

Frontiers in Recent Human Evolution

Conference Program March 23–24, 2026 (OIST Lab5-D23)

Day 1 — March 23

09:30 Registration & Coffee / Group Photo

10:00 Introduction

Svante Pääbo

10:10–10:55 *Functional Consequences of a Neanderthal AMPD1 Variant in Skeletal Muscle*

Shin-Yu Lee (OIST)

11:00–11:45 *Polyglycylation: A Lost Trait in Modern Humans*

Hugo Zeberg (Karolinska Institute, MPI-EVA)

11:45–12:30 *Uncovering the Non-Canonical Roles of ABCB1 Through Bats*

Javier Yu Peng Koh (Duke-NUS Medical School)

12:30 LUNCH

14:00–14:45 *A Neanderthal-derived Gene Variant Increases Thermogenesis by Elevating Irisin*

Volker Soltys (MPI-EVA)

14:45–15:30 *The Genetic Basis of the Evolution of High Sweat Gland Density in Humans*

Daniel Aldea (Aix-Marseille University)

15:30 COFFEE

15:45–16:30 *Methods for Efficient Genome Editing*

Stephan Riesenberger (MPI-EVA)

16:30–17:15 *Functional Consequences of the Modern Human-Specific Mutation in SLITRK1*

Izumi Fukunaga (OIST) via Zoom

17:15–18:00 *Evolutionary Changes in SLITRK1-Interacting Proteins*

Xiangchun Ju (OIST)

18:00 DINNER

Day 2 — March 24

09:30 Registration & Coffee

10:00–10:45 *Recent Human Evolution in the Ryukyu Archipelago*

Masatoshi Matsunami (University of the Ryukyus)

10:45–11:30 *Reconstructing Whole Genome Genealogies Reveals a Richly Structured Human Past*

Leo Speidel (RIKEN)

11:30–12:15 *A Method for Recalibrating Genealogies to Infer Ancient Adaptation in Human Populations*

Aina Colomer i Vilaplana (RIKEN)

12:15–13:00 *The Shirahosaonetabaru Genome*

Mateja Hajdinjak / Svante Pääbo (OIST / MPI-EVA)

13:00 LUNCH & COFFEE

14:30–16:30 *Optional* Lab & Facilities Tour — Pääbo Unit, Mass Spectrometry & SQC Facility, Imaging Section, Animal Behavior Room