

MARCH 14, 2025

What is UniStem Day?

UniStem Day is a one-day meeting organized for high school students since 2009. This event, solely dedicated to the dissemination and outreach of stem cell science and research, provides an opportunity to foster learning, discovery and debate on the themes of knowledge and innovation starting from stem cell research. The event showcases cutting edge research, paints a picture of the daily work of a scientist, and explores the mechanisms behind scientific breakthroughs, including the cultural expectations. By offering lessons, debates, visits at the laboratories and recreational moments, the students engage with the concepts and methodologies involved in stem cell research. Furthermore, they will gain an appreciation for science and how it can be fun and build personal character and relationships based on evidence, perseverance and integrity. As with previous years, UNISTEM DAY 2025 will bring together universities and high Schools from all over the world by involving 97 universities and research centres in Australia, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

UniStem is the Centre for Stem Cell Research of the University of Milan founded in 2006 by Profs. E. Cattaneo, G. Cossu, F. Gandolfi and Y. Torrente (unistem.it). The UNISTEM DAY 2025 event is one of many UniStem activities on stem cell research divulgation and this year it celebrates the 17th annual day dedicated to secondary school students and can boast being the largest public event on stem cell research in Europe.

Thank you to our speakers for their invaluable contributions, and to the students and teachers for participating in the event.

We also wish to thank:

- The University Museum of Bergen for offering free entry to students.
- Prof. Kamal Mustafa, Assoc. Prof. Salwa Suliman and the team at Bergen Tissue Engineering Group for the lab visit at the Center for Translational Oral Research, IKO.
- Gyrid Nygård and the team at Bergen Center for Medical Stem Cell Research for the lab visit.
- Mohn Research Center for Psychotic Disorders (MRCP) for sponsoring lunch and equipment.
- The trade union Tekna for sponsoring lunch.
- Trond Mohn Research Foundation, University of Bergen, and Helse Bergen Health Trust for their support.

The program committee for UniStem Day 2025: Salwa Suliman, Gyrid Nygård, and Elise Aasebø

Sponsor and contributor



Mohn Research Center for Psychotic disorders MRCP

Concept & Coordination



Patronage



European Consortium for Communicating Stem & Cell Therapy Information

Support



Contributor



UNIVERSITY MUSEUM OF BERGEN



HELSE BERGEN Haukeland University Hospital



UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN Faculty of Medicine

Sponsor



Tekna

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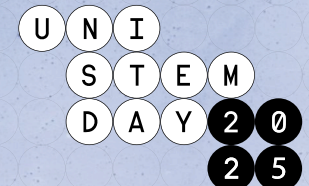
Web: unistem.it

UniStem Day

The neverending journey of stem cell research



MOHN RESEARCH CENTRE FOR REGENERATIVE MEDICINE



Program

MOHN RESEARCH CENTRE FOR REGENERATIVE MEDICINE

MORNING SESSION

09:00 - 09:15 Opening
by the Coordinator,
Elise Aasebø, PhD,
and welcome video

09:15 - 09:30 Greetings and
*"The History of Cell
Therapy"*, by the Head
of the MRCRM, **Prof.
Einar K. Kristoffersen**,
Professor in Immunology,
Head of the Department
of Immunology and
Transfusion Medicine,
Haukeland University
Hospital

09:30 - 09:45 Video call
between Universities
Moderator: **Assoc.
prof. Salwa Suliman**

09:45 - 10:05 **Stian Knappskog**
PhD, Professor,
Department
of Clinical Science,
University of Bergen
*Gene Editing
with CRISPR/Cas-9*

10:05 - 10:25 **Astrid B. Jenssen**
PhD Candidate,
Department
of Clinical Medicine,
University of Bergen
*Stem Cell Spray for
Treating Burns*

10:25 - 10:30 Insights from
the Trade Union Tekna

10:30 - 11:00 *Break and Lunch*

11:00 - 11:15 **Casper E. Sandvik**
Master's Student
in Cell Biology,
University of Bergen
*Stem Cells' Couriers:
Can Small Packages
Repair the Brain?*

11:15 - 11:30 **Heidrun Vethe**
PhD, Researcher,
Department
of Clinical Medicine,
University of Bergen
*Miniature Models
of Breast Cancer
and Brain: New Insights
into Cancer Metastasis*

11:30 - 11:50 **Panel Discussion on the
Path to Research. Open
for Questions from
Students.**

Panel:
Astrid B. Jenssen,
Casper E. Sandvik,
Heidrun Vethe,
Dewaki Chhetri
Medical student
attending the Medical
Student Research
Programme

Moderator:
Gyrid Nygård,
PhD, Senior Reseacher,
Bergen Center for
Medical Stem Cell
Research and Bergen
Psychosis Research
Group, Haukeland
University Hospital

11:50 - 12:00 Kahoot
and Conclusions
by the Coordinator
Elise Aasebø, PhD
and **Assoc. prof.
Salwa Suliman**
Closing Video

AFTERNOON SESSION • 12:30 - 14:00

Lab visit 1
**Bergen Tissue Engineering Group
at the Center for Translational
Oral Research, Department for
Clinical Dentistry (IKO)**

The lab visit is led by
Salwa Suliman
PhD, Associate Professor

Visit a lab where they develop new
technology to repair and regenerate
bone tissue. The researchers combine
cells with biomaterials and growth
factors to create new bone and dental
tissue, and can, among other things,
bio-print structures with living cells.

Lab visit 2
**Bergen Center for Medical Stem
Cell Research at the BBB**

The lab visit is led by
Gyrid Nygård,
PhD, Senior Researcher
and executed by the Stem Cell
Ambassadors

Visit a lab that researches mini-
brains, organoids, eye diseases, and
establishes a pre-GMP environment.
Mini-brains are a living model of the
brain and can be used to test and
develop new treatments for patients
suffering from brain-related
diseases.

Visit the
University Museum of Bergen

NB

The lab visits are only for students
selected based on a motivational
letter. The Museum visit is for all.

**Auditorium 2,
Bygg for biologiske basalfag (BBB),
Universitetet i Bergen**
Jonas Lies vei 91,
5009 Bergen
Norway

Coordinator
Elise Aasebø,
PhD, Coordinator of Mohn Research Centre
for Regenerative Medicine (MRCRM)

For more information:
unistem.it