Protein Sciences IN DRUG DISCOVERY 2026

Protein Sciences in Drug Discovery 2026

10-11 NOV . GSK, STEVENAGE . #ELRIGPS26

ELRIG
The Drug Discovery Community

THE PROTEIN SOCIETY

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Welcome

We are delighted to welcome you to ELRIG's Protein Sciences in Drug Discovery 2026, hosted in partnership with The Protein Society.

This conference explores how emerging advances in protein science are helping to address the challenges of modern drug discovery, with a particular focus on the growing role of AI and data-driven approaches.

The scientific programme will cover AI and machine learning techniques for predictive protein design, alongside the development of in silico workflows to support protein science. We'll also explore advanced protein and antibody quality control techniques, approaches to working with challenging targets, including membrane proteins and protein complexes, and novel therapeutic formats such as antibody-drug conjugates and other therapeutic proteins.

Bringing together scientists from academia, pharma, biotech and CROs, the event offers an opportunity to discover the latest research, exchange ideas, make valuable connections and explore the exhibition.

We look forward to welcoming you!

Conference Directors

Kate Smith
GSK

Lovisa Holmberg Schiavone
AstraZeneca

Laura Itzhaki
University of Cambridge

Theresia Schaedler
AstraZeneca

Track Information

Day 1

Conference Partner

WuXi AppTec

Track Sponsor

NUVISAN The Science CRO

Day 1 - AM

AI and ML in protein sciences

Track Chair

Nicola Burgess Brown
SGC-UCL

Machine learning models that predict protein behaviour (from biophysical properties to expression and binding) are rapidly transforming how Protein Sciences teams operate and how drug discovery projects are delivered. This session will explore the critical data generation that underpins these models, how they are being applied to address key unmet needs, and what the future of model-driven protein science may look like.

Day 1 - PM

Challenging targets and complexes

Track Chair

Rick Davies
Sygnature Discovery

Target proteins are critical components of drug discovery programmes. Expressing and purifying proteins in a relevant form sets the path for the discovery of therapeutic agents. Increasingly modern drug discovery is focused on targets which are increasingly challenging to produce, including multi-protein complexes, disordered proteins, membrane proteins and proteins in particular states of activation/ repression. All these types of proteins need to be produced and formatted to enable structural and functional studies to drive projects forward. In this track, we will look at examples of novel approaches to producing these challenging targets.

Day 2

Track Sponsor

Cell Signaling TECHNOLOGY®

Day 2 - AM

Developability and quality control for antibodies and alternative biologics

Track Chair

Pietro Sormanni
Imperial College London

This session will explore strategies to ensure antibody and alternative biologic candidates are robust, manufacturable, and fit for late-stage development. It will cover predictive developability assessment, biophysical quality control, and approaches to mitigate liabilities such as aggregation, instability, and heterogeneity. Emphasis will be placed on integrating developability thinking early, across diverse modalities, to accelerate translation from discovery to clinic.

Day 2 - PM

Non-standard binding proteins: tackling the production challenges

Track Chair

Kim Remans
European Molecular Biology Laboratory

Drug discovery is embracing a growing range of binding proteins beyond conventional antibodies, including new scaffold proteins, single-domain antibodies and AI-designed proteins. These molecules all offer distinct advantages for engaging difficult biological targets, but also represent unique challenges related to expression, purification and characterisation. This session will explore the strategies researchers are using to address the design and production of non-standard binder formats and highlight how creative protein science can enable next-generation therapeutic candidates.

