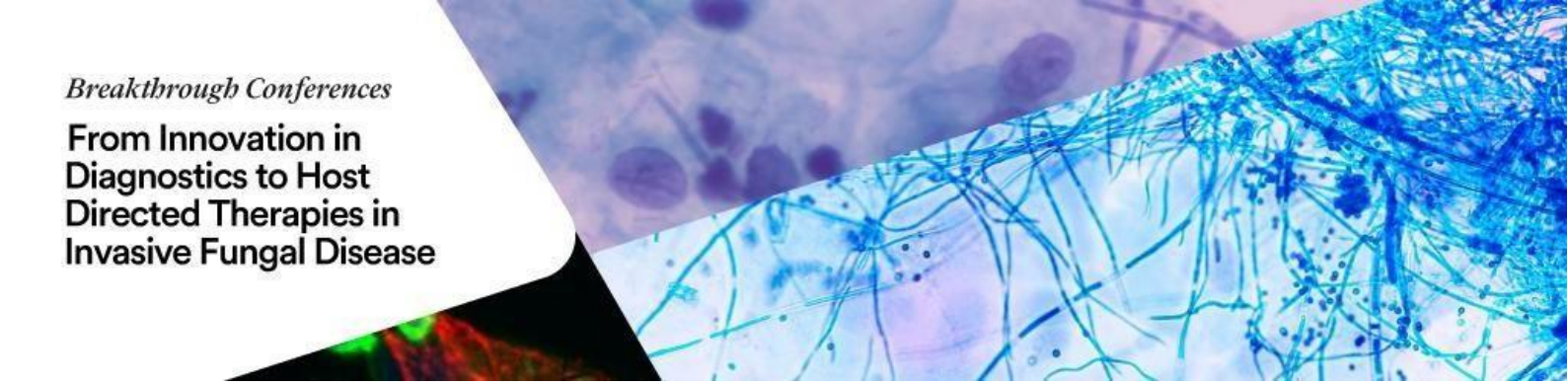


From Innovation on Diagnostics to Host Directed Therapies in Invasive Fungal Disease

18 – 20 November 2026, Braga, Portugal

Wednesday, November 18, 2026

1:00 PM Registration

2:00 PM Welcome addresses
António Salgado (Vice-Rector for Research and Science Policy, University of Minho, Braga, Portugal)
Agostinho Carvalho (University of Minho, Braga, Portugal)
Frank van de Veerdonk (Radboud University Medical Center, The Netherlands)

2:10 PM Session 1: Emerging Fungal Threats

Chairs: Frank van de Veerdonk and Samuel Gonçalves

2:10 PM Keynote lecture
Martin Hoenigl (Medical University of Graz, Austria)
Impact of Climate Change on Fungal Diseases: from the Pathogen to the Host

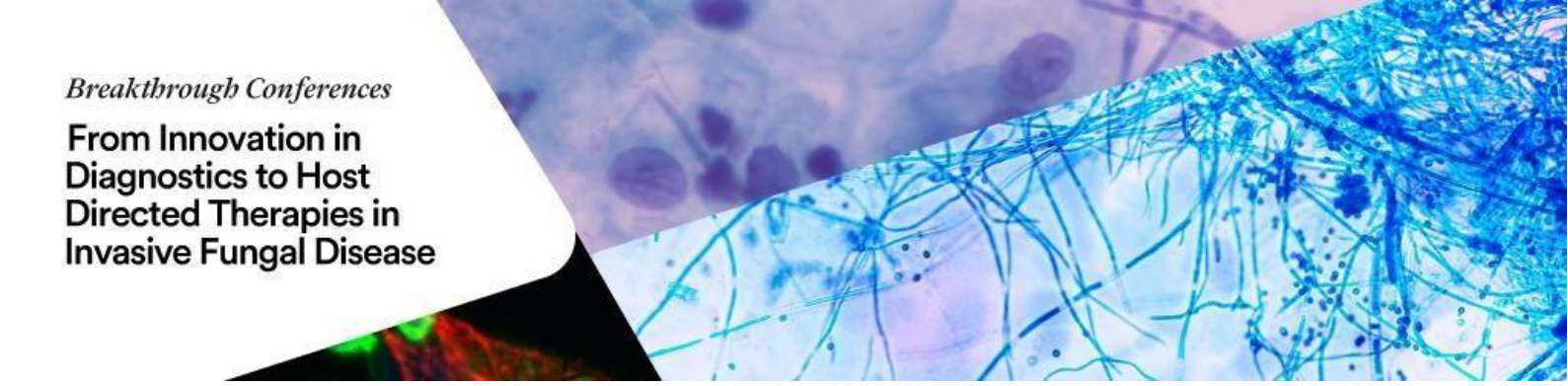
2:40 PM Invited lecture
Sofia Costa de Oliveira (University of Porto, Portugal)
Pathogenesis of Emerging Fungal Infections

