



ELRIG

The Drug Discovery
Community

Therapeutic Oligos 2025

Drugging the undruggable

14 – 15 May 2025

AstraZeneca,
Gothenburg

#ELRIGTO25



Therapeutic
OLIGOS
2025

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Welcome to Therapeutic Oligos 2025

We welcome you to the second ELRIG meeting on Therapeutic Oligonucleotides, where scientists from academia, industry and the scientific suppliers come together to explore the discovery, validation, and targeting of drug candidates using antisense oligonucleotides (ASOs) and siRNA.

Our ambition is to provide an inspiring environment for networking and to encourage collaboration between biologists, chemists and the vendor community across diverse research areas. The scientific programme covers four areas; target identification and validation, safety and efficacy advancements, expanding cell- and tissue-targeting and towards clinical success.

Our keynote speakers, Prof. Rory Johnson and Dr Shalini Andersson will be providing their perspectives on the development of oligonucleotide drugs and we are grateful for giving their time to share these with us.

We would like to thank our conference directors and track chairs: Hilary Brooks (Evotec), Fredrik Edfeldt (AstraZeneca), Anna Grandqvist (Ribocure Pharmaceuticals AB), David Gilot (AstraZeneca), Saman Honarnejad (Evotec), Karl-Johan Leuchowius (AstraZeneca), Pär Matsson, (Gothenburg University), Jacopo Oieni (Aptuit, an Evotec company), Ulrik Lytt Rahbek (Novo Nordisk) and Linda Sundström (AstraZeneca). The meeting could not happen without their help and that of the ELRIG Operations team.

Please enjoy the opportunity to learn, share and visit our exhibitors during the meeting.

The Conference Directors

Conference Directors



Fredrik Edfeldt
AstraZeneca



David Gilot
AstraZeneca



Saman Honarnejad
Evotec



Karl-Johan Leuchowius
AstraZeneca



Pär Matsson
University Of
Gothenburg;
Oligonova



**Ulrik Lytt
Rahbek**
Novo Nordisk



Linda Sundström
AstraZeneca

Keynote Speakers



Prof Rory Johnson
University College Dublin

Prof Rory Johnson is an Associate Professor at University College Dublin, where his research focusses on uncovering the roles of long noncoding RNAs (lncRNAs) in human health and disease using an interdisciplinary combination of bioinformatic and experimental methods. His team has developed CRISPR-Cas and cancer-driver methods for the discovery of oncogenic lncRNAs that are promising targets for therapeutic oligonucleotides. After his PhD and postdoctoral work in the UK and Singapore, Prof Johnson received a prestigious Ramón y Cajal fellowship at the Centre for Genomic Regulation (Barcelona) working with the GENCODE consortium to establish foundational lncRNA gene annotations. He established the Laboratory for Genomics of lncRNAs in Disease (GOLD Lab) at the Swiss National Centre for Competence in Research.



Dr Shalini Andersson
Oligonucleotide Discovery, Discovery
Sciences, AstraZeneca

Dr Shalini Andersson is Vice President Nucleic Acid Therapeutics in Discovery Sciences and Chief Scientist New Therapeutic Modalities in BioPharmaceuticals R&D, AstraZeneca. Earlier in her career, she held several leadership roles within AstraZeneca, Dr Andersson is a member of the joint steering committee for the collaboration with Ionis Pharma, Silence Therapeutics and JCR Pharmaceuticals focussed on discovery and development of nucleic acid and protein therapeutics. She is also on the board of the Oligonucleotide Therapeutics Society, OligoNova (Sweden) and part of the scientific advisory group for the UK Nucleic Acid Therapeutics Accelerator. Dr Andersson has authored over 70 peer-reviewed articles and is a named inventor on six patents.

Scientific Track Overviews

Target Identification and Validation

AM 14 May

A successful therapeutic oligonucleotide project begins with identifying the right target and subsequently validating the biological hypothesis. In this track, we will explore how to tackle previously inaccessible targets and non-coding regions of the genome, enabled by recent advances in omics and computational biology (AI and machine learning).



David Gilot
AstraZeneca

Safety and Efficacy Advancements

PM 14 May

This track explores how our understanding of oligonucleotide safety and efficacy has evolved over recent years. We will see how a basic understanding of RNA interference mechanisms, novel chemistries, immune activation and off-target activity can influence oligonucleotide design and discovery. We will discuss how this knowledge has influenced progress in workflows for oligonucleotide drug discovery.