About ELRIG

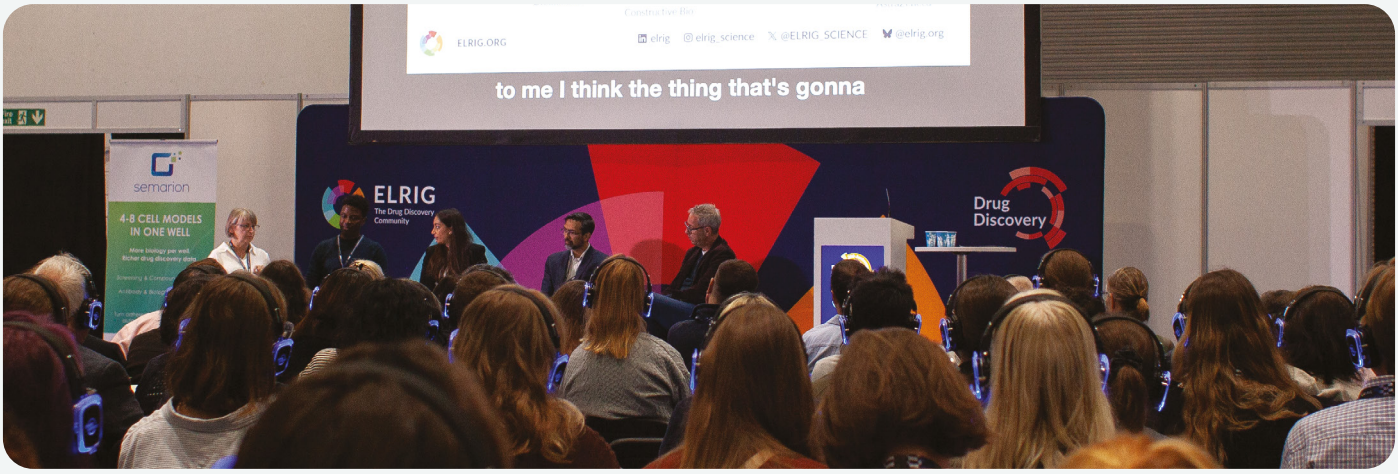
Who are ELRIG?

ELRIG are proud to be a leading European not-for-profit organisation dedicated to uplifting the life science and drug discovery community.

Our mission is to foster open access to modern research and innovation. Bringing together our vibrant community of over 12,000 life science professionals from academia and biopharma to connect, collaborate and encourage curiosity.

Originally rooted in automation, robotics, and instrumentation, we've evolved to address the most pressing challenges in modern drug discovery. From forums & conferences exploring revolutionary breakthroughs to networking meetings designed to connect the brightest minds, we provide a platform for progress.

We're passionate about driving the industry through inclusion and accessibility. We are actively working to bring more speakers from the global majority to our stages. Aiming to ensure our delegates are inspired by a broad range of perspectives and experiences, reflecting the global nature of scientific discovery. We are committed to providing free-to-attend events and lowering the barrier to access for all.



We believe in a future where:

- Scientific and domain knowledge flows freely across disciplines and geographies
- Innovation is amplified and cultivated through collaboration and inclusivity
- The next generation of leaders and innovators are nurtured
- All voices are represented and connected

Our Values

To be the premier champion and enabler of an open, connected, diverse and sustainable drug discovery and life science community.

Our Purpose

Promote open access to cutting-edge research and innovation by connecting life science professionals through inclusive, free-to-attend scientific conferences and networking events.

Strategic Priorities

Enable drug discovery by improved connections between stakeholders, through an extended, sustainable, and on going program of best-in-class, open-access, science-based events and digital products.

Amplify scientific innovation, sector impact, and professional development by championing great science and people through platforms, recognition, and awards.

Demonstrate sector leadership in best practice for sustainability, inclusivity, representation, equality, and diversity for our teams, delegates, and target patient cohorts.

Keynote Speakers

Prof Dame Carol Robinson

Director of the Kavli Institute for Nanoscience Discovery, University of Oxford

Talk Title

Drug discovery - Cell surface receptors and transporters; insights from native MS

Prof Dame Carol Robinson has held the University of Oxford Chair of Dr Lee's Professor of Chemistry since 2009. She is the first Director of the Kavli Institute for Nanoscience Discovery at Oxford and the first female Professor of Chemistry at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. Prof Robinson is recognised for establishing mass spectrometry as a viable technology to study the structure, function and interactions of proteins and their complexes. In 2016, she founded OMass Technologies, now OMass Therapeutics, which uses high-definition native mass spectrometry to develop drug therapies for immunologic and genetic disorders. A Dame Commander of the British Empire and a former President of the UK Royal Society of Chemistry, her research has attracted numerous international awards and distinctions. She will present 'Cell Surface Receptors and Transporters; Insights From Native MS' on day one of the conference.

