

Post-meeting report of the 6th Birmingham Symposium on Genome Structure and Function



The **Birmingham Centre for Genome Biology** [6th Symposium on Genome Structure and Function](#) held at the University of Birmingham on June 29th-30th, 2023, was a resounding success. This symposium aimed to foster collaboration and knowledge exchange among researchers from the University of Birmingham (UoB), registrants from across the UK, and invited speakers from the UK and abroad. The event covered various aspects of genome biology, from chromatin organization and gene expression to DNA replication and genome stability.

Organized by researchers from the Birmingham Centre for Genome Biology this symposium was an international, external-facing meetings, attracting over 150 participants from across the UK, mainly early career researchers. The programme encompassed a mix of external invited speakers from the UK and the US/Singapore and selected talks by presenters ranging from clinicians to discovery researchers from the BCGB and beyond. The full programme can be found via the [Symposium Web Site](#).

The scientific content of the conference was outstanding, with most presentations featuring novel and unpublished research. Cutting-edge technologies and emerging concepts in genome biology were highlighted throughout the sessions. The symposium commenced with a recorded message from the future Head of College of MDS, **Neil Hanley**.

Two keynote speakers, **Ellen Rothenberg** (CalTech) and **Dan Tenen** (Harvard), delivered exceptional talks about their ground-breaking research. The first day's sessions covered topics such as chromatin remodelling, DNA replication, gene expression, and regulation in blood cell development and cancers. The second day focused on DNA repair and cancer, as well as gene regulation in development and disease, featuring talks from esteemed invited speakers and Birmingham researchers. Poster sessions were well-received, and the symposium also provided networking opportunities with biotech sponsors exhibiting their products.

We congratulate the early career researchers who won the best talk: 1) **Chris Mahony**, 2) **Martina Muste Sadurni**, 3) **Abigail Farrell** and best poster prizes: 1) **Elizabeth Antony**, 2) **David McQuarrie**, 3) **Cyntia Fernandez Cuesta**.

The symposium also served as a platform to express gratitude and bid farewell to two retiring founding members of BCGB, Constanze Bonifer and Peter Cockerill. Their mentorship and support over the years were acknowledged and appreciated.

The organisers wish to give special thanks to the many sponsors who made it possible to bring together excellent invited speakers, facilitated valuable networking opportunities, and ultimately led to an increase in BCGB's registered membership.

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In conclusion, the 6th BCGB Symposium proved to be an enriching and engaging event that expanded the horizons of genome biology research. Participants were enthusiastic about the discussions and the opportunity to showcase their work, and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive.