

Tuesday April 16th

10:00 Registration and poster set up, opens

12:00 Lunch

13:00 Congress Opening

Nanna Skaarup Andersen (Odense University Hospital, Denmark) and others

Oral session 1: Ecology, epidemiology and diagnostics of emerging pathogens: e.g. *Anaplasma*, *Rickettsia*, *Neoehrlichia*, *Spiroplasma* & *Babesia*

Chairs: Per-Eric Lindgren (Linköpings universitet/County Hospital Ryhov, Sweden)

Dieneke Hoeve-Bakker (National Institute for Public Health and the Environment, The Netherlands)

Keynote speaker: Christine Wennerås (Göteborgs universitet, Sweden)

Neoehrlichia and *Spiroplasma* - new tick-borne causes of human disease

14:00 Short break

14:10 O1 Anna Grankvist (Sahlgrenska University Hospital Sweden): Risk of transfusion-mediated infection of *Neoehrlichia mikurensis*- a prevalence and viability study

O2 Helene Mens (Rigshospitalet, Denmark): Low prevalence of the tick-borne infection *Neoehrlichia mikurensis* among individuals receiving B-cell depleting therapy in the Capital Region of Denmark – a prospective cohort study

O3 Rima Alsalihi (Sahlgrenska Academy, Gothenburg University, Sweden): B-cell responses evoked by *Neoehrlichia mikurensis* infection

O4 Christine Lingblom (Sahlgrenska University Hospital, Sweden): Are there cases of *Neoehrlichia mikurensis* infection that are misdiagnosed as Polymyalgia rheumatica (PMR)?

15:00 Coffee break in poster area, followed by parallel sessions "poster walk"

15:10 **Lecture hall: Poster walk session 1 (Posters 1-11): Ecology, epidemiology and diagnostics of emerging pathogens: e.g. *Anaplasma*, *Rickettsia*, *Neoehrlichia*, *Spiroplasma* & *Babesia***

15:10 **Coffee area:**

Poster walk session 3 (Posters 12-22): *Borrelia* with focus on clinical manifestations and diagnostics

16:00 **Oral session 1 continuation**

O5 Malin Lager (Ryhov County Hospital, Sweden): *Spiroplasma ixodetis* prevalence in ticks that have bitten humans in Sweden and on the Åland Islands, Finland – what's the risk of contracting an infection?

O6 Rosalina Rotovnik (Statens Serum Institut, Denmark): Examples of amplicon-based next-generation sequencing for detection of zoonotic vector-borne bacteria and parasites in different host species

O7 Pia Formisano (University of Glasgow/Moredun Research Institute, UK): Developing a recombinant protein ELISA for diagnosis and prevalence studies of human babesiosis, an emerging disease in Scotland

O8 Kristina E M Persson (Lund University, Sweden): A new ELISA to measure antibodies against *Babesia divergens*

16:50 End of scientific sessions of today. Check in

17:20 Beer walk in the historical city of Nyborg. Gathering outside the main entrance (only prebooked participants),

20:00 Dinner at Hotel Nyborg Strand

Wednesday April 17th

08:30 **Oral session 2: Tick-borne encephalitis virus (TBE) - Ecology, epidemiology & molecular biology**

Chairs: Anne-Mette Lebech (Rigshospitalet, Denmark)

Marika Nordberg (Ålands Hälso- och sjukvård, Finland)

Keynote speaker Olli Vapalahti (University of Helsinki, Finland):

Molecular epidemiology and phylogeography of tick-borne encephalitis virus in Europe

09:20 O9 Santseharay Ramirez Almeida (University of Copenhagen/Hvidovre Hospital Copenhagen, Denmark):
In vitro studies of the activity of broad-spectrum nucleotide analogs against tick-borne encephalitis virus

O10 Sambor Grygorczuk (Medical University in Bialystok, Poland): The factors mediating the blood-brain barrier impairment in tick-borne encephalitis

O11 Eszter Tompa (Linköping University, Sweden): Assessing Age-Related T Cell Dynamics in Tick-Borne Encephalitis Virus (TBEV) Vaccination Responses Using FluoroSpot