3:00 PM Selected talks, Session A
3:00 PM Patrícia Ataíde (University of Minho, Braga)
Exploring the impact of Ato proteins on Candida albicans metabolic adaptation, stress tolerance, and host interaction

3:15 PM Filippo Medioli (Department of Biomedical Sciences, Humanitas University, Humanitas Research Hospital, Milan, Italy)
Respiratory Syncytial Virus Infection Increases the Risk of Invasive Fungal Infection after Allogeneic Stem Cell Transplantation

3:30 PM Coffee break

Organised by: ICVS B.acis
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Chairs: Carol A. Munro and Yuri Vanbiervliet

4:00 PM Keynote lecture
Joost Wauters (University Hospitals Leuven, Belgium)
Advancing Diagnosis and Optimizing Treatment of Viral-Fungal Pathogenesis

4:30 PM Selected talks, Session B
4:30 PM Axel Dietschmann (Hans Knöll Institute (HKI), Jena, Germany)
Antifungal resilience" – A cellular phenotype for immunotherapy?

4:45 PM Matthias Egger (University of Graz, Austria)
Association between 1,3-Beta-D-Glucan and immune dysregulation in liver cirrhosis

5:00 PM Inês Pereira /University of Minho, Braga)
Host genetic variant in LGALS3 influences phagolysosomal function and macrophage antifungal immunity

5:15 PM Poster Session and Welcome Reception

7:30 PM Speaker's dinner

Thursday, November 19, 2026

9:30 AM Session 2: Host-Directed Therapies: New Strategies Against Fungal Disease

Chairs: Martin Hoenigl and Sarah Dellière

9:30 AM Keynote lecture
Frank van de Veerdonk (Radboud University Medical Center, The Netherlands)
Novel Immunotherapy Approaches For Fungal Disease

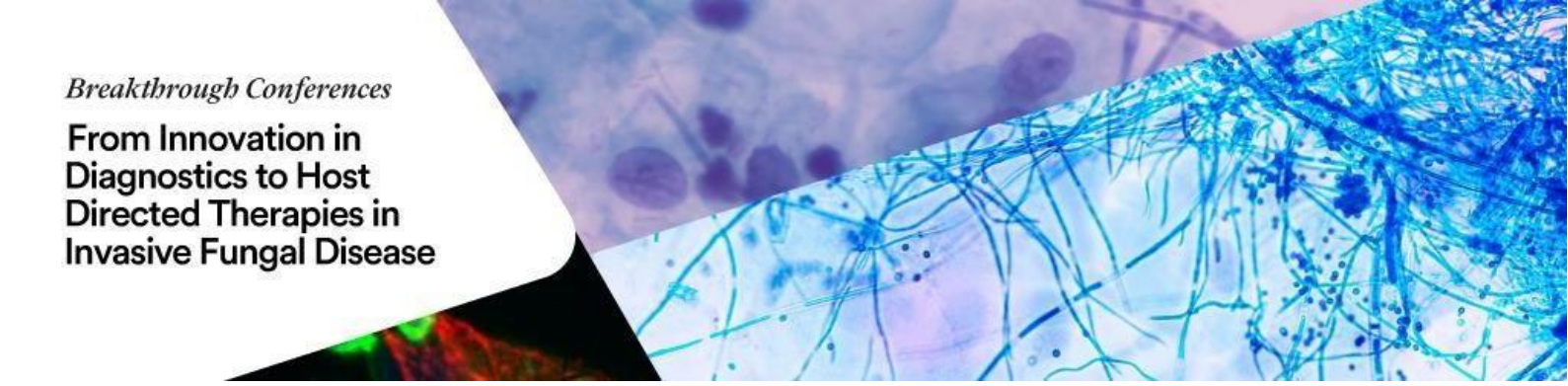
10:00 AM Invite lecture
Sandra Paiva (University of Minho, Portugal)
Nutrient Transport Networks in Candida albicans: From Host Colonization to Pathogenesis

10:20 AM Coffee break

Chairs: Mark Gresnigt and Cristina Cunha

11:00 AM Keynote lecture
Carol A. Munro (University of Aberdeen, United Kingdom)
Novel Antibody-Based Immunotherapies for Invasive Fungal Infection

11:30 AM Selected talks, Session C



11:30 AM Mira Koul (Radboud University Medical Center, The Netherlands)
Decoding the genetic and immunometabolic basis of invasive pulmonary aspergillosis

11:45 AM Lisa Rodrigues (University of Coimbra, Portugal)
Host purinergic signaling as a therapeutic target: linking gut microbiota dysbiosis and receptor polymorphisms in obesity

12:00 AM Inês Caldeira (University of Minho, Portugal)
Altered macrophage immunometabolism links IL-37 genetic variation to impaired antifungal immunity

12:15 AM Lunch

2:15 PM Round Table Session 1: Fungal Diseases in Focus: Diagnostic Gaps, Therapeutic Challenges, and Policy Needs

