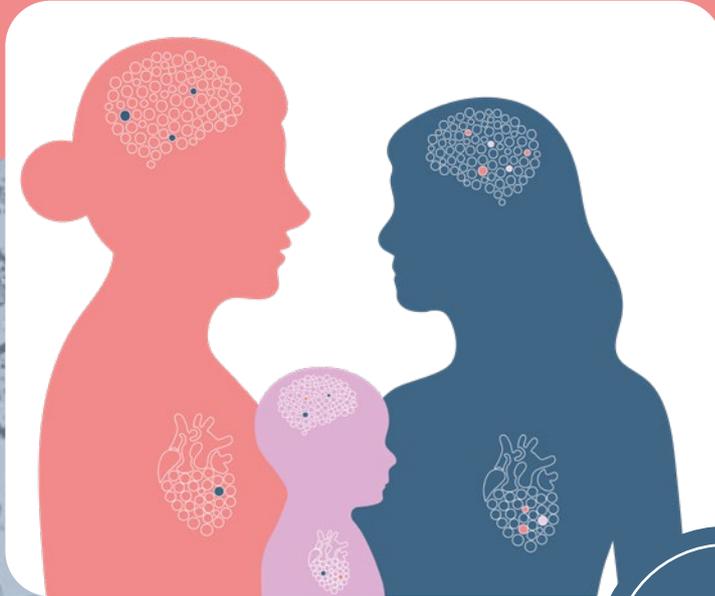




Public Symposium on Microchimerism

May 26, 2026

Medical University of Graz



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

Program

14:00 – 15:15 Session 1

What we know about Microchimerism today

Diana W. Bianchi, USA

Microchimerism is underappreciated and it affects all of us

Lee Nelson, USA

Microchimerism and the Interconnected Human Identity

**Katja Sallinger, Austria &
Kristine Chua, USA**

Interdisciplinary and Cross-disciplinary investigation of microchimerism

15:45 – 17:00 Session 2

What are the unknowns and potential applications of Microchimerism

Markus Hengstschläger, Austria

Reconstructing the baby's genome from mom's blood – bioethical aspects of prenatal testing

Amy Boddy, USA

Evolutionary perspectives on microchimerism

Rachel Lewis, USA

Expecting the Unexpected: Compassionate care for your pregnancy loss patients

Rachel Tompa, USA

Reflections on microchimerism after pregnancy loss

Anna Rath, Austria

Breastfeeding and bonding

**17:30 – 19:00 Session 3 Hidden Guest
including get together (until 21:30)**

Lise Barnéoud, France

These cells that are not our own

Expert panel discussion

This lively panel discussion will bring together several experts, with different perspectives. It will explore the latest researches, the unresolved questions, the challenges and future prospects for microchimerism.

Summary & meeting with the speaker by wine and cheese

Mom inside us

Microchimerism 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.

