

20th Key Symposium 2026 on mRNA vaccines

Date: 15-17 June 2026

Venue: The Beijer Hall, The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences,
Lilla Frescativägen 4A, Stockholm.



The aim of the symposium is to review recent developments in the use of mRNA as a delivery platform for vaccines and therapeutics. The meeting will cover technical improvements of the platform, ongoing applications, mechanistic insights, and provide an outlook of future possibilities.

Organizers/Scientific committee

Karin Loré, Robert Seder and Gunilla Karlsson Hedestam.

The symposium is sponsored by the **Journal of Internal Medicine (JIM)** and the **Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences**.

Registration

Delegates travelling to Stockholm for the 20th Key Symposium on mRNA vaccines are expected to arrange and pay for their own travel and hotel reservations. Lunch and coffee during the symposium will be covered for all delegates. Registration is on a "first-come first-served basis".

If you register for this symposium, you are expected to attend all days.

Please register here: www.kva.se/key2026

For questions about registration, contact: registration@allaboutmeetings.se

Programme

Monday June 15

09:00

Welcome

Gunilla Karlsson Hedestam

09:05-10:15

Session 1. History and outlook of mRNA vaccines

Chair: Gunilla Karlsson Hedestam

(35 min presentation + 5 min discussion)

Uğur Şahin, BioNTech, Germany

“Immunity and Potential Afforded by Therapeutic Cancer mRNA Vaccines”

(25 min presentation + 5 min discussion)

Neil King, University of Washington, USA

“mRNA-Launched Nanoparticles”

10:15-10:45

Coffee

10:45-12:15

Session 2. Delivery and scalability

Chair: Dan Sheward

(25 min presentation + 5 min discussion per speaker)

Pieter Cullis, University of British Columbia, Canada

“The Impact of the Development of Lipid Nanoparticles in mRNA Vaccines”

Zoltán Kis, University of Sheffield, UK

“Intensified, Continuous and Digitalised Production of High-Quality mRNA Medicines at Low Cost”

Petro Terblanche, Afrigen, South Africa

”Made in Africa mRNA vaccines”

12:15-13:30

Lunch

13:30-15:00

Session 3. mRNA vaccines for infections – part 1

Chair: Marcus Buggert

(25 min presentation + 5 min discussion per speaker)

William Schief, Moderna/Scripps Research, USA

“Advances towards an mRNA vaccine to HIV-1”

Scott Hensley, University of Pennsylvania, USA

“mRNA vaccines against influenza virus infection”

Adam Wheatley, University of Melbourne, Australia

“Pros and cons of mRNA vaccines against seasonal influenza virus”

15:00-15:30

Coffee

15:30-17:00

Session 4. Exploring optimal Immunogenicity by mRNA vaccines

Chair: Holger Kanzler

(25 min presentation + 5 min discussion per speaker)

Eva Bartok, University of Bonn, Germany

“Innate Sensing of mRNA Vaccines”

Norbert Pardi, University of Pennsylvania, USA

“Advances in mRNA Vaccine Formulations for Improved Immunogenicity”

Karin Loré, Karolinska Intitutet, Sweden

“Immune mechanisms of mRNA vaccines”

18:00

Dinner on boat Blidösund for invited guests. **By invitation only.**

Tuesday June 16, 2026

09:00-10:30

Session 5. mRNA vaccines for infections – part 2

Chair: Christopher Sundling

(25 min presentation + 5 min discussion per speaker)

Robert Seder, Vaccine Research Center, USA

“Approaches to mRNA Vaccines for Tuberculosis”

Barney Graham, Morehouse School of Medicine, USA

“mRNA Vaccine Development: From Pandemic Response to the Future of Vaccinology”

Marco Cavaleri, European Medicines Agency, EMA, The Netherlands

“Regulatory considerations for mRNA vaccines”

10:30-11:00

Coffee

11:00-12:00

Session 6. mRNA modalities against cancer

Chair: Stephan Mielke

(25 min presentation + 5 min discussion per speaker)

Vinod Balachandran, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, USA

“Development of an mRNA Based Pancreatic Cancer Vaccine”

Xiao Wang, MIT/Broad Institute, USA

“Expanding the alphabet and topology of therapeutic mRNAs”

12:00-13:30

Lunch

13:30-14:30

Session 7. Technical improvements of the mRNA platform

Chair: Gerald McInerney

(25 min presentation + 5 min discussion per speaker)

Georg Seelig, University of Washington, USA

“Optimizing 5’UTRs for mRNA-delivered gene editing using deep learning”

Mirco Friedrich, DKFZ Heidelberg, Germany

“Use of mRNA-based strategies for immune modulation”

14:30-15:30

Session 8. Safety considerations in mRNA vaccination

Chair: Ben Murrell

(25 min presentation + 5 min discussion per speaker)

Lindsey Baden, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, USA

“Long-term safety and effectiveness of mRNA vaccination”

Jonny Peter, Cape Town, South Africa

”Urticaria following COVID-19 mRNA vaccines”

15:30-16:00

Coffee

16:00-17:30

Session 9. Future outlook for mRNA vaccines

Chair: Robert Seder

(25 min presentation + 5 min discussion per speaker)

Igor Smolenov, Arcturus Therapeutics, Inc, USA

“What have we learned from the sa-mRNA vaccine platform?”

Peter Berglund, HDT bio, USA

“RNA delivery formulations: Alternatives to LNP for Improved Safety and T-cell Immunogenicity”

Mikael Dolsten, Pfizer and Lund University

“Future opportunities for mRNA vaccines”

18:00

Drinks then Dinner at KVA for invited guests. **By invitation only.**

Wednesday June 17, 2026

09:00-10:30

Session 10. Delivery of therapeutic antibodies by mRNA

Chair: Barney Graham

(25 min presentation + 5 min discussion per speaker)

Özlem Türeci, BioNTech, Germany

“mRNA therapeutics encoding antibodies”

Laura Walker, Moderna, USA

”mRNA as a delivery platform for antibodies”

Michel Nussenzweig, Rockefeller University, USA

“Exploring and Utilizing Antibody Specificities in mRNA Vaccination”

10:30-11:00

Coffee

11:00-12:30

Session 11. Consideration for translation of mRNA vaccines

Chair: Karin Loré

(25 min presentation + 5 min discussion per speaker)

Jean-Francois Toussaint, mRNA Center of Excellence, Sanofi, France

“Innovation to Drive Sustainable Growth in mRNA Vaccines”

Gunilla Karlsson Hedestam, Karolinska Institutet, Sweden

“Understanding immunogenetics in global populations”

Jerome Kim, International Vaccine Institute (IVI), South Korea

“Pandemic Preparedness: Getting it “Better” the Next Time”

12:30-12:40

Wrap-up and meeting closure (Karin Loré/ Bob Seder)

12:40-13:30

Grab and go lunch.