Dr Andrew Doré

Head of Structural Biology, Isomorphic Labs

Talk Title

Engineering the future of drug discovery: Isomorphic Labs' AI-first approach

Dr Andrew Doré is Head of Structural Biology at Isomorphic Labs. He earned his DPhil at the University of Cambridge and was a postdoc at the Institute of Cancer Research. He later founded and led Structural Biology at Heptares Therapeutics (Sosei Heptares / Nxera), where his group delivered multiple landmark first-in-class GPCR structures, yielding eight Nature publications and advancing 14 drug candidates to the clinic. He subsequently served as Vice President at CHARM Therapeutics, pairing 3D deep learning with structural biology for oncology. At Isomorphic, his team is applying AI to enable the rational design of next-generation precision medicine of high therapeutic value. Dr Doré will discuss 'Engineering the Future of Drug Discovery: Isomorphic Labs' AI-First Approach' during his presentation on the first day.

Prof Paula Booth

Daniell Chair of Chemistry, King's College London

Talk Title

Membrane protein tool-kit: co-translational folding in native lipid environments

Prof Paula Booth holds the Daniell Chair of Chemistry at KCL, and leads a Satellite Group at the Francis Crick Institute. Previously, as Head of Chemistry at KCL, she led the renaissance of the department and is now the inaugural Co-Director of King's new Centre for Physical Science of Life. Prof Booth has pioneered approaches at the interface of chemistry and biology to probe the biosynthetic folding of integral membrane proteins, studying reaction mechanisms, regulation by membrane lipids and constructing biomembranes for synthetic biology applications. She has previously held positions at the Universities of Bristol and Oxford, and Imperial College London.