2:15 PM Introduction Lecture
Yuri Vanbiervliet (University Hospitals Leuven, Belgium)
Challenges for management of invasive mould infections

2:30 PM Introduction Lecture
Rosanne Sprute (University of Cologne, Germany)
Innovation in Fungal Disease Management: From Barriers to Breakthroughs

2:45 PM Introduction Lecture
Sarah Dellière (Institute Pasteur, France)
Challenges and opportunities in Host-based diagnosis of fungal diseases

3:00 PM Round Table
Martin Hoenigl (University of Graz, Austria) - *Moderator*
Yuri Vanbiervliet (University Hospitals Leuven, Belgium)
Rosanne Sprute (University of Cologne, Germany)
Sarah Dellière (Institut Pasteur, France)

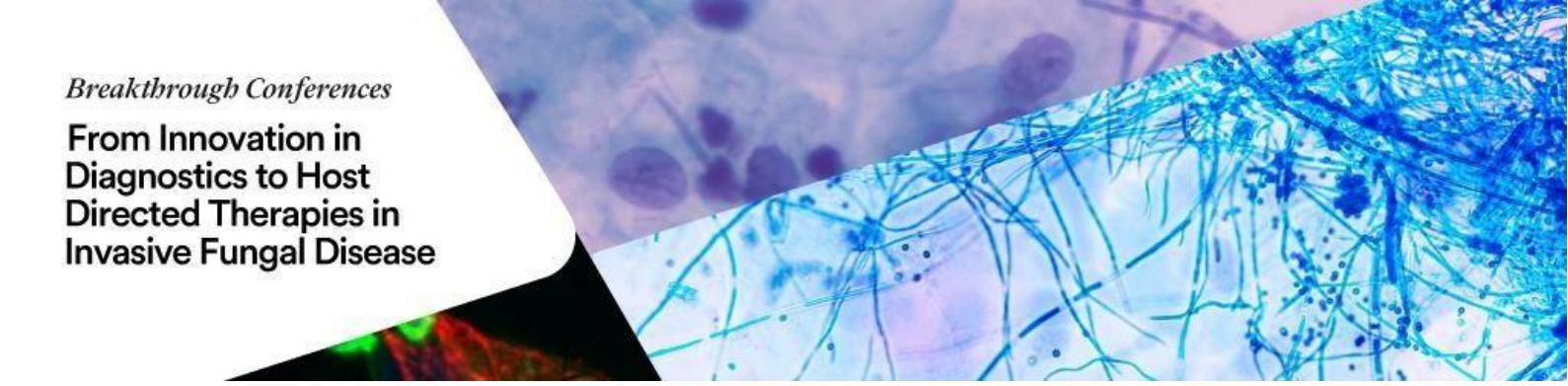
4:00 PM Coffee Break

4:30 PM Round Table Session 2: Doenças Fúngicas nas Políticas de Saúde Pública: Do Conhecimento Científico à Ação Estratégica

4:30 PM Round Table (in Portuguese)
Agostinho Carvalho (University of Minho, Portugal) – *Moderator*
Joana Laranjinha (ULS Braga, Portugal)
Eduarda Ruiz Pena (ULS Matosinhos, EPE – Hospital Pedro Hispano,Matosinhos,Portugal)
Raquel Sabino (Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Lisbon, Portugal)
Paula Sampaio (University of Minho, Portugal)

7:30 PM Congress Dinner

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Friday, November 20, 2026

9:30 AM Session 3: Translating Fungal Research into Innovation: From Discovery to Application

Chairs: Joost Wauters and Rosanne Sprute

9:30 AM Keynote lecture

Georgios Chamilos (University of Crete, Greece)

Novel mechanisms regulating fungal phagosome biogenesis in health and disease

10:00 AM Keynote lecture

Mark Gresnigt (Leibniz Institute for Natural Product Research and Infection Biology, Germany)

Organ-on-chip models to study host-pathogen interactions of mucosal and invasive candidiasis

10:30 AM Coffee break

11:00 AM Selected talks, Session D

11:00 AM Rosanne Sprute (University of Cologne, Germany)
Human Monoclonal Antibodies Targeting the Candida albicans Invasin Als3 as Candidates for Host-Directed Immunotherapy in Invasive Candidiasis

11:15 AM Daniela Calheiros (University of Coimbra, Portugal)
Exploring Alternaria alternata Proteome and Extracellular Vesicles in Host Responses and Allergy Diagnosis

11:30 AM Invited lecture

Bruno Almeida (University of Minho, Portugal)
IPLEXMED: The Journey of a Spin-Off in Infection Diagnostics

11:50 AM Award Ceremony

Best poster presentation
Best oral presentation
Art Contest Winners - Science Can Also Be Art: What Do Fungi Hide?

12:15 AM Closing Remarks and Departure

Cristina Cunha (University of Minho, Braga, Portugal)

12:30 AM Lunch box

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