



The event is free of charge,  
but registration is requested.

# Public Symposium on Microchimerism

May 26, 2026

Medical University of Graz



## Program

### 2:00 – 3:15 p.m. Session 1

#### Microchimerism – key findings and contextualisation (women's health)

Speaker: Diana Bianchi, USA & Lee Nelson, USA

#### Interdisciplinary and Cross-disciplinary investigation of microchimerism

Speaker: Katja Sallinger, Austria & Kristine Chua

Q&A

### 3:45 – 5:00 p.m. Session 2

#### What are the unknowns and potential applications of microchimerism

#### How can Microchimerism be studied ethically – ethical considerations in research and applications

Speaker: Markus Hengstschläger, Austria

#### Theoretical framework – evolution

Speaker: Amy Boddy, USA

#### Miscarriage – experiences of the unexpected

Speaker: Rachel Lewis, USA

#### Miscarriage and microchimerism

Speaker: Rachel Tompa, USA

#### Breastfeeding and bonding

Speaker: Anna Rath, Austria

Q&A

### 17:30 – 19:00 Session 3

#### including get together (until 21:30)

#### The story of Hidden Guests

Speaker: Lise Barnéoud, France

#### Expert panel discussion incl. Q&A

#### Summary & meeting with the speaker by wine and cheese

## Mom inside us

- > Microchimerism (MC) is one of biology's most fascinating and little-known phenomena: the long-term presence of a small number of mom cells in her kids. Her cells traffic during pregnancy to her unborn child (and vice versa!) and stay there probably for the kid's lifetime – "staying connected" becomes a new and wonderful meaning. But what these cells are doing is hardly known.

## What to expect

- > Learn about ongoing discussions of microchimerism in reproduction, immunology, and genetic conflict.
- > Listen to the story of public science author Lise Barnéoud, who edited the science behind microchimerism for her book "hidden guests".
- > Discuss with speakers and experts and find your way to microchimerism.

