



MOHAMMED VI  
CENTER OF RESEARCH  
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MOHAMMED VI UNIVERSITY  
OF SCIENCES AND HEALTH  
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MOHAMMED VI FOUNDATION  
OF SCIENCES AND HEALTH

# THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON THE INTESTINAL MICROBIOME



## THE INTESTINAL MICROBIOME IMPLICATIONS IN ONCOLOGY AND NUTRITION

**Honorary President : Pr. BELYAMANI Lahcen**

 **Mohammed VI University of  
Sciences and Health - RABAT**

 **Conference: (April 9-10, 2026)**

 **Mohammed VI Center for Research and  
Innovation - RABAT**

 **Metagenomics workshop: (April 11, 2026)**

**For Abstract  
Submission :**



**For more information :**  
[imcon26@cm6.ma](mailto:imcon26@cm6.ma)

# PREAMBLE

Recently, research on the gut microbiota has emerged as a central pillar of modern biomedical science, reshaping our understanding of cancer biology, immune regulation, and nutritional health. The gut microbiome is now recognized as a key determinant of disease susceptibility, therapeutic response, and metabolic balance, positioning it at the heart of precision medicine strategies in both oncology and nutrition. In Morocco, where the burden of cancer, metabolic disorders, and nutrition-related diseases continues to rise, the integration of microbiome research into clinical and public health frameworks remains a strategic priority. Despite growing national expertise in biomedical research and healthcare, structured platforms dedicated to microbiome science—particularly at the intersection of cancer and nutrition—are still limited.

# PREAMBLE

The international congress on the microbiome, under the theme “The Intestinal Microbiome: Implications in Oncology and Nutrition” , aims to serve as a catalyst for advancing microbiome research in Morocco by bringing together leading international experts, national researchers, clinicians, and young investigators. This congress addresses a critical need to bridge this gap by fostering scientific exchange, capacity building, and translational collaboration adapted to the Moroccan healthcare and research ecosystem. By highlighting recent discoveries, clinical applications, and advanced technological platforms, this event seeks to strengthen local research capacity, foster interdisciplinary collaboration, and promote the integration of gut microbiota research into oncology and nutrition practices. Ultimately, this congress aspires to contribute to the development of innovative, locally relevant microbiome-based strategies that will enhance patient care and scientific excellence in Morocco and beyond.

# CONFERENCE SYNOPSIS

## ● **HOST–MICROBIOME INTERACTIONS**

Host–microbiota interactions  
Immune modulation & inflammation

## ● **MICROBIOME AND CANCER**

Oncogenesis & tumor–microbiota crosstalk  
Microbiome and immunotherapy response

## ● **MICROBIOME, CHRONIC & METABOLIC DISORDERS**

Dysbiosis and metabolic disorders (obesity, diabetes)  
Autoimmune and inflammatory diseases

## ● **DIAGNOSTICS, THERAPEUTICS & CLINICAL TRANSLATION**

Microbial biomarkers, FMT, probiotics  
Clinical trial design & regulatory frameworks

## ● **MULTI-OMICS, BIOINFORMATICS & DATA INTEGRATION**

Metagenomics, metabolomics, metatranscriptomics  
Computational pipelines and standards

## ● **MICROBIOME–DRUG & ENVIRONMENTAL INTERACTIONS**

Pharmacomicrobiomics  
Environmental exposures & lifestyle factors

## ● **EXPERIMENTAL MODELS & BIOBANKING**

Germ-free and organoid models  
Microbiome biobanking and sample processing

# CONFERENCE SYNOPSIS

## ● **DIET-MICROBIOTA INTERACTIONS**

Dietary patterns & microbial responses  
Fermentation, SCFAs, metabolic outputs

## ● **PRECISION & PERSONALIZED NUTRITION**

Microbiome-based dietary interventions  
Predictive models & multi-omics integration

## ● **NUTRITION, IMMUNITY & INFLAMMATION**

Anti-inflammatory diets  
Nutritional immunomodulators

## ● **METABOLIC HEALTH & NUTRITIONAL STRATEGIES**

Obesity, insulin resistance, metabolic syndrome

## ● **BIOACTIVES, NATURAL COMPOUNDS**

Polyphenols & nutraceuticals  
Fermented foods and functional ingredients

## ● **EARLY-LIFE NUTRITION & MICROBIOME DEVELOPMENT**

Infant feeding & microbiota maturation

# SPEAKERS



## Pr. ZITVOGEL Laurence

MD, PhD

**Pr. ZITVOGEL Laurence** is a clinical oncologist and immunologist and a full professor at Université Paris-Saclay. She obtained her medical degree in medical oncology in 1992 and began her scientific career at the University of Pittsburgh (USA), where she specialized in fundamental and translational immunology. In 1998, she was appointed Research Director at Inserm (U1015) and, in 2020, became Scientific Director of the Clinicobiome Program at Gustave Roussy Cancer Campus. Her work has played a major role in advancing cancer immunology and immunotherapy. Together with her team, she pioneered key concepts such as immunogenic cell death and demonstrated the critical influence of the gut microbiota on cancer immunosurveillance and responses to anticancer therapies.

