



Humboldt Kolleg

EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE AND GLOBAL CHALLENGES TODAY

EXZELLENZ IN DER WISSENSCHAFT UND GLOBALE HERAUSFORDERUNGEN HEUTE

Topics:

(United Nations Sustainable Development Goals to Transform our World)

- ✚ Good Health and Well-Being
- ✚ Quality Education
- ✚ Affordable and Clean Energy
- ✚ Climate Action

24-27 June 2026

Sofia, Bulgaria

Hall "Prof. Marin Drinov", Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
Conference Hall of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"

24.06.2024

14:00 – 16:00 REGISTRATION
In front of hall “Prof. M. Drinov”, BAS

16:00 – 16:30 OPENING
Hall “Prof. M. Drinov”

Chair: Ilza Pajeva

- President of the Humboldt Union in Bulgaria
- **German officials**
- **Bulgarian officials**

16:30 – 17:00

Yuri Kalvachev (Bulgaria) *President of the Humboldt Union in Bulgaria*
Bulgarian Research Landscape

17:00 – 17:40

Maria Endreva (Bulgaria) *Ambassador-scientist of the Foundation*
Presentation of the programs of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

17:40 – 18:00

Questions and Answers

18:00 – 18:05
GROUP PHOTO

18:30 – 20:30 Reception
National Archaeological Museum

25.06.2026

09:00 – 12:30
SESSION: *Good health and well-being*
Hall “Prof. Marin Drinov”, BAS

Chair: Radka Argirova

09:00 – 09:30

Ulrike Holzgrabe, Ute Hellmich, Mitali Sarkar-Tyson (Germany, Australia) (*keynote lecture*)
Addressing virulence factors - an alternative treatment of infections

09:30 – 09:45

Rayna Nenova, Radka Argirova, Kalin Kalinov, Ana Dobрева, Dimitar Peshev, Aleksandra Nikolaeva Rangelova-Haralampieva, Ivan Iliev, Neli Vilhelmova-Ilieva (Bulgaria)
Blocking ocular herpes simplex virus-1 entry by bioactive compounds from oil-bearing Rosa damascena Mill

09:45 – 10:00

Trifon Valkov, Georgi Dimitrov, Radka Argirova (Bulgaria)
Risikoanalyse von Masernausbrüchen in Bulgarien und Rumänien für den Zeitraum 2000 bis 2023: Eine vergleichende Studie

10:15 – 10:30

Slavena Davidova, Maya Zaharieva, Galina Sachanska, Hristo Najdenski (Bulgaria)
*Identifying the prevalence of *Listeria monocytogenes* in minced meat at different storage temperatures through artificial contamination*

10:30 – 10:45 Coffee break

Chair: Radka Argirova

10:45 – 11:00

Violeta Ivanova, Iliana Poparova, Eugenia Russinova, Kiril Mishev (Bulgaria, Belgium)
The role of endomembrane trafficking complexes in plant hormone receptor dynamics

11:00 – 11:15

Simona Galabova, Irina Vaseva, Dominique Van Der Straeten (Bulgaria, Belgium)
*Comparative analyses of *Arabidopsis thaliana* signaling mutants and transgenic lines subjected to moderate drought and recovery*

11:15 – 11:30

Parashkev Katevski, Petko Alov, Maria Angelova, Elina Beleva, Boian Lazov, Antonia Diukendjieva, Dessislava Jereva, Igljka Lessigiarska, Ilza Pajeva, Tania Pencheva, Stefan Tsakovski, Peter Vassilev, Ivanka Tsakovska (Bulgaria)
Development of computational tool for predicting toxic effects of chemicals

11:30 – 11:45

Georgi Dimitrov, Radka Argirova, Trifon Valkov (Bulgaria)
Long-term cancer survival after COVID-19: Nationwide evidence in patients with solid malignancies

11:45 – 12:00

Iva Nenkova, Maria Kamusheva, Hristo Varbanov, Spiro Konstantinov, Maya Zaharieva (Bulgaria)
Acute myeloid leukaemia: multidisciplinary insights into access, care, and therapeutic development

12:00 – 12:15

Georgi Ivanov, Nikolay Tzvetkov (Bulgaria)
In search of novel MAO-B/alpha-Synuclein inhibitors

12:15 – 12:30

Ivan Bogdanov, Nikolay Tzvetkov (Bulgaria)
From small molecules as factor XIIIa inhibitors towards target diversity

