

2nd Wildlife Malaria NETWORK Workshop PROGRAM

**Vilnius, Lithuania
25-28 August, 2025**

All times in Eastern European Standard Time (EET)

MONDAY 25th August (WG3 and WG2)

9:00–9:15 Arrival and Registration of participants (in-person attendees)

9:15–9:30 Welcome

9:30–9:45 Introduction and update on WIMANET (Jenny Dunn)

9:45–10:15 An update on the progress of WG3 (Josué Martínez-de la Puente)

10:15–10:30 Planning the next steps and knowledge transfer (Carolina Chagas)

10:30–11:00 Coffee Break

11:00–11:15 The impact of WIMANET on a PhD student: my story (Margarita Kazak)

11:15–11:30 Bioinformatic analysis of pathogens in *Culicoides* (Jesus Veiga)

11:30–11:45 Life Cycles and Vector Dynamics of Amphibian and Reptile Parasites
(Edward Netherlands)

11:45–12:00 Flight Club: Mosquitoes and Their Parasite Passengers (Kristina
Valavičiūtė-Pocienė)

12:00–12:15 Bat Flies as Vectors of *Polychromophilus* in Brazil: First Molecular
Evidence from the Atlantic Forest (Bruno Mathias; online)

12:15–12:45 Identifying the gaps and planning the future (Josué Martínez-de-la-
Puente and Carolina Chagas)

12:45–14:00 LUNCH BREAK

14:00–14:40 Updates on WG2 activities (Mélanie Duc)

14:40–15:00 Molecular and morphological investigation of *Haemoproteus* parasites
in vultures in the Gambia; A PhD study with WIMANET support (Misa Shimizu)

15:00–15:20 Mapping host-parasite associations as a tool for bridging the
morphological-molecular gap in *Leucocytozoon* taxonomy (Claudio Navarrete)

15:20–15:30 Exploring trypanosome prevalence in raptor populations in West
Germany (Ashiwin Kumar; online)

15:30–16:00 Coffee Break

16:00–16:40 The history and future of the database MalAvi (Staffan Bensch)

16:40–17:00 What is next for WG2 and Discussion (Mélanie Duc)

Evening: 19:00 Dinner in the old town (not covered)

TUESDAY 26th August (WG1 and WG4)

9:00–9:15 Registration of participants (in-person attendees)

9:15–10:00 Advances in Haemosporidian genomics (Olof Hellgren)

10:00–10:15 Microbiome analysis applied to bat-associated vector-borne disease
(Alexandra Corduneau)

10:15–10:30 Short-Term Scientific Mission at the Nature Research Centre (Vilnius,
Lithuania) (Irene Hernández)

10:30–11:00 Coffee Break

11:00–11:15 Investigating the impact of avian malaria exposure on mosquito
microbiota: A 16S rRNA metabarcoding study in *Culex pipiens* (Marta Garrigós)

11:15–11:30 First online WG1 course: Results survey and details of following courses
(Luz García-Longoria and Ricardo)

11:30–12:00 New initiatives and outputs for genomics in avian malaria and
discussion (Luz García-Longoria and Ricardo)

12:00–12:05 Group Photo of all participants on the stairs!

12:00–13:00 Management Committee Meeting (**only for the Management
Committee Members**) (Jenny Dunn)

12:00/13:00–14:00 LUNCH BREAK

14:00–14:40 Update on WG4 activities (Swen Renner and Diego Santiago-Alarcón)

14:40–15:00 How the WIMANET Summer School helped me to unravel the effects of
triazole fungicides, avian malaria infection, and captivity on house sparrows' immune
system (Jéssica Jiménez Peñuela)

15:00–15:20 Building the Metadata Backbone: Progress and Prospects for the WG4
Hematology Metadata Database (Diego Santiago-Alarcón)

15:20–15:50 Coffee Break

15:50–16:10 Human-modified landscapes and their effects on host–parasite systems
(Marcela Suarez-Rubio)

16:10–16:30 Precision and progress in automated detection of blood cells and
parasites (Swen Renner)

16:30–16:50 Haemosporida Anthropogenic impacts on host hematology (Carolina
Hernández Lara; online)

16:50–17:20 Upcoming activities and priorities (Swen Renner and Diego Santiago-
Alarcón)

WEDNESDAY 27th August (WG5)

9:00–9:15 Registration of participants (in-person attendees)

9:15–9:45 Progress and the status update of the WG5 (Kasun H. Bodawatta)

9:45–10:00 Short-Term Scientific Mission at Globe Institute (University of Copenhagen) (Irene Hernández-Caballero)

10:00–10:15 Hidden Threats: A Systematic Review of Blood Parasites in Wild Amphibians (Gemma Palomar)

10:15–10:30 Drivers of highly specialized bird-haemosporidian associations in African sky islands (Pavel Munclinger)

10:30–11:00 Coffee Break

11:00–12:00 WG5 Plans for the upcoming year (Kasun H. Bodawatta and Daliborka Stanković)

12:00–13:00 Funding opportunities (Sven Renner)

13:00–14:30 LUNCH BREAK

Excursion in the city (registered tours)

THURSDAY 28th August (WG6)

9:00–9:15 Registration of participants (in-person attendees)

9:15–9:45 WG6: One Year of Science Communication in Action (Martina Ferraguti and Rafael Gutiérrez-López)

9:45–10:00 Posting Parasites: Social Media as a tool for wildlife malaria outreach (Jéssica Jiménez-Peñuela and Alžbeta Šujanová)

10:00–10:30 Stories behind the science: Researcher Interviews for the WIMANET channel (*in parallel to the WG6 session*) (Luz García Longoria)

10:00–10:10 Connecting the Network: One Year of the WIMANET Newsletter (Mélanie Duc)

10:10–10:30 Assessing the contribution of avian malaria in the population decline of the vulnerable Italian sparrow (Luca Ilahiane)

10:30–11:00 Coffee Break

11:00–11:30 Vilnius Summer School Summary and Updates on Summer School 2026 in Spain (Josué Martínez-de la Puente and Carolina Chagas)

11:30–12:00 Handbook Preparation Updates, Deadlines (Jenny Dunn)

12:00–12:30 Update on WIMANET Conference in 2026 (Alfonso Marzal)

12:30–13:30 LUNCH BREAK

13:30–14:30 **Core Group Meeting (Core Group Members only) (Jenny Dunn)**

14:30–15:30 Best practice of preparing data for submission to MalAvi (Staffan Bensch)

15:30–16:00 Summary, questions, and brainstorming for 2026. What is missing, what are the possibilities for the grants, etc. (Jenny Dunn and Alfonso Marzal)

16:00 Closing remarks