



Optical Biology Conference 2026

19-22 August 2026 – Trondheim, Norway

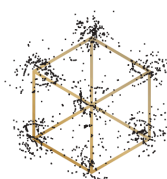


Contact

UCL (UK) team: Serkan Shentyurk – serkan.shentyurk.24@ucl.ac.uk

NTNU (Norway) team: Michael Schellenberger – michael.schellenberger@ntnu.no

VIB (Belgium) team: Mihaela Gerova – mihaeladimitrova.gerova@kuleuven.be



Kavli Institute
for Systems Neuroscience



Student-led. Interdisciplinary. International.

The Optical Biology Conference is an annual PhD-student organised retreat that brings together early-career researchers and leaders in optical imaging, microscopy and quantitative biology for keynote lectures, student talks, posters and industry demos.

Optical Biology PhD Programme

[The Optical Biology PhD Programme](#) (Wellcome-funded) brings together students working at the interface of optics, microscopy, computation and biology. It supports interdisciplinary training, collaboration and access to advanced imaging facilities.

The Optical Biology Conference

[The Optical Biology Conference](#) is an annual, **student-led**, international scientific retreat that rotates between European host institutes. It brings together early-career researchers (PhD students and postdocs) and group leaders working at the intersection of optics, microscopy, computational imaging and biology for 3–4 days of science and networking: 2 days of scientific sessions (keynotes, student talks and posters), 1 day of industry talks / demos, and 1 cultural/science trip. The format is intentionally informal and collaborative, making it an excellent opportunity for sponsors to interact directly with the next generation of imaging scientists.

- **Audience:** PhD students, postdocs, PIs, and industry partners (≈60–100 people)
- **Format:** keynotes from invited speakers, student lightning talks, poster sessions and an Industry Day for demos
- **Rotating host:** each year a different institute hosts the meeting ([2024: Lisbon](#); [2025: Leuven](#); [2026: Trondheim](#))



Keynote Sessions from 2025: Prof. Colinda Scheele (left) and Prof. Emre Yakşı (right).

The Optical Biology Conference 2026

The conference is organised by PhD students in the Optical Biology programme in partnership with Kavli Institute for Systems Neuroscience and Flanders Institute for Biology (VIB).

- **Dates:** 20-22 August 2026
- **Location:** Kavli Institute for Systems Neuroscience (NTNU), Trondheim, Norway
- **Audience:** ~60–100 attendees — PhD students, postdocs, PIs and industry partners

Organisation Committee

UCL

- Tom Childs
- Andrea Ko
- Serkan Shentyurk

NTNU

- Hanna Eneqvist
- Nina Seiffert
- Michael Schellenberger
- Anh-Tuan Trinh

VIB

- Mihaela Gerova
- Nastya Krouglova

Programme snapshot

Two days of science (keynotes, student talks & posters), one Industry Day for demos and career talks, plus a cultural/science trip.

4 Keynote Speakers

- Vivek Jayaraman — HHMI Janelia (USA)
- Ann Hermundstad — HHMI Janelia (USA)
- TBD
- TBD



2025 Group Picture in Leuven, Belgium



2024 Group Picture in Lisbon, Portugal

Estimate of Budget

Estimated total budget for OBC 2026: **€15,000**.

Category	Approx %	Approx €
Travel & accommodation (students & speakers)	~60%	~ €9,000
Catering & social events	~20%	~ €3,000
Venue, AV & printing	~10%	~ €1,500
Local trip & miscellaneous	~10%	~ €1,500

Sponsor Information

Why sponsor the Optical Biology Conference?

The Optical Biology Conference is a small, student-led, international retreat focused on optical imaging, microscopy and quantitative biology. It brings together early-career researchers (PhD students and postdocs), technical facility leads and group leaders for two days of science and one day of local visits and industry engagement.

- **Targeted & high-quality exposure** — intimate format (≈60–100 attendees) ensures long, substantive conversations at poster sessions, coffee breaks and demos.
- **International attendees & top institutes** — participants and hosts from across Europe and beyond, including UCL (UK), VIB–KU Leuven (Belgium), and NTNU / Kavli (Norway).
- **Early-career talent pipeline** — meet skilled PhD students in optics, imaging and computation, who are strong candidates for future technical and research roles.
- **Skills & capacity building** — sponsoring helps fund student organisation, professional development and travel bursaries that strengthen the next generation of imaging scientists.
- **Flexible engagement** — financial support, student bursaries, poster prizes, or bespoke activities tailored to your goals.
- **Transparent follow-up** — post-event sponsor report summarising attendance, visibility, and impact metrics.

Who you'll meet

- **PhD students and postdocs** with hands-on optical and computational experience.
- **Faculty and group leaders** from partner institutes (opportunity for strategic collaborations).
- **Facility heads and technical staff** who run advanced imaging platforms.
- **Industry representatives and vendor engineers** (Industry Day).

Typical attendee profile: early-career researchers (60–80%), facility staff (5–10%), PIs & group leaders (10–20%), industry representatives (5–10%).

Sponsorship packages

All packages include: logo on the sponsors slide shown between sessions, acknowledgement during opening & closing remarks, and a short post-event report.

Level	Suggested contribution	Core benefits
Gold	€3,000	Prominent logo on website & programme; logo on event banner; exhibition table in poster area and speaking slot during Industry session.
Silver	€1,500	Logo on website & printed programme; acknowledgement during event; inclusion of literature in welcome pack and speaking slot or exhibition table in poster area during Industry session.
Bronze	€1000	Logo in programme and on sponsor slide; acknowledgement in the programme booklet; speaking slot or exhibition table in poster area during Industry session.
Supporter	€500	Name listed on the website and programme footer; acknowledgement on sponsor slide.

À la carte & in-kind options

- **Welcome Dinner Sponsor** — €1,200 (logo in dinner materials)
- **Conference Dinner Sponsor** — €1,500 (logo at dinner)
- **Industry Day Session** — €1,000 (slot for up to four short industry talks or demos)
- **Poster Prize** — €300–€500 (branded certificate, announcement at closing)
- **Travel bursaries** — €400–€600 per student (named bursary on website/programme)

Visibility & engagement

Sample sponsor visibility depending on level:

- **On-site:** exhibition table space in poster hall (Gold / Silver), branded slide between sessions, poster prizes.
- **Online & print:** logo on the conference one-pager, PDF programme, and post-event report.
- **People:** short speaking/demo slot (Gold/Industry Day), direct conversations with students and PIs.

Process, deadlines & invoicing

Deadline for confirmed sponsors: ideally three months before the event to ensure logo placement and programme printing. Exact deadlines will be confirmed once dates are finalised.

Invoice & payment: we can issue invoices via the host institute or an organising account. When you confirm a package please indicate billing details and any purchase-order requirements and we will send a formal sponsorship agreement and invoice.

Post-event report: within 4–6 weeks after the conference we will supply a short report summarising attendance and sponsor visibility (logo use, talk/demo attendance, and poster/prize winners where applicable).

Contact Information

UCL (UK) team: Serkan Shentyurk – serkan.shentyurk.24@ucl.ac.uk

NTNU (Norway) team: Michael Schellenberger – michael.schellenberger@ntnu.no

VIB (Belgium) team: Mihaela Gerova – mihaeladimitrova.gerova@kuleuven.be

For more information about the conference: [OB Conference](#)

For more information about sponsorship: [Sponsorship](#)