Hilary Brooks
Evotec



Jacopo Oieni
Aptuit,
an Evotec company

Expanding Cell - and Tissue-Targeting

AM 15 May

Delivering therapeutic oligonucleotides to tissues beyond the liver poses a significant challenge. This track will explore recent advancements in chemistry that enable the specific targeting of individual cell types or tissues. We will focus on innovative strategies for reaching extrahepatic tissues and subcellular delivery mechanisms such as endosomal escape.



Pär Matsson
University of
Gothenburg



Ulrik Lytt Rahbet
Novo Nordisk

Towards Clinical Success

PM 15 May

This session will bring together all aspects from the previous tracks and feature recent success stories of drugging previously undruggable targets. Academic and industrial perspectives on moving therapeutic oligonucleotides into the clinic and to patients will be shared, including various clinical challenges and regulatory perspectives.



Anna Granqvist
Ribocure
Pharmaceuticals AB



Linda Sundström
AstraZeneca

Day 1 – Scientific Tracks

Target Identification and Validation

AM 14 May

Safety and Efficacy Advancements

PM 14 May

Time - Local	Title
08:15 - 09:00	Registration
09:00 - 09:05	ELRIG Welcome
09:05 - 09:15	Conference welcome and keynote introduction
09:15 - 10:00	Keynote presentation: Genomics-powered long noncoding RNA therapeutics for oncology - Rory Johnson (University College Dublin)
10:00 - 10:40	Refreshment break
10:40 - 10:45	Track chair welcome: Target identification and validation - David Gilot (AstraZeneca)
10:45 - 11:15	Reprogramming disease: Harnessing the dark genome with programmable oligonucleotide therapeutics - Samir Ounzain (Haya Therapeutics)
11:15 - 11:20	Flash poster presentation
11:20 - 11:50	Massively-parallel screens with millions of compounds to discover delivery conjugates of nucleic acid therapeutics - Yaniv Erlich (Eleven Therapeutics)
11:50 - 11:55	Technology Spotlight - Ansa Biotechnologies
11:55 - 12:00	Technology Spotlight - Opentrons Labworks Inc.
12:00 - 12:30	Explainable AI for predictive modelling of drug properties - Disa Theler (Abzu)
12:30 - 13:45	Refreshment break with poster session 13:00 - 13:30
13:45 - 13:50	Track chair welcome: Safety and efficacy advancements - Hilary Brooks (Evotec) and Jacopo Oieni (Aptuit, an Evotec company)
13:50 - 14:20	Preclinical development of personalized ASO therapeutics using patient-derived organoid systems - Scott Younger (Children's Mercy Kansas City)
14:20 - 14:25	Technology Spotlight - Collaborative Drug Discovery
14:25 - 14:30	Flash poster presentation
14:30 - 14:45	Industry Insider - 10x Genomics Ltd
14:45 - 15:30	Refreshment break
15:30 - 16:00	Strategic approaches for ultra-rare diseases - Roxana Redis (Charles River Laboratories)
16:00 - 16:30	Conference Partner - An integrated platform for accelerating antisense oligonucleotide (ASO) drug discovery - Andy Ng and Lijuan Pang (WuXi AppTec UK Ltd)
16:30 - 17:00	Alessandro Bonetti
17:00 - 17:45	Early Career Professionals event - Navigating career development: Balancing skills, experience, and personal life in a demanding field 17:00-17:45
17:00 - 19:00	Networking in the exhibition space Amazing journey - a tour of AstraZeneca R&D facility 17:00 and 18:00