O12 Patrick Kelly (Pfizer, US): Leveraging machine-learning algorithms to uncover new risks and potential under-reporting of Tick-Borne Encephalitis (TBE) in Scandinavia

10:10 **Coffee break in the poster area**

10:30 **Oral session 2 continuation**

O13 Urusha Maharjan (Norwegian Institute of Public Health, Norway): Bioinformatics analysis and development of a method for whole genome sequencing of low-level tick-borne encephalitis virus in human and tick samples

O14 Alaka Lamsal (Norwegian Institute of Public Health, Norway): Tick-borne encephalitis virus prevalence in questing *I. ricinus* in southern Scandinavia

O15 Hana Orliková (National Institute of Public Health, Czech Republic): Increasing incidence of tick-borne encephalitis in the Czech Republic in period 1993-2022

O16 Nicole Barp (Universitaria of Modena Italy): Clinical-laboratory features and predictive factors for sequelae of Tick-Borne Encephalitis Virus infection: a retrospective observational study

O17 Anna Maria Florescu (Rigshospitalet, Denmark): Clinical features in adults with TBE: A Danish nationwide cohort study 2015-2023

11:25 Short break

11:30 **Oral session 3: *Borrelia* - Ecology, immunology, epidemiology, diagnostics and clinical practice**

Chairs: Randi Eikeland (Sørlandet Hospital, Norway),

Fredrikke C. Knudtzen (Odense University Hospital, Denmark)

Keynote speaker: Elling Ulvestad (Haukeland universitetssjukehus, Norway)

Immunological aspects of Lyme neuroborreliosis

12:20 **Lunch**

13.15 **Oral session 3 continuation:**

O18 Steffan Daniel Bos-Haugen (Haukeland University Hospital & Cancer Registry of Norway, Norway): Serum neurofilament light chain associates with disease activity in Lyme neuroborreliosis patients - a longitudinal cohort study from Norway

O19 Malte M. Tetens (Rigshospitalet, Denmark): Risk of cardiac conduction disorders, and pacemaker implantations among individuals tested for serum *Borrelia burgdorferi* antibodies, a matched population-based cohort study

Wednesday April 17th

O20 Malte M. Tetens (Rigshospitalet, Denmark): Repeated doxycycline treatment among patients with neuroborreliosis, a nationwide, matched, registry-based cohort study

O21 Rick Dersch (University of Freiburg, Germany): Systematic review on treatment of so-called post-lyme-disease syndrome

O22 Oda van der Berg (National Institute for Public Health and Environment, The Netherlands): Trends in physician-reported incidence of Lyme borreliosis: from tick bite to disease

O23 Sara Wide Gustafsson (Länssjukhuset Ryhov, Sweden): The risk of developing symptoms and to be diagnosed with a tick-borne disease following a tick bite and its relation to seroconversion

O24 Harald Reiso (Flåttcenteret, Sørlandet Hospital Trust, Norway): TickCheck – a web-based application for assessing skin rashes after tick-bites

14:30 Coffee break in poster area and sessions "poster walks"

14:40 **Lecture hall: Poster walk - Session 2** (Posters 23-32): Tick-borne encephalitis virus (TBE) - Ecology, epidemiology & molecular biology

14:40 **Coffee area: Poster walk - Session 3** (Posters 33-44): *Borrelia* with focus on epidemiology and pathogenesis

14:40 **Coffee area: Poster walk - Session 4** (Posters 45-56): Tick biology, ecology and interplay with pathogenic microorganisms

15:30 Oral session 3 continuation

Chairs: Helene Mens (Rigshospitalet, Denmark)

Jukka Hytönen (University of Turku/Turku University Hospital, Finland)

O25 Nathalie Boulanger (University of Strasbourg, France): Proteomics on *Borrelia*-infected skin: application to a direct diagnosis of Lyme borreliosis in disseminated infection?