Running Order

Day 1 – Tuesday 10 November

Conference Partner

WuXi AppTec

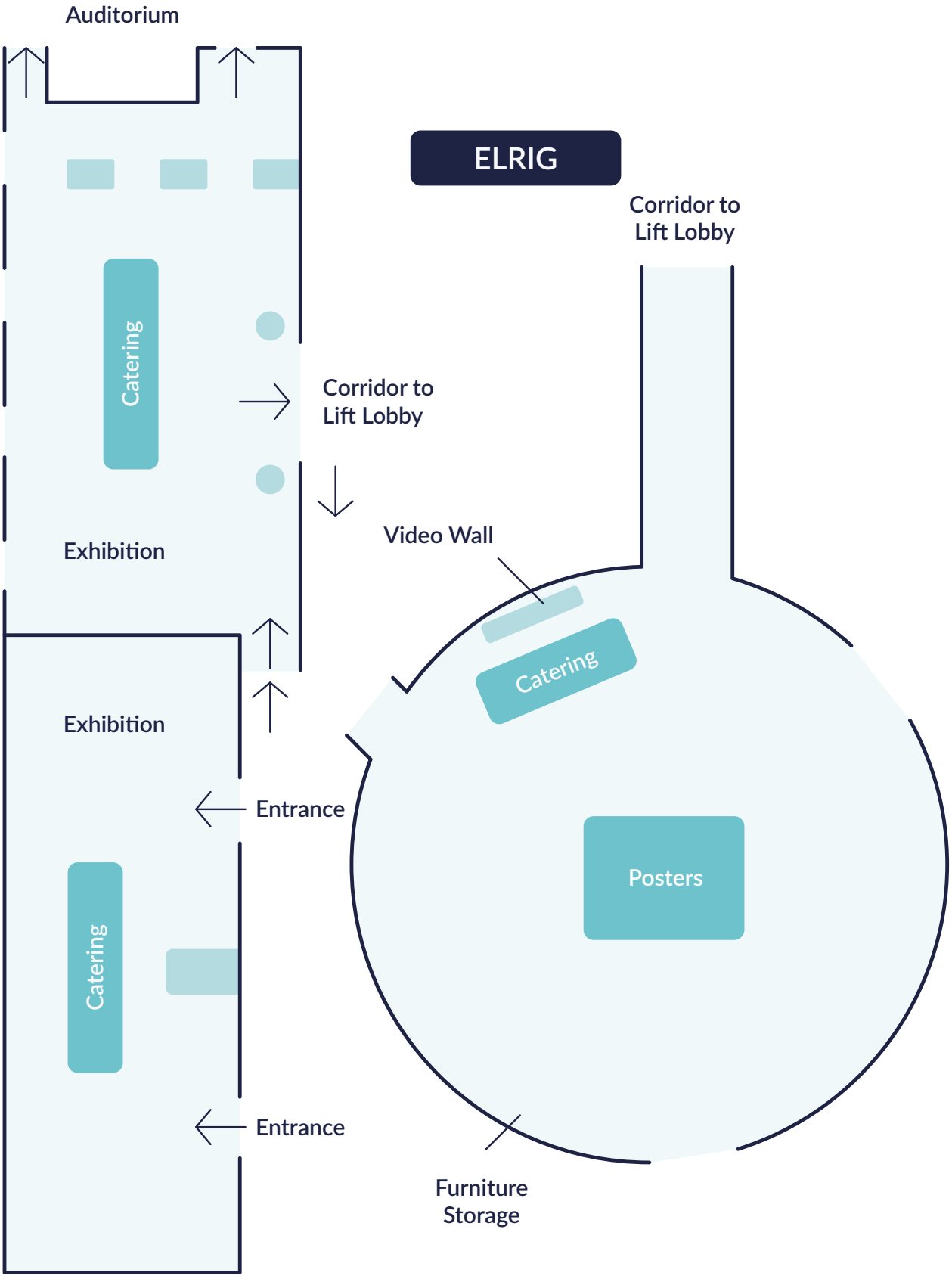
Time - Local	Title
08:15 - 09:00	Registration
09:00 - 09:05	Site welcome Jamie Campbell (GSK)
09:05 - 09:10	ELRIG Welcome - Sanj Kumar (ELRIG)
09:10 - 09:15	The Protein Society Welcome - Heather Pinkett (The Protein Society/Northwestern University)
09:15 - 09:20	Conference Welcome & Keynote Introduction
09:20 - 10:05	Keynote Presentation - Drug discovery - cell surface receptors and transporters; insights from native MS - Carol Robinson (University of Oxford)
10:05 - 10:40	Refreshment Break (Sponsored by Aragen)
10:40 - 10:45	Track Chair Welcome - Nicola Burgess Brown (SGC-UCL)
10:45 - 11:15	The SGC and Target2035: Generating proteins and ligands to enable machine learning - Nicola Burgess Brown (SGC-UCL)
11:15 - 11:20	Flash poster presentation
11:20 - 11:50	Shape vs size: sequence-to-function modelling in the small-data regime - Diego Oyarzún (Ellison Institute Of Technology Oxford)
11:50 - 11:55	Technology Spotlight - Agilent
11:55 - 12:00	Technology Spotlight - Abselion
12:00 - 12:30	Towards improved predictions of protein dynamics: from side-chain motions to loop flexibility using generative models- Matteo Cagiada (University Of Oxford / University Of Copenhagen)
12:30 - 13:45	Refreshment Break (Sponsored by Aragen) - Poster Session 13:00 - 13:30
13:45 - 13:50	Track Chair Welcome - Rick Davies (Sygnature Discovery)
13:50 - 14:20	Bespoke structural MS for challenging drug targets: Fast HDX-MS and beyond - Aga Fatalska (AstraZeneca)
14:20 - 14:25	Technology Spotlight - Inoviv
14:25 - 14:30	Flash poster presentation
14:30 - 14:45	Industry Insider - Fida Biosciences
14:45 - 15:15	Capturing and modulating myosin in motion - Charlie Scarff (University of Leeds)
15:15 - 15:45	Refreshment Break (Sponsored by Aragen)
15:45 - 16:15	Producing human membrane proteins in high-throughput and large-scale - David Sauer (University of Oxford)
16:15 - 16:45	Conference Partner - WuXi Biology Crystallographic Fragment Screening Platform - Robert Byrne (WuXi AppTec)
16:45 - 17:30	Keynote Presentation - Engineering the future of drug discovery: Isomorphic Labs' AI-first approach - Andy Doré (Isomorphic Labs)
17:30 - 19:00	Networking