Day 2 - Track Summary

Expanding Cell- and Tissue-Targeting

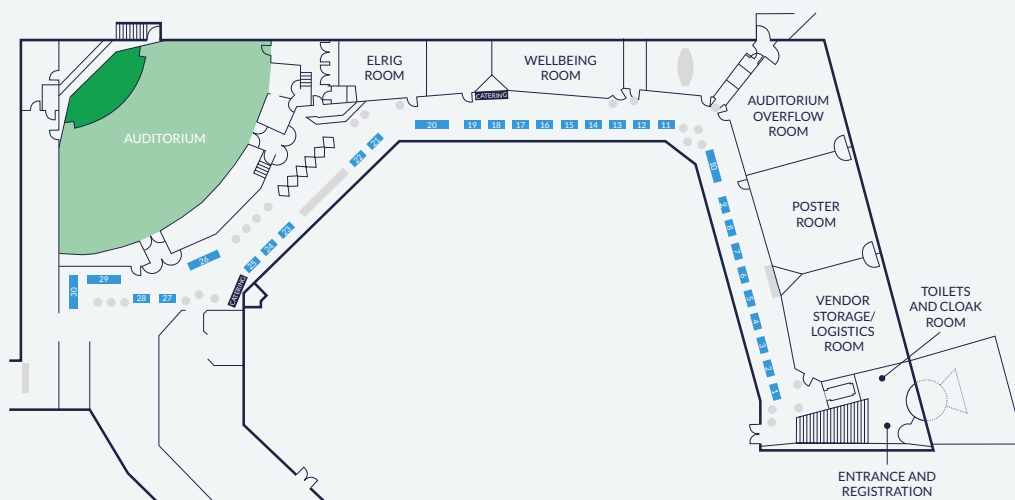
AM 15 May

Towards Clinical Success

PM 15 May

Time - Local	Title
08:15 - 09:00	Registration
09:00 - 09:10	Conference welcome, ECP best poster prize presentation and keynote introduction
09:10 - 09:55	Keynote presentation: Developing nucleic acids into therapeutics and enabling expansion of target space using targeted delivery - Shalini Andersson (AstraZeneca)
09:55 - 10:10	Industry Insider - Alithea Genomics
10:10 - 10:25	Industry Insider - ZEISS
10:25 - 11:00	Refreshment break
11:00 - 11:05	Track chair welcome: Expanding cell and tissue targeting - Pär Matsson (University of Gothenburg) and Ulrik Lytt Rahbet (Novo Nordisk)
11:05 - 11:35	New developments in the delivery of therapeutic oligos to eye and brain - Felix Schumacher (Roche)
11:35 - 11:40	Flash poster presentation
11:40 - 12:10	Targeted drug delivery of oligonucleotides to heart - Marie Ahlqvist (AstraZeneca)
12:10 - 12:15	Technology Spotlight - Beckman Coulter
12:15 - 12:45	From concept to development: progressing Sapreme's endosomal escape platform to a first clinical candidate - Miriam Bujny (Sapreme)
12:45 - 14:00	Refreshment break - Poster session 13.00 - 13.30
14:00 - 14:05	Track chair welcome: Towards clinical success - Anna Granqvist (Ribocure Pharmaceuticals AB) and Linda Sundström (AstraZeneca)
14:05 - 14:35	Preclinical and clinical development path of CDR132L in heart failure - Thomas Thum (Cardior Pharmaceuticals, a Novo Nordisk company)
14:35 - 14:40	Flash poster presentation
14:40 - 14:45	Technology Spotlight - Merck Life Science KGaA
14:45 - 15:15	Refreshment break
15:15 - 15:45	Bringing siRNA therapeutics to patients – clinical development, challenges and the horizon - Anders Gabrielsen (Ribocure Pharmaceuticals AB)
15:45 - 16:15	From rare to remarkable: Redefining drug development, one patient at a time - Julie Douville (n-Lorem)

Floorplan



Conference Partner



Exhibitors

10x
GENOMICS
10x Genomics
21

ALITHEA
GENOMICS
Alithea Genomics
14

ANSA
BIOTECHNOLOGIES
Ansa Biotechnologies
26

**BECKMAN
COULTER**
Life Sciences
Beckman
30

BLUE CAT BIO
BlueCatBio
06

BrainXell
BrainXell
03

ZEISS
Carl Zeiss AB
17

CHEMPARTNER
DEDICATED TO LIFESCIENCE
ChemPartner
08

CDD.VAULT
Complexity Simplified
Collaborative Drug Discovery Inc
23

DANDI AG
Dandiag
15

ELRIG
ELRIG
ELRIG

FORMULATRIX
Formulatrix Europe Ltd
20

HAMILTON
Hamilton Nordic AB
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IDT
INTEGRATED DNA TECHNOLOGIES
Integrated DNA Technologies
13

Lumencor
Lumencor, Inc.
29

MCE
MedChemExpress
MedChemExpress
04

MERCK
Merck Life Science KGaA
01

opentrons
Opentrons Labworks
28

Promega
Promega
25

proteintech
Proteintech Europe
16

**proteome
sciences**
Proteome Sciences Plc
32

Ramcon
Ramc AB
24

revvity
Revvity

Selvita
Selvita
18

TECAN
Tecan Nordic AB
31

ThermoFisher
SCIENTIFIC
Thermo Fisher
19

Waters
Waters

Information for Participants

ELRIG Mobile App

Download the free ELRIG app and access all our conference information, programme and more from your phone or tablet.