O26 Lasse Fjordside (Rigshospitalet, Denmark): Mass-spectrometry based proteomics as a diagnostic tool for Lyme Neuroborreliosis

O27 Ram Dessau (Zealand University Hospital, Denmark): Measuring *Borrelia* specific antibodies in the cerebrospinal fluid using LiaisonXL

O28 Yvonne Adams (University of Copenhagen, Denmark): Blood-brain barrier organoids to study Lyme neuroborreliosis

O29 Varpu Rinne (University of Turku, Finland): Single cell RNA-sequencing based profiling of the extrafollicular response in the lymph nodes of *Borrelia burgdorferi*-infected mice

O30 Nina Król (University of Copenhagen, Germany/Denmark): *Borrelia burgdorferi* s.l. in ticks and Lyme neuroborreliosis – BoTiNe

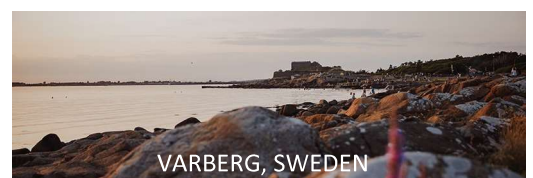
16:30 Break

17:00 Open lecture: Sigurdur Skarphedinsson (Odense University Hospital, Denmark)
Neuroborreliosis – a multidisciplinary challenge (the public lecture will be given in English)

17:50 End of scientific sessions of today

19:00 Gala Dinner with entertainment at Hotel Nyborg Strand

NORDTICK 2026
April 14th – April 16th



Thursday April 18th

08:30 **NordTick and Pragmatick joint session**

Oral session 4: Tick biology, ecology and interplay with pathogenic microorganisms

Chair: Gabor Foldvari (HUN-REN Centre for Ecological Research, Hungary)

Keynote speaker invited by NordTick: Önder Ergönül (University School of Medicine and American Hospital, Türkiye): Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever

09:20 Short break

09:30 **Oral session 4 continuation**

O31 Anton de Jong (Swedish Veterinary Agency, Sweden): "Rapportera Fästing" – a tool to enhance citizen science-based reporting of tick findings

O32 Jani Sormunen (University of Turku, Finland): Citizen Science Monitoring of Tick Contact Areas in Finland – Lessons, Results and Uses for Data

O33 Margriet Harms (National Institute for Public Health and the Environment, The Netherlands): Tekenradar.nl a citizen science platform for tick bite surveillance in the Netherlands

O34 Eva Kallio (University of Jyväskylä, Finland): Amplification or dilution? Quantifying the role of hosts in tick-*Borrelia* interplay with natural islands mesocosms

O35 Nosheen Kiran (University of Jyväskylä, Finland): Effects of rodent abundance on ticks and *Borrelia* – results from an experimental and observational study in an island system

10:30 **Coffee break, take down posters**

10:50 **Oral session 4 continuation**

Keynote speaker invited by Pragmatick: Matias PJ Szabo (Federal University of Uberlândia, Brazil) Factors related to the spread and urbanization of the tick-borne Brazilian Spotted Fever

O36 Theophilus Yaw Alale (University of Turku, Finland)– Genomic signatures of hybridization between *Ixodes ricinus* and *Ixodes persulcatus* in Finland

O37 Pierre Boyer (University of Stasbourg, France): Evaluating MALDI-TOF MS for Tick Identification and Pathogen Detection: Advancing Shared Scientific Resources

O38 Lene Jung Kjær (University of Copenhagen, Denmark): Temporal dynamics of tick abundance in Denmark, 2017-2024

12:15 **Congress closing:** Pictorial review, Young scientist award, Closing address

Welcome to NordTick 2026!

12:30 **Lunch for NordTick participants and departure**

13:00 Pragmatick continues (separate program)

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Denmark

Nanna Skaarup Andersen, University of Southern Denmark - chair

Anne-Mette Lebech, Rigshospitalet Copenhagen

Helene Mens, Rigshospitalet Copenhagen

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Jani Sormunen, University of Turku

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Per-Eric Lindgren, University of Linköping, Ryhov County Hospital, Jönköping

Congress Organizer

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