

Connecting Research Culture

Conference 2026



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
The Royal (Dick) School
of Veterinary Studies



Biotechnology and
Biological Sciences
Research Council

Conference Code of Conduct

Our conference is committed to providing a welcoming, respectful, and inclusive environment where everyone can participate, share ideas, and connect with colleagues.

We recognize that attendees have different communication styles, accessibility requirements, working preferences, and ways of engaging with events. We ask everyone to be considerate of these differences and to help create an environment in which all participants can contribute in ways that work for them.

Our shared expectations

Be comfortable and be yourself.

There is no formal dress code for the conference. Please wear whatever makes you feel comfortable and confident. We recognize that comfort and appropriate clothing may look different for different people.

Treat everyone with respect.

Listen to and value different experiences, perspectives, and communication styles. Research culture can be a sensitive and personal topic, so please approach discussions with empathy, curiosity, and respect.

Make space for different ways of participating.

People may contribute by speaking, asking questions, using written or digital communication, or taking time to process information before responding. Please avoid interrupting or dominating conversations and allow others reasonable opportunities to contribute.

Communicate constructively.

Questions, discussion, and constructive challenges are encouraged. Focus on feedback on ideas, evidence, and approaches rather than individuals. Assume positive intent while recognizing that impact is also important.

Respect differences of opinion and experience.

Professional discussion and debate are welcome. Personal criticism, dismissive or belittling behaviour, discriminatory language, harassment, and inappropriate comments are not acceptable.

Respect personal boundaries and consent.

Please be mindful of personal space, privacy, physical contact, photographs, and social interactions. Do not assume that someone wishes to participate in networking, conversation or photographs. A person's preference to step away from an interaction or take a break should be respected.

Support an accessible and inclusive environment.

Please be mindful that noise, lighting, crowded spaces, strong fragrances, and other environmental factors can affect people's ability to participate. Where possible, avoid unnecessary disruption and respect to requests relating to accessibility or sensory needs. Attendees may need to move, use devices, wear headphones, take breaks or leave and re-enter sessions; these may be legitimate accessibility strategies and should not be viewed negatively.

Help sessions run smoothly while allowing for individual needs.

Please arrive on time where possible and minimize disruption to speakers and other attendees. At the same time, we recognize that circumstances and accessibility needs may mean someone needs to arrive late, leave a session, move around, or take a break. Please treat these situations with understanding and respect.

Look out for one another.

If you experience or witness behaviour that does not align with these principles, or if you have a concern about your own wellbeing or accessibility during the conference, please speak to a member of the organizing team. We will treat concerns seriously and sensitively and will work with attendees to identify an appropriate way forward.

Our commitment

The organizing team is committed to making reasonable efforts to ensure the conference is accessible, inclusive, and welcoming. If there is something we can do to help you participate fully, please let us know. We encourage attendees to communicate their accessibility, or participation needs where they feel comfortable doing so.