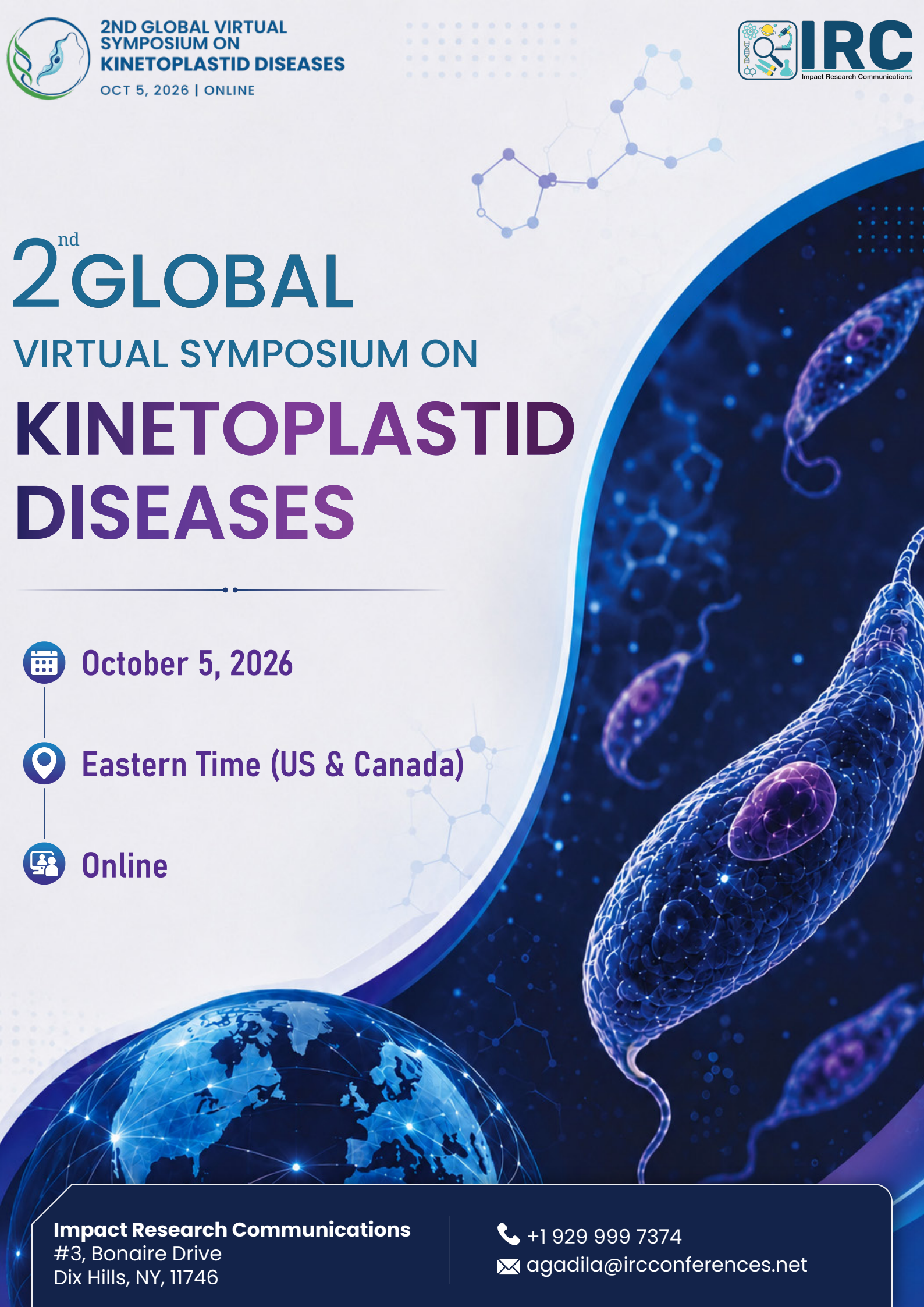




2nd GLOBAL VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM ON KINETOPLASTID DISEASES

 **October 5, 2026**

 **Eastern Time (US & Canada)**

 **Online**

Impact Research Communications
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Monday

October 5, 2026

8:00–8:15

Welcome Remarks

Session – I

Chair: Ivan Norena, PhD(c), LMU University Hospital, Germany



8:15–9:00

Developmental and reproductive strategies of *Leishmania*

David L. Sacks, PhD – Plenary Talk

NIAID, NIH, USA



9:00–9:35

Understanding Chagas disease pathogenesis and prospect for immunotherapeutic vaccine development

Eric Dumonteil, PhD – Keynote Talk

Tulane University, USA



9:35–10:10

Development of genetically modified *Leishmania* vaccine: update on immunogenicity, correlates of protection and clinical studies

Hira Nakhasi, PhD – Keynote Talk

DETTD, FDA, USA

10:10–10:25

Break



10:25–10:50

From prototype to patient access: Advancing *T. cruzi* IAMP for early diagnosis of congenital chagas disease

Alejandro G Schijman, PhD

INGEBI-CONICET, Argentina



10:50–11:15

Drug-target discovery for host-directed, anti-Leishmanial therapy

Gerald F Spath, PhD

Institut Pasteur, France



11:15–11:40

Beyond genomics: m6A-mediated epitranscriptomic reprogramming as an early-response mechanism to antimonial resistance in *Leishmania infantum*

Nilmar Moretti, PhD

Federal University of Sao Paulo, Brazil

11:40–12:10

Lunch

Session – II



12:10–12:45

Exploiting parasite's metabolism; The good, the bad and the ugly

Terry K. Smith, PhD – Keynote Talk

University of St Andrews, UK



12:45–13:20

Twist and shout: Topoisomerase II inhibitors for rapid cure of Trypanosome infections

Manuel Saldivia, PhD – Industry Talk

Novartis Global Health, USA



13:20–13:45

Navigating chemical space to develop cruzain inhibitors as potential candidates to treat Chagas disease

Rafaela Salgado Ferreira, PhD

Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Brazil



13:45–14:10

Parasitological cure and impact of benznidazole treatment on the evolution of chronic Chagas disease in cohorts of patients from the Jequitinhonha Valley, Minas Gerais, Brazil

Marta De Lana, PhD

Universidade Federal de Ouro Preto, Brazil



14:10–14:35

Chromosomal and chromatin organization in *Trypanosoma cruzi*

Carlos Robello, PhD

Institut Pasteur de Montevideo, Uruguay

14:35–14:50

Break

Session – III

Chair: **Emma Cecilia Saavedra Lira, PhD**, *Instituto Nacional de Cardiología, Mexico*



14:50–15:15

Mining the *Trypanosoma cruzi* kinome: Identification of unique protein kinases essential for differentiation

Ana Paula C A Lima, PhD

Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



15:15–15:40

Therapeutic RNA vaccines for Chagas disease based on *Trypanosoma cruzi* Trans-sialidases

Mayra Fernanda Ricci, PhD

Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil



15:40–16:05

The potential impact of co-circulation and co-infection of *Leishmania* and Phlebovirus in sandfly vectors and reservoir hosts on the transmission and development of leishmaniasis

Elyes Zhioua, PhD

Institut Pasteur, Tunisia



16:05–16:30

Elimination of Human African Trypanosomiasis in Guinea: Many reasons to be optimistic, some reasons to stay awake

Jean-Mathieu Bart, PhD

Institut de Recherche pour le Développement, France

16:30

Closing Remarks