

Date: September 14-16, 2026

Location: Bled, Slovenia

Venue: Rikli Balance Hotel

MSS2026 Hybrid

**Bridging Science and
Innovation in Bioprocessing
and Biopharma**

1st Announcement



Greetings from Aleš Štrancar,

Chair of the Scientific Committee

Dear colleagues,

First time in a new role as the Chair of the MSS meetings I would first like to thank to my predecessor Djuro Josić who built the MSS to the world recognised scientific event.

The MSS meetings started in 2004 as monolith separations dedicated scientific meeting and in the last 10 years turned to be gene therapy focusing event. All the events were organised as one-week meetings in Portorož, at the very top of the Mediterranean sea.

After 20 years there is time for changes. First of all, in the scientific program, expanding to all bioprocessing areas, including the plasma fractionation. Secondly, the format is going to be changed to 3-day event with parallel sessions. Last but not least, the place is going to be Bled, the most beautiful part of Slovenia, lake with a very small island in with the church on the top. The church very popular for marriage. The church where e.g. Melanija, the most recognised Slovenian, married Donald Trump.

As the new Chair of the Scientific Committee, I am warmly inviting you to join the MSS2026 event. I'm committed to ensuring a high level of quality and innovation in the event's program. Please mark your calendars, and I look forward to seeing you in Bled in September 2026!

Most sincerely,
Aleš Štrancar, Chair of Scientific Committee



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Welcome from Kaja Tudja,

Head of the Organizing Committee

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Esteemed Colleagues,

Together with my fellow Organizing Committee members, Kevin Mozetič and Anja Markežič Pogačar, I am delighted to invite you to MSS2026. We are eager to make this event even more remarkable than the last, starting by introducing an exciting new format designed to enrich your experience.

We plan to kick off the event with our pre-conference gathering on Sunday, September 13, where you'll enjoy a meet and greet along with inspirational talks. This optional gathering will set the stage for the official program, beginning on Monday, September 14. Over the next three days, you can immerse yourself in three engaging presentation streams in the beautiful town of Bled.

The week is set to conclude with exclusive wet-lab workshops on Thursday and Friday at Sartorius BIA Separations' facility in Ajdovščina, our main sponsor. You'll have the chance to participate in expert presentations, hands-on workshops, product demonstrations, and ample networking opportunities.

