

Thiol-Based Redox Regulation Gordon Research Seminar (GRS) 2026

Molecular Mechanisms and Therapeutic Innovation in Redox Signaling

11-12 July 2026

Chairs: Claudia Lennicke and Taylor Covington

Rey Don Jaime Grand Hotel, Castelldefels, Barcelona, Spain

1. Conference Background

The Gordon Research Seminar (GRS) on Thiol-Based Redox Regulation is a two-day meeting organised by and for early-career scientists in the redox field. In conjunction with the Gordon Research Conference, the GRS provides undergraduate researchers, graduate students and postdoctoral researchers a dedicated forum to present and discuss their work with peers and invited established scientists.

The aim of the GRS is to promote scientific exchange across the broad field of redox biology, provide early-career researchers with experience in scientific presentation and discussion, and strengthen international professional networks. Previous seminars in this series were held in 2014, 2016, 2018, 2022 and 2024. The 2026 GRS took place on 11-12 July 2026 at the Rey Don Jaime Grand Hotel in Castelldefels, Spain.

2. Conference Summary

The 2026 seminar, entitled “Molecular Mechanisms and Therapeutic Innovation in Redox Signaling”, brought together early-career researchers working across redox biology, oxidative stress, metabolism, ageing and disease, as well as technology and method development. The programme was designed to accommodate mechanistic, physiologic and methodological research, and to provide substantial time for discussion after each oral presentation and throughout poster sessions.

The scientific programme was divided into four thematic sessions, as detailed in the final programme. Nineteen speakers were selected from submitted abstracts to present their research in oral sessions, each followed by a dedicated discussion period. The meeting also included two poster sessions, with 41 poster presenters. Together, the oral and poster formats provided multiple opportunities for participants to present unpublished work, discuss and receive feedback from their peers and the invited established scientists attending the seminar.

The scientific sessions were jointly led by invited established scientists and early-career researchers selected from applicants for discussion-leader roles. This format broadened participation in the scientific programme and gave selected early-career researchers practical experience in chairing sessions and facilitating scientific discussion.

3. Scientific Programme

The programme consisted of four scientific sessions, two poster sessions and a dedicated career-development panel. The scientific sessions were structured around short oral presentations selected from submitted abstracts, followed by discussion. This format allowed a comparatively large number of early-career researchers to present their work while retaining time for questions and scientific exchange.

Poster sessions formed an important part of the programme and provided additional time for detailed discussions. Participants who did not give an oral presentation were therefore still able to present and discuss their research.

4. Participation and Early-Career Development

The seminar was organised specifically to increase active participation by early-career researchers. In addition to presenting oral talks and posters, participants could take on discussion-leader roles, contribute questions during the scientific sessions, and interact directly with invited established scientists. The relatively small meeting format supported sustained scientific exchange across institutions, countries and career stages.

The 2026 meeting had 46 participants representing 13 countries and 35 institutions. The reported career-stage distribution was 65% graduate students and 28% postdoctoral researchers. The reported gender

distribution was 65.2% female and 34.8% male. These figures illustrate the broad international participation of the meeting and its strong focus on researchers at early career stages.

Meeting at a glance

Measure	2026
Participants	46
Oral speakers	19
Poster presenters	41
Countries represented	13
Institutions represented	35
Career status	65% graduate students; 28% postdoctoral researchers
Gender	65.2% female; 34.8% male

5. Career Development Panel: Building Resilience in Academia

A dedicated one-hour panel discussion addressed career development and resilience in academia. Three invited established scientists discussed their career paths, including challenges, setbacks, periods of uncertainty, mentorship and the strategies or support that had helped them navigate difficult stages of their careers.

Participants could submit questions anonymously before the seminar and could also ask questions directly during the session. The panel was intended to provide practical perspectives on scientific careers and to encourage open discussion of issues that are often less visible in formal scientific programmes, including rejection, changes in career direction, mentorship and research culture. The discussion complemented the scientific sessions by providing a structured professional-development component tailored to early-career researchers.

6. Main Outcomes and Impact

The seminar provided an international forum for early-career researchers to present unpublished work, obtain scientific feedback and establish new professional connections. The combination of oral presentations, poster sessions and discussion-leader roles meant that participants could contribute to the meeting in several different ways rather than only as audience members.

The meeting also strengthened links between early-career and established researchers in the thiol-redox community. The invited scientists contributed throughout the scientific sessions and poster discussions as well as during the career-development panel, allowing participants to receive feedback and advice in both scientific and professional contexts. Furthermore, the three established scientists served as a bridge and facilitated the connection to GRC attendees.

7. Presentation Awards

Presentation awards were included to recognise strong scientific communication and engagement during the seminar. The award categories were Best Oral Presentation and Best Poster Presentation.

8. Financial Support and Sponsorship

External financial support contributed to the delivery of the seminar and to reducing barriers to participation for early-career researchers. Sponsor support could be used for participant attendance and other meeting-related costs, depending on the conditions attached to each contribution. As in previous editions of the seminar, financial support is particularly important for enabling participation by researchers whose groups or institutions have limited travel and registration budgets. We therefore did not use any of the sponsorship funds

to buy drink packaged. We aimed to support as many early career researchers as possible to be able to attend the GRS. This included part or full registration fee waivers and travel support. To allocate funds the participants applied stating how funding would support their participation. All our sponsors were acknowledged during the seminar and on our webpage.

9. Summary and Acknowledgements

The 2026 Thiol-Based Redox Regulation Gordon Research Seminar brought together 46 participants from 13 countries and 35 institutions for two days of scientific exchange and early-career development. Nineteen researchers presented oral talks and 41 participants presented posters. The meeting combined scientific sessions with dedicated discussion time, opportunities for early-career researchers to chair sessions and a career-development panel focused on resilience in academia.

We thank all participants, speakers, discussion leaders and invited scientists for their contributions to the meeting. We also thank the Gordon Research Conferences staff and on-site team for their support in delivering the seminar, and all sponsors and contributors whose support enabled the meeting and helped facilitate participation by early-career researchers.

The organisers also thank the chairs and organisers of the associated Gordon Research Conference for coordination across the two meetings and for supporting the transition from the GRS into the wider conference programme.

And we thank all our sponsors for their generous support. Without them, we would not have been able to hold such an amazing seminar with so many outstanding early-career scientists.



Claudia
GRS Chairs, 2026

Lennicke

and

Taylor

Covington