Running Order

Day 2 - Wednesday 11 November

Time - Local	Title
08:15 - 09:00	Registration
09:00 - 09:05	Conference Welcome
09:05 - 09:10	Best ECP Poster Prize Winner presented by Raluca Cadar (The Protein Society)
09:10 - 09:55	Membrane protein tool-kit: co-translational folding in native lipid environments - Paula Booth (King's College London)
09:55 - 10:10	Industry Insider - Abselion
10:10 - 10:15	Technology Spotlight - Cell Signaling Technology
10:15 - 11:00	Refreshment Break (Sponsored by AcroBiosystems)
11:00 - 11:05	Track Chair Welcome - Pietro Sormanni (Imperial College London)
11:05 - 11:35	Antibody discovery and engineering by computational design - Pietro Sormanni (Imperial College London)
11:35 - 11:40	Flash poster presentation
11:40 - 12:10	Click Biology superglues to assess and combine biologics and illuminate protein flexibility - Mark Howarth (University of Cambridge)
12:10 - 12:15	Technology Spotlight - AcroBiosystems
12:15 - 12:45	Introduction to the KnotBody platform - Lukas Jasaitis (Maxion Therapeutics)
12:45 - 14:00	Refreshment Break (Sponsored by Acrobiosystems) - Poster Session 13:00 - 13:30
14:00 - 14:05	Track Chair Welcome - Kim Remans (European Molecular Biology Laboratory)
14:05 - 14:35	Stabilising solute carrier states using binders from immune and synthetic libraries - Eric Geertsma (Mpi-cbg)
14:35 - 14:40	Flash poster presentation
14:40 - 15:10	Protein binders at cross-roads - is the future AI only? - Svend Kjaer (Francis Crick Institute)
15:10 - 15:40	Tool binder discovery strategies for challenging membrane proteins - Paul White (GSK)

Floorplan


Auditorium
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Exhibition
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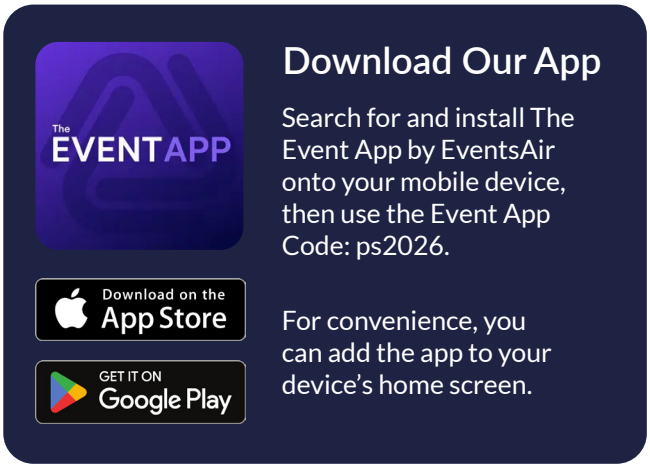
Catering
Exhibition
Entrance
Posters
Catering
Entrance
Furniture
Storage

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
- Network – contact delegates, other exhibitors and speakers easily through opt-in directories and integration with LinkedIn, X and Facebook.



Wi-Fi

GSK Public Wireless

Prayer Room and Quiet Space

For a prayer room or quiet place, please ask an ELRIG member of staff.

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.

Sponsors & Exhibitors

Sponsors & Partners

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Portal Biotech

Proteintech Europe

Proteome Sciences

R&D Systems by Bio-Techne

Sino Biological

Viva Biotech

WuXi Biologics

2027 Event Diary

FEBRUARY

Expanding the landscape of membrane-bound targets, GPCRs and beyond
ELRIG Forum
11 Feb | Berlin, DE

MARCH

Early discovery for next generation antibody drug conjugates
ELRIG Forum
17 March | Stevenage, UK

APRIL

Reprogramming biology: Engineering the next generation of therapeutics
ELRIG Forum
20 April | Coventry, UK

Radiopharmaceuticals, discovery and translation
ELRIG Forum
27 April | Manchester, UK

MAY

The NAMs Horizon: Digital, in vitro, in silico
ELRIG Forum
12-13 May | Gothenburg, SE

JUNE

Drug Discovery – USA
ELRIG Conference
June 2027 | Boston, US

Macrocyclic peptide discovery
ELRIG Forum
30 June | Cambridge, UK

SEPTEMBER

From noise to molecule: Artificial Intelligence reshaping the drug discovery pipeline
ELRIG's Forum
Sept | Barcelona, ES

OCTOBER

Drug Discovery 2027
ELRIG Conference
19-20 Oct | Liverpool, UK

NOVEMBER

High-content imaging & flow cytometry in drug discovery 2027
ELRIG Conference
15-16 Nov | Cambridge, UK

Innovations in drug discovery and translational science
ELRIG Forum
Nov | London, UK

DECEMBER

ELRIG - SLAS Networking
ELRIG SLAS Networking
Dec | London, UK

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