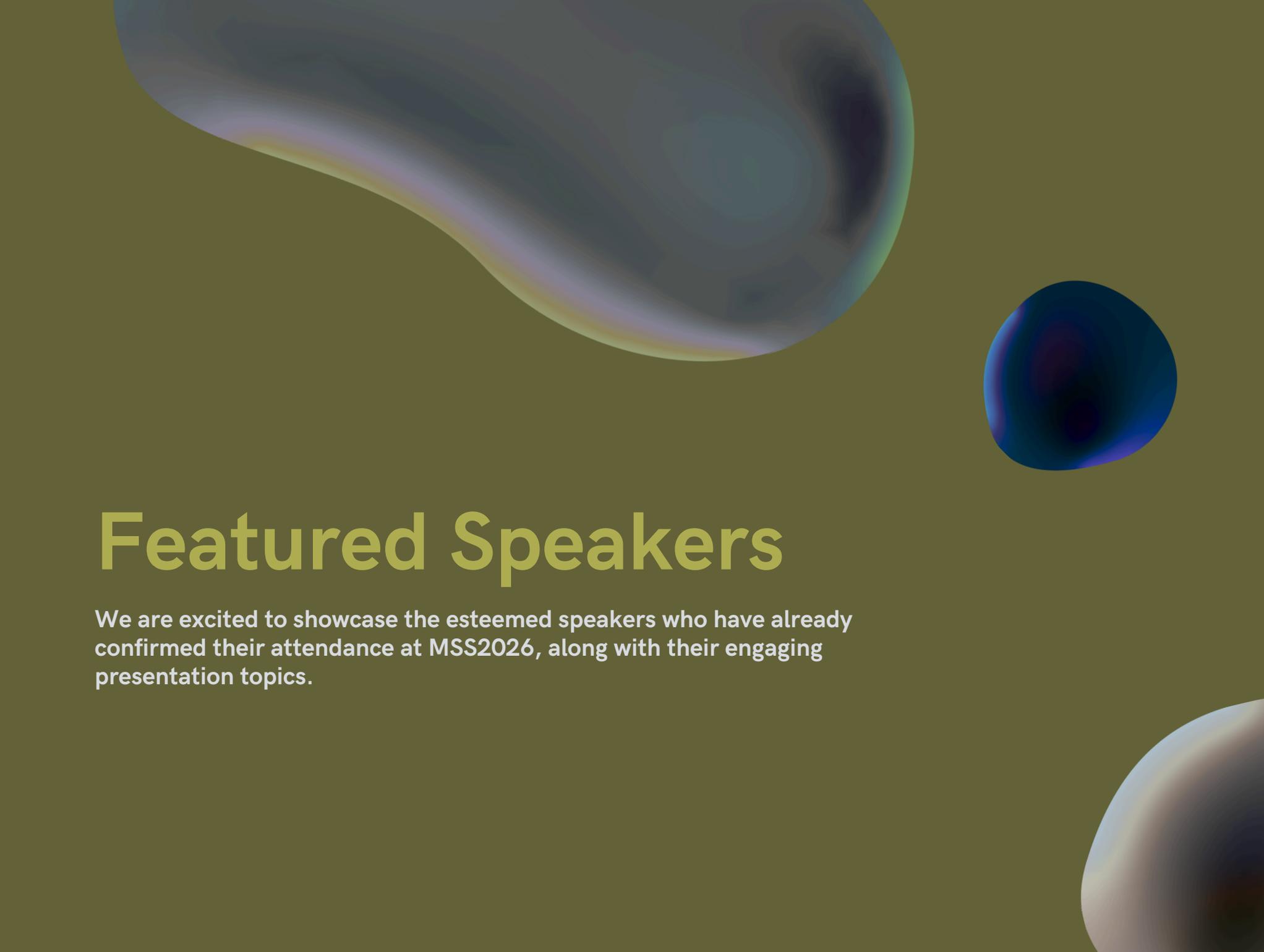
We will keep you informed with upcoming announcements and updates on our website. We are excited to welcome you to MSS2026 and share this enriching experience with you.

Join us in attending, contributing to the content of MSS, and supporting the spread of knowledge.

Warm regards,

Kaja Tudja, Head of the Organizing Committee





Featured Speakers

We are excited to showcase the esteemed speakers who have already confirmed their attendance at MSS2026, along with their engaging presentation topics.

Dan Peer (Laboratory of Precision Nanomedicine, Tel Aviv University) - Professor and Director of the Laboratory
The RNA revolution: from novel vaccines to therapeutic genome editing

Andre Germishuizen (National Bioproducts Institute) - Head: Quality Management & Scientific Affairs
Commercial scale evaluation of a mixed mode CIMmultus® monolithic column in the production of human immunoglobulin products

Christy Franco (Sweetgrass Bio) - Founder
Commercial-ready plasmid manufacturing: scaling late-stage cell & gene therapy with regulatory confidence

Stefano Menegatti (North Carolina State University) - Assoc. Professor & University Faculty Scholar
Affinity and mixed-mode convective adsorbents for the purification and enrichment of vectors for cell and gene therapies

These speakers will bring their expertise and insights to MSS2026, contributing to a rich tapestry of knowledge and innovation. Join us to learn from these leaders in the field and explore the latest advancements in biopharma.

Aleš Štrancar (BIA Separations Inc.) - Managing Director
Away from Cohn, away from EtOH, the next generation plasma fractionation process

Jacek Lubelski (NanoCell) - CTO, R&D Operations and Product Development
tLNP as a novel gene therapy vector to deliver DNA – Are we there yet?