## SPEAKERS



### Pr. ROUZY Bertrand

MD, PhD

**Pr. ROUZY Bertrand** is a professor of hemato-oncology at the University of Montreal and Scientific Director of the Immunotherapy and Microbiome Laboratory at the Research Center of the University of Montreal Hospital (CRCHUM). He obtained his MD from the University of Montreal and completed his Internal Medicine training at McGill University, followed by a research fellowship at Princess Margaret Hospital, University of Toronto. He later earned a PhD in Immuno-Oncology at the Gustave Roussy Cancer Campus. With advanced expertise in immuno-oncology and microbiome science, his research focuses on the role of the gut microbiota in cancer progression and response to immune checkpoint inhibitors, and on the development of microbiome-based strategies to enhance cancer immunotherapy.

## SPEAKERS



### Pr. SOKOL Harry

MD, PhD

**Pr. SOKOL Harry** is a professor of gastroenterology at Sorbonne University and physician at AP-HP (Saint-Antoine Hospital, Paris). He obtained his MD in Gastroenterology from Université Paris Descartes (Paris V) and his PhD in Microbiology from Université Paris-Sud (Paris-Saclay), followed by postdoctoral training at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School. He is an internationally recognized expert in gut microbiota, inflammation, and host–microbiome interactions, with major contributions to translational and clinical microbiome research in inflammatory diseases and cancer.

## SPEAKERS



### Pr. HEIKEL Jaâfar

MD, PhD

**Pr. HEIKEL Jaâfar** is an associate professor of medicine at Mohammed VI University of Sciences and Health (UM6SS) and Director of the Laboratory of Medical Evaluation and Health Economics. He is Professor of Medicine at the Faculties of Medicine of Casablanca and Marrakech, and a researcher in Health Economics at Sorbonne Paris Nord University. His academic background includes a Diploma in Nutrition and Metabolic Diseases, training in Diabetology, a Master's degree in Community Health, a PhD in Epidemiology, and an MBA. His work focuses on epidemiology, public health, health economics, nutrition, and health behaviors, with an integrative approach linking nutrition, metabolic and infectious diseases, and health system management. He has served as an expert member of the Joint Commission International advisory council since 2002, is a member of the International Editorial Advisory Board, and previously held senior academic leadership positions, including Dean and Vice-President at the International University of Casablanca.

## SPEAKERS



**Dr. AHLOULAY  
Mina**

PhD

**Dr. AHLOULAY Mina** is a Project Manager at the DRCI (Direction de la Recherche Clinique et de l'Innovation) of AP-HP, where she currently leads initiatives for the FHU GLIMMER (Gut, Liver & Microbiome Research) at Saint-Antoine Hospital. Her career began with fundamental research in renal pathophysiology before transitioning to clinical research within AP-HP. She advanced from a Clinical Study Coordinator in Hepatology at Necker Hospital to a Clinical Research Manager at Cochin Hospital, overseeing more than 280 clinical trials. She is also engaged in clinical research training and academic lecturing at Paris Cité University.

# PROGRAM

**DAY 1**

April 9th



Mohammed VI University of  
Sciences and Health - RABAT

- 08:30 - 09:00 Participants Registration
- 09:00 - 09:30 Opening ceremony Day 1
- **09:30 - 10:00** **Pr. Laurence ZITVOGEL (Gustave Roussy Institute)**  
*“From Research to the Patient: Translational Integration of the Microbiome in Oncology”*
- **10:00 - 10:30** **Pr. Harry SOKOL,**  
*“Role of Faecalibacterium prausnitzii in immune-oncology”*
- **10:30 - 11:00** **Coffee Break**
- 11:00 - 11:30 Poster session
- 11:30 - 12:30 Oral communications
- **12:30 - 14:00** **Lunch**
- **14:00 - 14:30** **Pr. Bertrand ROUTY,**  
*“The importance of the microbiome in oncology - a future therapeutic option”*
- 14:00 - 15:30 Oral communications
- 15:30 - 16:00 Posters
- **16:00 - 16:30** **Coffee Break**
- 16:30 - 17:30 Oral communications
- 18:00 - 17:30 Q&A and Enclosure of Day 1

# PROGRAM

**DAY 2** April 10th



Mohammed VI University of  
Sciences and Health - RABAT

- 09:00 - 09:15 Opening ceremony Day 2
- **09:15 - 09:45** Pr. Jaafar HEIKEL,  
*“Dysbiosis and Metabolic Disorders:  
New Therapeutic Challenges”*
- 09:45 - 10:30 Oral communications
- **10:30 - 11:00** Coffee Break
- **11:00 - 12:00** Dr. Mina AHLOULAY,  
*“Workshop: Management of Microbiome  
Research Projects”*
- 12:00 - 12:30 Oral communications
- **12:30 - 14:00** Lunch
- 14:00 - 14:30 Poster session
- **14:30 - 15:15** Award Ceremony:
  - 2 Best Oral Communications
  - 2 Best Posters
- **15:30 - 16:00** Coffee Break
- **16:30** Touristic visit to RABAT
- **20:00** GALA DINNER

# PROGRAM

**DAY 3** April 11th



Mohammed VI Center for Research and Innovation - RABAT

## PACBIO PRACTICAL WORKSHOP

- 09:00 - 08:30 Participant Registration & Laboratory Guidelines
- 09:00 - 10:30 First Session – PART 1
- **10:30 - 11:00** Coffee Break
- 11:00 - 11:30 First Session – PART 2
- **13:00 - 14:00** Lunch
- 14:00 - 16:30 Second Session
- 16:30 - 17:00 Certificates & Group Photo



## HONORARY PRESIDENT

**Pr. BELYAMANI Lahcen**

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- Dr. KARTTI Souad
- Dr. BOURICHA El Mehdi
- Dr. EL BADISSY Imad
- PACBIO Experts

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## THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON THE INTESTINAL MICROBIOME

