



Personalised Phage Therapy

From Evidence to Implementation in Estonia

Scientific Conference



23 October 2026



Tartu, Estonia

Antimicrobial resistance represents a growing clinical challenge in Estonia and globally. Personalised phage therapy offers a promising approach for treating complex bacterial infections where conventional therapies fail. This conference convenes clinicians, scientists, and regulators to discuss the current state of phage therapy and its evidence-based implementation in Estonia.

Final Programme

09:30-10:00	Registration and Coffee	
10:00-10:15	Opening Remarks	Prof Joel Starkopf, MD, PhD Prof Tanel Tenson, PhD
10:15-10:40	New Antibiotics and Bacteriophages: Do We Need Both?	Prof Irja Lutsar, MD, PhD
10:40-11:30	Personalised Phage Therapy with an Emphasis on the Belgian Magistral Framework	Prof Jean-Paul Pirnay, PhD
11:30-11:50	Coffee Break	
Session 1	Clinical Fundamentals	
11:50-12:20	Phage Therapy in Italy: Clinical Applications and Regulatory Challenges	Dr Novella Cesta, MD, PhD
12:20-12:50	Phage Therapy in Latvia: Clinical Experience and Future Perspectives	Dr Kārlis Rācenis, MD, PhD
12:50-13:20	Phage Therapy in Orthopedic Infections: Clinical Perspectives	Dr Kaspar Tootsi, MD, PhD
13:20-14:30	Lunch	
Session 2	Regulation and Implementation	
14:30-15:00	Regulatory and Quality Aspects of Phage Therapy	Helerin Eiche, PhD
15:00-15:30	Building Phage Collections for Rapid Access	Karin Ernits, PhD
15:30-16:20	Panel discussion: Translating Phage Therapy into Clinical Practice in Estonia	
16:20-16:30	Closing Remarks	Prof Tanel Tenson, PhD
17:00-19:30	Networking Dinner (optional)	

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Invited Speakers

Prof Jean-Paul Pirnay, PhD

Queen Astrid Military Hospital, Belgium

Senior scientist and Head of the Laboratory for Molecular and Cellular Technology, Queen Astrid Military Hospital. Focuses on antimicrobial resistance, personalised phage therapy, and its implementation in clinical practice.

Dr Novella Cesta, MD, PhD

University Hospital of Pisa, Italy

Infectious diseases specialist focused on the clinical application of phage therapy in difficult-to-treat infections, including prosthetic joint infections.

Dr Kārlis Rācenis, MD, PhD

Riga Stradiņš University, Latvia

Physician and scientist specialising in internal medicine, nephrology, and antimicrobial resistance. Leads a multidisciplinary research team focusing on personalised phage therapy strategies for complex multidrug-resistant infections.

Dr Kaspar Tootsi, MD, PhD

Tartu University Hospital & University of Tartu, Estonia

Head of Orthopaedics Clinic, associate professor specialising in implant-related infections. Led the first clinical use of phage therapy in Estonia for periprosthetic joint infection.

Prof Irja Lutsar, MD, PhD

University of Tartu, Estonia

Professor of medical microbiology and internationally recognised expert in infectious diseases and antimicrobial resistance.

Karin Ernits, PhD

Lund University, Sweden

Researcher in microbiology and molecular biology focusing on phage biology, phage-host interactions, and development of phage collections.

Helerin Eiche, PhD

State Agency of Medicines, Estonia

Quality assessor and member of the EMA Biologics Working Party. Leads the development of EMA quality guidance for phage therapeutics and contributes to shaping the evolving EU regulatory landscape for phage therapy.

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Practical Information



Organisers

University of Tartu and Tartu University Hospital



Venue

V Spa Hotel & Conference Centre

Riia 2, Tartu, Estonia



Date and time

23 October 2026

09:30-16:30

Coffee breaks included

Networking dinner: 17:00-19:30 (*optional*)



Lunch

Participants are kindly asked to arrange their own lunch. There are several dining options available within walking distance of the venue.



Networking Dinner

The networking dinner will take place after the conference (*optional*). Participation is at your own expense. Please indicate your interest during registration to support planning.



Registration

Participation is free of charge but registration is required.

For registration scan the QR code below or use the following link:

[Registration - Personalised Phage Therapy: From Evidence to Implementation in Estonia](#)

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