Špela Miroševič (CTNNB1 Foundation) - Founder and President
Fighting CTNNB1 syndrome with AAV gene therapy: A mission to change the world

Thomas Muster (BlueSky Vaccines)
delNS - an interferon inducing viral vector to tackle head & neck cancer

Mojca Tajnik Sbaizero (Sartorius BIA Separations) - Process Development Manager

Chromatographic LNP purification for enhanced purity and activity in CRISPR, CAR-T, and vaccine manufacturing

Yijun Zhou (National Institutes of Health) - Bioprocess Development Scientist

Monitoring mRNA vaccine process development using PATfix HPLC

Manuela Bartolini (University of Bologna) - Full Professor at Department of Pharmacy and Biotechnology

Monolith-based Immobilized enzyme reactors: enabling technologies for diverse and evolving landscapes

Urh Černigoj (Sartorius BIA Separations) - Head of Research and Development

The wonderful world of nucleic acid diversity through the eyes of a monolithic chromatography column

Niren Shah and Andrew Knudten (Cove Therapeutics, USA) - Founders

Non-viral, polymeric nanoparticle gene therapy for ocular disorders

Gary Gilleskie (Biomufacturing Training and Education Center) - Executive Director

Advancing Biomufacturing Education: Adapting Workforce Development for the Next Generation of Biologics

Tristan Kovačič (Sartorius BIA Separations) - Project Manager – Process Analytics Development

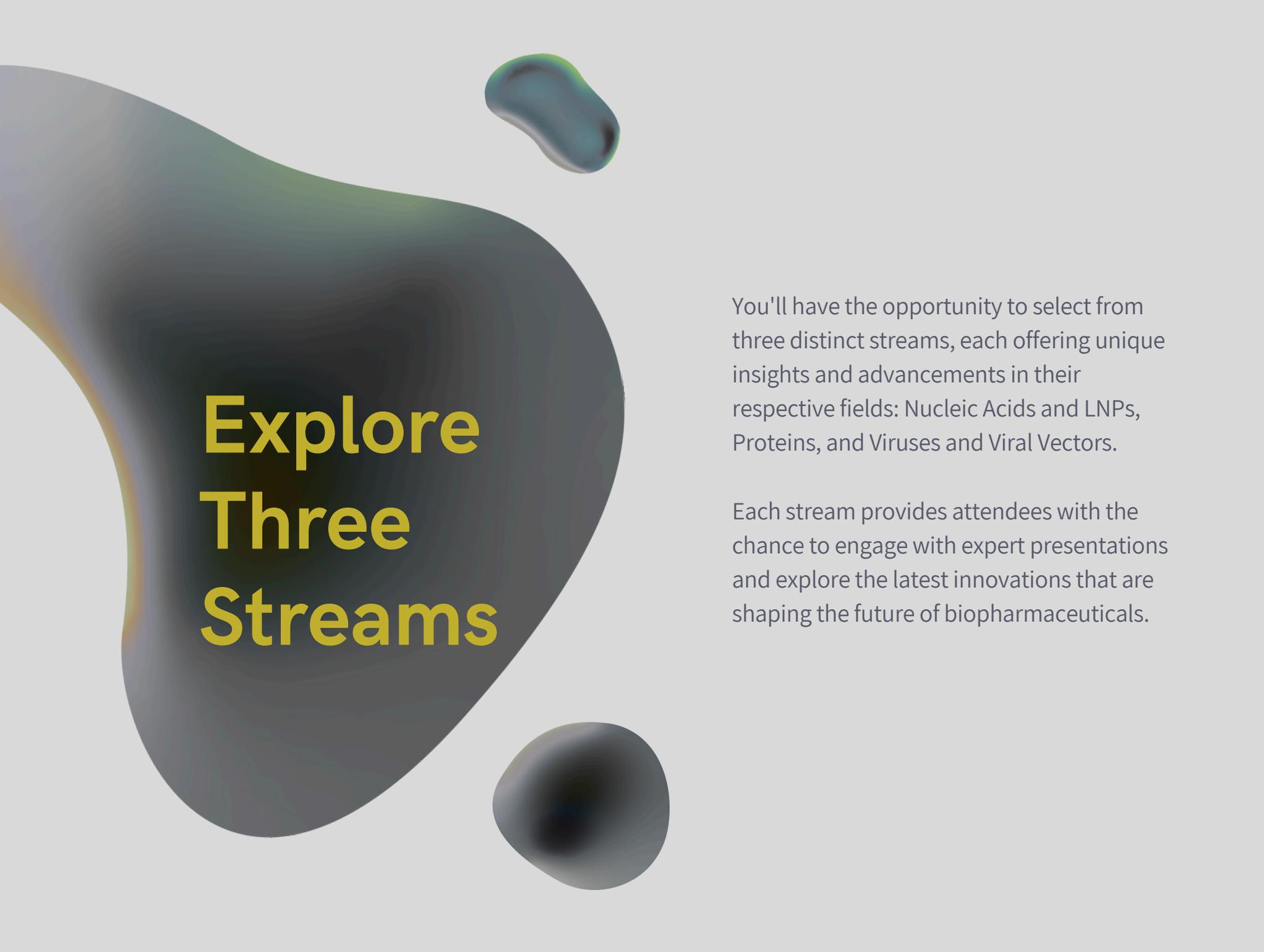
A comprehensive manufacturing and characterization approach to passive or active targeted LNP-based biopharmaceuticals