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch

Restaurant Victoria – Tsar Osvoboditel blvd, 7

14:00 – 15:30

SESSION: Quality education

Conference Hall of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”

Chair: Maria Endreva

14:00 – 14:30

Dennis Pausch (Germany) (*keynote lecture*)
How to Read Ancient Historiography? Potentials and Risks of Emotional Immersion

14:30 – 14:45

Maja Debska (Poland)

Der Sound der Geschichte – Techno als Gedächtnismedium und als literarische Form

14:45 – 15:00

Maria Bakalova (Bulgaria)

Transcribing Danish intonation with tobi – basics, specifics, and challenges

15:00 – 15:15

Zozan Tarhan (Bulgaria)

Der heutige Zustand und die Zukunft der Altorientalistik weltweit und in Bulgarien

15:15 – 15:30

Kalina Kupczynska (Poland)

Geschichtscomics, multidirektionale Erinnerung und Geschichtspolitik - Chancen und Herausforderungen für die Geschichtsvermittlung

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee break

16:00 – 17:15

Presentation of the programs of DFG

Conference Hall of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”

Chair: Yuri Kalvachev

16:00 – 16:45

Jörn Achterberg, Stephanie Lass, Julia Ilina, Djawed Nauroozi (Germany)

Presentation of German Research Foundation programs

16:45 – 17:15

Questions and Answers

18:30 – 21:00 Dinner

Restaurant La Branche, Crystal Palace, Shipka Street 14

26.06.2026

09:00 – 12:30

SESSION: Climate action and Affordable and clean energy

Hall “Prof. Marin Drinov”, BAS

Chair: Petar Petrov

09:00 – 09:30

David Scheschkewitz (Germany) (*keynote lecture*)

Low-valent main group species as game changers in homogeneous catalysis?

09:30 – 09:45

Sonja Zrilic, Snejana Zaric (Serbia)

Hydrogen bonds of coordinated amino acids and water: different types and their relevance

09:45 – 10:00

Antonio Ljulj, Anamarija Jurjević, Elena Erlić, Lara Vincelj, Lea Ulm, Valerije Vrčec (Croatia)

Anticancer drugs in the environment

10:00 – 10:15

Erik Dimitrov, Krum Alexandrov, Yavor Hristov, Aleksander Forys, Maria Petrova, Natalia Toncheva-Moncheva, Emi Haladjova, Iva Ugrinova, Barbara Trzebicka, Stanislav Rangelov (Bulgaria, Poland)

Cyclic polymer brushes - tunable platforms for drug and gene delivery

10:15 – 10:30

Stiliyana Stoyanova, Oumayma Mlida, Antonio Da Costa, Anthony Ferri, Evgeni Ivanov, Rumiana Kotsilkova, Fahmi Bedoui (Bulgaria, France)

Electrospun polymer nanofibers with multi-walled carbon nanotubes and graphene for piezoelectric applications

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break

11:00 – 12:30

SESSION: *Climate action and Affordable and clean energy*
Hall "Prof. Marin Drinov", BAS

Chair: Silviya Boycheva

11:00 – 11:15

Tsanislava Genova, Alexandra Zhelyazkova (Bulgaria)

Optical clearing for OCT teeth imaging

11:15 – 11:30

Nikoleta Kircheva, Vladislava Petkova, Stefan Dobrev, Valya Nikolova, Silvia Angelova, Todor Dudev (Bulgaria)

Metal selectivity in some protein phosphatases: insights from a theoretical study

11:30 – 11:45

Lidia Zaharieva, Diana Rüesch, Søren W. Sønningsen, Fadhil Kamounah, Michael Pittelkow, Luidmil Antonov, Jan Helbing (Bulgaria, Switzerland, Denmark)

Light-driven long-range proton transfer: optimization and mechanisms

11:45 – 12:00

Alina Kumanova, Vera Deneva, Sofia Slavova, Nikolay Vassilev, Daniela Nedeltcheva-Antonova, Luidmil Antonov (Bulgaria)

Tautomeric and complexation properties of Avigan in solution

12:00 – 12:15

Dobromir Kalchevski, Stefan Kolev, Teodor Milenov (Bulgaria)

A complete model of the [1,5]-sigmatropic conversion of chorismate to 4HB and pyruvate by chorismate lyase

12:15 – 12:30

Marianna Vasilaki, N. Ilieva, G. Gocheva, S. Iliev, J. Petkova, A. Ivanova (Bulgaria)

