



AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

**ADVANCES IN TOXOPLASMOSIS
RESEARCH**

APRIL 20-21, 2026 | ONLINE



IRC
Impact Research Communications

International Conference on Advances in Toxoplasmosis Research

April 20–21, 2026 | EDT | Online

Symposium Chair

Vicki Jeffers, PhD

University of New Hampshire, NH, USA

Impact Research Communications
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🌐 <https://toxoplasma.ircconferences.net>

09:00–09:10 Zoom Joining & Opening Remarks

Session - I

Session chair: Vicki Jeffers, University of New Hampshire, NH, USA

- 09:10–09:40** **Joanne Webster**, Royal Veterinary College, University of London, United Kingdom
From fatal feline attraction in rats to Schizophrenia in humans – why and how does *Toxoplasma gondii* alter host behaviour
- 09:40–10:10** **Nishith Gupta**, BITS Hyderabad, India
Toxoplasma's autonomy in making its major phospholipid
- 10:10–10:40** **Zahady D. Velásquez**, Justus Liebig University, Giessen, Germany
The impact of *Toxoplasma gondii* infection on host cell genome integrity and spermatozoa structure
- 10:40–11:10** **Clare Harding**, University of Glasgow, United Kingdom
Fantastic metals and how to acquire them
- 11:10–11:40** **Martin Blume**, Robert Koch Institute, Germany
Metabolic vulnerabilities of bradyzoites

11:40–12:00 Short Break

Session - II

Session chair: Andrew Maclean, University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom

- 12:00–12:30** **Jon Boyle**, University of Pittsburgh, PA, USA
scRNAseq of *Toxoplasma gondii* feline stages identifies transcriptional characteristics of male and female gametes and new candidate regulators of gametogenesis
- 12:30–13:00** **Vicki Jeffers**, University of New Hampshire, NH, USA
Divergent TATA-box binding proteins in *Toxoplasma gondii*
- 13:00–13:30** **Maritza Jaramillo**, INRS, Laval, Canada
Dysregulation of FOXO-dependent transcriptional programs and functions in trophoblasts during *Toxoplasma gondii* infection

13:30–13:50 Short Break

Session - III

Session chair: Mike Holmes, University of Missouri – Kansas City, MO, USA

- 13:50–14:20** **Elsa Suberbielle**, INSERM, France
Chronic neuronal IL-1-induced signaling, a critical player in *Toxoplasma gondii*-driven cognitive impairment: from chronic neuroinflammation to neurodegenerative disorder

- 14:20–14:50** **Jeroen Saeij**, University of California, Davis, CA, USA
Human innate immune detection of *Toxoplasma* by a primate-restricted T cell subset
- 14:50–15:20** **Lena Pernas**, University of California, Los Angeles, CA, USA
Social sensing of infection reprograms peripheral immunity in healthy mice
- 15:20–15:50** **Sarah Ewald**, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA, USA
Toxoplasma MAF1 blocks mouse AIM2 inflammasome activation by inhibiting mtDNA release
- 15:50–16:20** **Maria Franca**, Institut Pasteur Montevideo, Uruguay
A tale of division, fate, and resolution

16:20 Day 1 Closing Remarks

DAY-2

Tuesday, April 21, 2026
Eastern Time (USA)

09:30–09:40 Opening Remarks

Session – IV

Session chair: Haley Licon, University of Utah, UT, USA

- 09:40–10:10** **Puran Singh Sijwali**, CSIR – Centre for Cellular & Molecular Biology, Hyderabad, India
An ER-resident lipid scramblase is crucial for biogenesis and function of apicomplexan parasite secretory organelles
- 10:10–10:40** **Elena Jimenez-Ruiz**, Ludwig-Maximilians-University (LMU), Munich, Germany
A dual apical methyltransferase module regulates actin-driven motility initiation in apicomplexan parasites
- 10:40–11:10** **Albert Tell I Puig**, University of Geneva, Switzerland
The apical complex of *Toxoplasma gondii*, an essential tool for host infection

11:10–11:30 Short Break

Session – V

Session chair: Vanessa Severo, Indiana University School of Medicine, IN, USA

- 11:30–12:00** **Tanmay Majumdar**, National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi, India
Immunometabolic reprogramming by β -catenin shapes mitochondria-driven T-cells plasticity
- 12:00–12:30** **Sabrina Marion**, Institut Pasteur Lille, University of Lille, France
Toxoplasma strain-specific modulation of dendritic cell responses
- 12:30–13:00** **Melissa Lodoen**, University of California, Irvine, CA, USA
Myeloid cell immunity against *Toxoplasma gondii* infection
- 13:00–13:30** **Lamba Omar Sangare**, Texas A&M University, TX, USA
Mechanisms of placental barrier crossing by *Toxoplasma gondii*

13:30–13:50 Short Break

Session - VI

Session chair: Clare Harding, University of Glasgow, United Kingdom

- 13:50–14:20** **Daniela Sparvoli**, University of Montpellier, France
An Alveolata-specific small GTPase complex gates exocytosis in *Toxoplasma gondii*
- 14:20–14:50** **Kevin Brown**, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, OK, USA
Trafficking and assembly of the guanylate cyclase complex in *Toxoplasma gondii*
- 14:50–15:20** **Li-av Segev Zarko**, University of Texas Medical Branch, TX, USA
Reorganization of *Toxoplasma*'s apical complex in preparation for invasion
- 15:20–15:50** **Maria Corvi**, INTECH, CONICET/UNSAM, Argentina
The prenylatable C-terminal domain of Hsp40 Tgjl is essential for proper subcellular localization and virulence in *Toxoplasma gondii*

15:50 Closing remarks

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