Rok Sekirnik (Sartorius BIA Separations) - Head Process Development mRNA | pDNA

How rapid in-process analytics unlocks hidden potential in mRNA process development

Đuro Josić (Juraj Dobrila University of Pula) - Full Professor at Faculty of Medicine

Monoliths in plasma fractionation - new trends and perspectives



Explore Three Streams

You'll have the opportunity to select from three distinct streams, each offering unique insights and advancements in their respective fields: Nucleic Acids and LNPs, Proteins, and Viruses and Viral Vectors.

Each stream provides attendees with the chance to engage with expert presentations and explore the latest innovations that are shaping the future of biopharmaceuticals.

Nucleic Acids and LNPs

- Explore nucleic acids and LNPs in therapeutic development.
- Gain insights into scalable pDNA and RNA purification, and understanding the role of chromatography.
- Discover cutting-edge manufacturing techniques for nanoparticle-based pharmaceuticals.
- Learn about analytical tools and systems tackling industry challenges, with methods for complex nanoparticle formulations.
- Uncover innovative approaches shaping nucleic acid and LNP technologies.

Proteins

- Discover advanced techniques in protein purification and analysis.
- Focus on antibodies, enzymes, and plasma proteins like immunoglobulins and clotting factors.
- Explore the latest advancements and practical solutions in protein purification and analytics.
- Learn about strategies for continuous improvement in biomolecule production.

Viruses and Viral Vectors

- Focus on AAV, AV, and LV processes in cell and gene therapy, encompassing VLPs, vaccines, bacteriophages, and extracellular vesicles.
- Explore strategies for efficient virus production and scalable manufacturing.
- Uncover how advanced purification methods exceed traditional approaches.
- Understand standardized processes for ensuring reproducibility and quality control.
- Tackle characterization challenges of extracellular vesicles and viral capsids.
- Explore the latest advancements in viral production and purification.

Preliminary program

Monday · September 14

Tuesday · September 15

Wednesday · September 16

Registration

Lectures

Lectures

Lectures

Lectures

Lectures

Lectures

Lectures

Lectures

Lectures

Coffee break

Vendor seminar

Lectures

Lectures

Lectures

Lectures

Lectures

Lectures

Lectures

Lectures

Lectures

Lunch break

Lectures

Lectures

Lectures

Lectures

Lectures

Lectures

Vendor seminar

Vendor seminar

Vendor seminar

Vendor seminar

Vendor seminar

Vendor seminar

Social program

Hands on demonstrations · Networking ·
Free afternoon activities · Refreshments

Poster session with grading · Refreshments

Gala Dinner

- Nucleic Acids and LNPs
- Proteins
- Viruses and Viral Vectors



Registration Information

Registration Fee:

Super Early Bird Discounts (40% off) are available until January 31st, 2026.

Don't miss this opportunity to expand your technical knowledge and network through unique social events. Attendance is limited, providing an ideal setting for discussion and learning. Secure your spot today and be part of this transformative event.

Contact Information:

For inquiries or further information, please contact info@mss-events.com.

Abstract Submission:

Speaker: for main selection submit by February 28th, 2026; last-minute submissions by May 31st, 2026.

Poster: Submit by May 31st, 2026, last-minute submissions by August 31st, 2026.