A Trojan Horse Strategy: Molecular dynamics, design and evaluation of folate-conjugates for targeted drug delivery of doxorubicin

12:30 – 14:00

Restaurant Victoria – Tsar Osvoboditel blvd, 7

14:00 – 15:00

SESSION: Affordable and clean energy and Climate action
Hall “Prof. Marin Drinov”, BAS

Chair: Albena Paskaleva

14:00 – 14:15

Veronika Petkova, Hristo Rasheev, Alia Tadjer (Bulgaria)

Modeling of anode materials in sodium-ion batteries

14:15 – 14:30

Stoyan Gramatikov, Georgi Vayssilov (Bulgaria)

Computational modeling of the interaction of organic structure directing agents with silicate and borosilicate zeolite frameworks

14:30 – 14:45

Denis-Răducu Nichita, Mihai Dima, Petru Vaideanu, Monica Ionita (Romania, Germany)

A weakened AMOC warms winters and drives summer multidecadal variability

14:45 – 15:00

Galina Dimitrova, Anguel Demerdjiev, Dimitar Tonev, Ventsislav Rusanov, Nikolay Goutev (Bulgaria)

Evaluation of radiation fields in a TR-24 cyclotron facility

15:00 – 16:30

Discussion: Young researchers – potential candidates for AvH fellows with German professors (Selection committee members)

Moderator: Nikolay K. Vitanov

16:30 – 19:00 CITY TOUR – Social Program

19:00 – 21:00 - Dinner

Restaurant Shtastliveca San Stefano Plaza Sofia, San Stefano Street 22

27.06.2026

9:00 – 12:00

SESSION: Good health and well-being
Hall “Prof. Marin Drinov”, BAS

Chair: Maya Zaharieva

9:00 – 9:30

Radka Kaneva, Kalina Mihova, Martin Georgiev, Tzvetana Kerelska, Daniela Kostova, Delyan Georgiev, Svetomir Hitov, Kamen Yonchev, Ivanka Dimova, Kristina Stefanova, Kristiana Vitanova, Simona Stankova, Konstantin Paramov, Veselina Levakova, Valentin Dichev, Nikolay Mehterov, Yordan Sbirkov, Mihail Petrov, Victoria Sarafian, Mariana Murdzheva, Vanio Mitev (Bulgaria)

Foundations for Precision Medicine: Preliminary results of the Bulgarian Genome Project

9:30 – 9:45

Lora Veleva, Stoyan Pavlov (Bulgaria)

Automated evaluation of gene expression in chromogenic in situ hybridization images using spectrum-normalized pseudo-channel

9:45 – 10:00

Desislava Tsoneva, Diana Buzova, Stefani Todorova, Yavor Enchev, Jan Frohlich, George Chaldakov, Anton Tonchev, Jan Cervený, Manlio Vinciguerra (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Italy)

Plasma histone monomers as novel diagnostic markers in adult glioblastoma

10:00 – 10:30 Coffee break

10:30 – 10:45

Aleksandar Ateamin, Aneliya Ivanova, Teodora Dyankova-Danovska, Sonya Uzunova, Georgi Danovski, Rumen Stamatov, Petar-Bogomil Kanev, Radoslav Aleksandrov, Stoyno Stoynov (Bulgaria)

Effect of PCNA protein depletion on replication stress

10:45 – 11:00

Aneliya Ivanova, Aleksandar Ateamin, Sonya Uzunova, Petar-Bogomil Kanev, Stoyno Stoynov (Bulgaria)

Dynamics of the replication fork stalling and restart in BRCA2/PALB1 deficient cells

11:00 – 11:15

Plamen Angelov, Yordanka Sapundzieva, **Denitsa Bachvarova** (Bulgaria)

In the search of novel antibacterials – mimicking the pseudomonas metabolites

11:15 – 11:30

Andreas Kontny, Andon Mladenov, Tetsumori Yamashima, Anton Tonchev (Bulgaria, Japan)

Ultrastructural and molecular mapping of 4-Hydroxynonenal (HNE)-induced degeneration in the murine cornea and retina

11:30 – 11:45

Veronika Petkova (Bulgaria)

Bulk transcriptome analysis of thyroid cancer and nodous goiter reveals key roles of immune system and epigenetic regulation

11:45 – 12:00

Closing remarks

12:00 – 14:00 Lunch

Restaurant Victoria – Tsar Osvoboditel blvd, 7