



HealthFerm

FINAL CONFERENCE

www.healthferm.eu/health-ferm-conference

25 AUGUST 2026 - DAY 1

TUESDAY

AGENDA



REGISTRATION, COFFEE & NETWORKING	8:00
OPENING REMARKS & PROJECT INTRODUCTION Dr. Christophe Courtin, Project Leader, KU Leuven	9:00
EXPERT KEYNOTE Lynette Neufeld, Director, Food and Nutrition Division, Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN	9:20
BLOCK 1: MICROBIAL DIVERSITY & FUNCTIONAL DESIGN FOR NEXT-GENERATION FERMENTATIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Nicholas Bokulich, Assistant Professor, ETH Zurich• Dr. Rossana Coda, Researcher, University of Helsinki• Dr. Stefan Weckx, Associate Professor, Vrije Universiteit Brussels	9:45
COFFEE BREAK & POSTER SESSION	11:00
BLOCK 1: MICROBIAL DIVERSITY & FUNCTIONAL DESIGN FOR NEXT-GENERATION FERMENTATIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Maria Marco, Professor, UC Davis• Speaker - to be announced	11:25
RESEARCH HIGHLIGHT SESSION WITH 4 PHD PITCHES	12:30
LUNCH & NETWORKING BREAK, POSTER SESSION	12:50
BLOCK 2: FERMENTED FOODS, GUT MICROBIOTA & HUMAN HEALTH <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Kristin Verbeke, Professor, KU Leuven• Dr. Marjukka Kolehmainen, Professor, EUF• Dr. Rikard Landberg, Professor & Head of Division, Food and Nutrition Science, Chalmers	14:00

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RESEARCH HIGHLIGHT SESSION WITH 3 PHD PITCHES	15:10
COFFEE & NETWORKING BREAK	15:35
BLOCK 2: FERMENTED FOODS, GUT MICROBIOTA & HUMAN HEALTH <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Speakers - to be announced	15:55
RESEARCH & OTHER PROJECTS	16:30
CLOSING FIRST DAY Dr. Christophe Courtin, Project Leader, KU Leuven	17:50
NETWORKING ACTIVITY - HAPPY HOUR until 19:00	18:00





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26 AUGUST 2026 - DAY 2

WEDNESDAY

AGENDA



REGISTRATION, COFFEE & NETWORKING	8:00
OPENING REMARKS DAY 2 Dr. Christophe Courtin, Project Leader, KU Leuven	9:00
EXPERT KEYNOTE	9:10
BLOCK 3: INNOVATIVE FERMENTATION TECHNOLOGIES FOR PLANT-BASED FOODS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Kati Katina, Professor Food & Nutrition, University of Helsinki • Dr. Arno Wouters, Assistant Professor, KU Leuven 	9:40
RESEARCH HIGHLIGHT SESSION WITH 4 PHD PITCHES	10:45
COFFEE BREAK & POSTER SESSION	11:05
BLOCK 3: INNOVATIVE FERMENTATION TECHNOLOGIES FOR PLANT-BASED FOODS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Riita Partanen, Research Manager, Valio 	11:30
BLOCK 4: CONSUMER INSIGHTS, BEHAVIOUR & POLICY PATHWAYS FOR FERMENTED FOODS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Armando Perez-Cueto, Professor, Umeå University • Dr. Michael Bom Frøst, Associate Professor, University of Copenhagen 	11:45
RESEARCH HIGHLIGHT SESSION WITH 4 PHD PITCHES	12:30
LUNCH AND NETWORKING BREAK, POSTER SESSION	12:45
BLOCK 4: CONSUMER INSIGHTS, BEHAVIOUR & POLICY PATHWAYS FOR FERMENTED FOODS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Maxime Michaud, Researcher, Institute Lyfe/Umeå University • Speaker - to be announced 	13:45

26 AUGUST 2026 - DAY 2

WEDNESDAY

PLENARY CLOSING

14:50

- Industry Hurdles
- Research Hurdles
- Future Research & Next Steps

CLOSING COFFEE & NETWORKING BREAK

16:30

until 17:00

AGENDA