- View the event programme
- View presentation and poster abstracts
- View speaker profiles
- View the exhibitor guide
- View the delegate and exhibitor list
- Organise your day with your own favourites list
- Share your profile as vCard and QR Code and scan exhibitor QR code information tags
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Wi-Fi

Please use the guest WiFi

Wellbeing Room

Signed room in the corridor

Accessibility

Please ask a member of the ELRIG team or security for directions to the disabled and changing facilities

Cloakroom

Room Beta2 located in the Conference Centre entrance by the security team.

Conference code of conduct

To help keep a safe space, we require the following from all attendees:

Pre-registration for the meeting is essential. At ELRIG we want all our meeting participants to enjoy, participate in and contribute to the event.

ELRIG does not accept harassment or intimidation of ELRIG participants in any form whether verbal, physical, or written (including on social media or by email).

Harassment includes, but is not limited to:

1. Offensive or unwanted conduct on the basis of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation which has the purpose or effect of violating dignity or creating an intimidating, hostile or degrading environment.
2. Use of sexualised or other inappropriate images or unwelcome sexualised content, inappropriate physical contact, unwelcome sexual attention or stalking.
3. Sustained interruption of speakers or those asking questions.
4. Unwanted photography or filming.

Intimidation includes, but is not limited to:

1. Making threats.
2. Bullying.
3. Personal attacks.

Participants who do not adhere to these rules will be asked to stop and expected to comply immediately. Participants may be removed from any meeting at the discretion of ELRIG's management. If you are being harassed/intimidated, notice that someone else is being harassed/intimidated, or have any other concerns, please contact any of the ELRIG management team immediately. They will be able to step in to remove you or others from a chain of communication, if this is the preferred action, and can also facilitate a discussion or mediation. If you wish, you may also nominate someone else to support facilitating any mediation or as an observer to this process.

AstraZeneca has provided benefit-in-kind sponsorship towards this independent Programme and has had no involvement in its creation or organisation.

About ELRIG

Who we are

ELRIG, a market-leading UK-based not-for-profit volunteer-led organisation, is dedicated to delivering inspiring events to the dynamic life science community.

Our roots were originally in the application of automation, robotics, and instrumentation in laboratories, although we continuously evolve to meet the sector's shifting needs.

With a global community of over 22,000 life science professionals across all levels, ELRIG remains committed to accessible and inclusive events. Participation at our conferences, forums and networking events is free and unrestricted, reflecting the rich diversity of our community, and enabling learning and collaboration across disciplines, academia, and biopharmaceutical organisations.

Strategic Pillars



Events

- Best in class events
- Curated topical content
- Free to attend



Presence & Awareness

- Trusted brand
- Cross-community collaboration
- Growing digital presence



Equality, Diversity & Inclusivity

- Accessible to all
- Promoting engagement and collaboration
- Celebrating diversity



Sustainability

- Ethical and transparent
- Operational excellence
- Environmentally and economically sustainable events

Corporate Sponsors

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Media

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2025 events

JUNE/JULY

Neuroimmunology In Drug Discovery

ELRIG's USA Forum
24 June 2025
Boston, USA

ELRIG Summer Social

2 July 2025
Cambridge, UK

SEPTEMBER

Drug Discovery In Scotland

ELRIG's Scottish Forum
17 September 2025
Glasgow, UK

OCTOBER

Drug Discovery 2025 - A festival of life science

21 - 22 October 2025
Liverpool, UK

NOVEMBER

High-Content Imaging And Flow Cytometry In Drug Discovery 2025

19 - 20 November 2025
Stevenage, UK

Synthetic and engineered biology in Drug Discovery - ELRIG's UK Forum

November 2025 10:00AM
Coventry, UK

DECEMBER

AI In Drug Discovery

ELRIG and SLAS joint
networking event
2 December 2025,
London, UK