

New deadline:
31 October 2025

Rigi Workshop 2026 • 25–27 January 2026 • Rigi Kulm

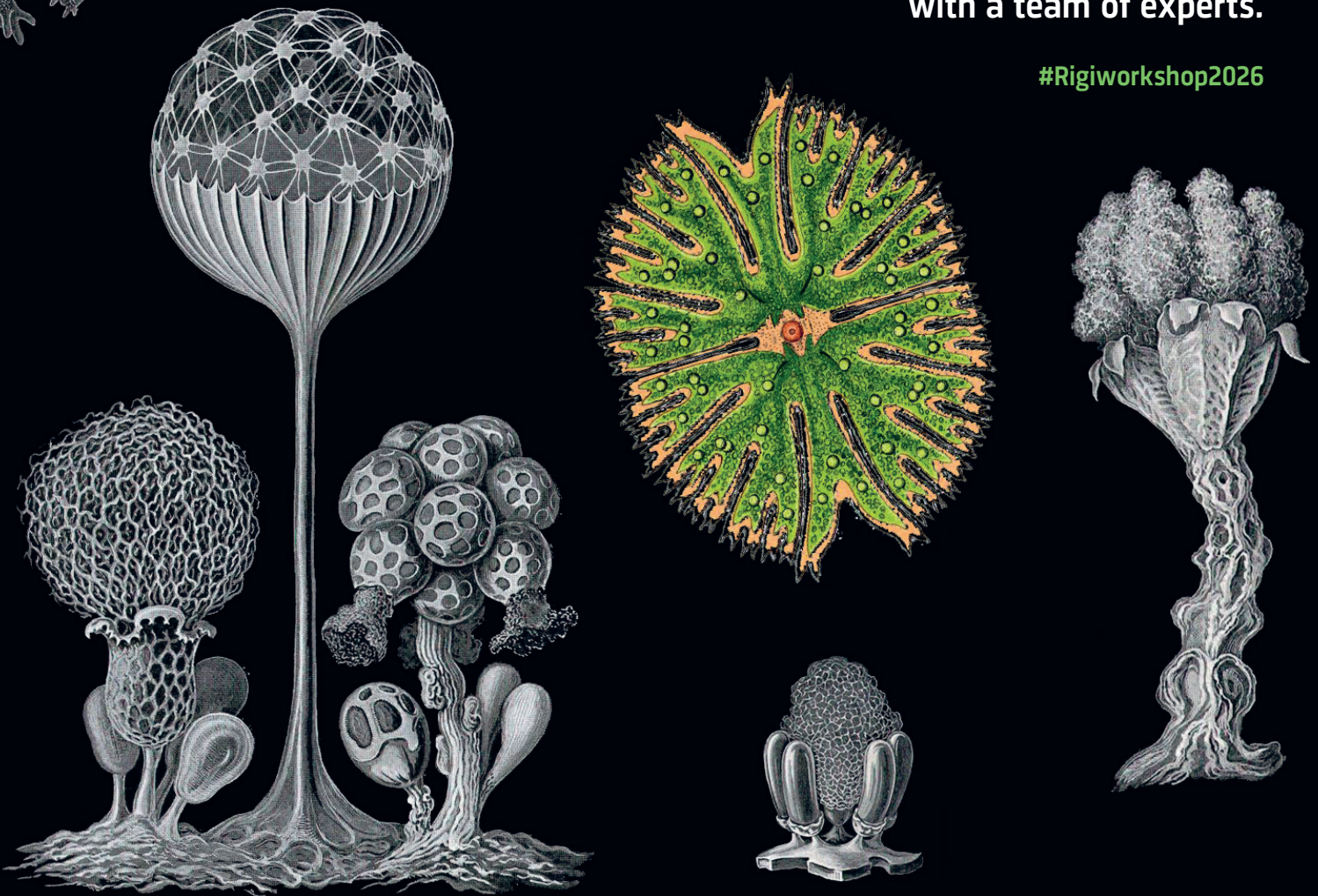
Endless Forms Most Beautiful

An Exploratory Approach to Cell Biology,
Development and Evolution

PhD-students and Post-docs: join us for a 3-days
interdisciplinary workshop at the top of Rigi
Mountain to discuss and embrace curiosity-driven
approaches, beyond the traditional model organisms
with a team of experts.

#Rigiworkshop2026

Illustration: Ernst Haeckel



Endless Forms Most Beautiful

An Exploratory Approach to Cell Biology, Development and Evolution

Scientific discovery thrives on exploration. This workshop will bring together early-career researchers to embrace a curiosity-driven approach, moving beyond traditional model organisms. Through talks, interactive workshops, and hands-on activities, participants will explore how novel technologies are expanding our knowledge of the vast diversity of life from microbial eukaryotes to plants and animals using non-model systems. Join us in an immersive setting to exchange ideas, forge collaborations, and uncover new perspectives in evolutionary and developmental biology.

Organisers

PROF. OMAYA DUDIN, University of Geneva, Life Science Switzerland

PROF. MICHAEL RAISSIG, University of Bern, Swiss Society of Plant Biology

CAROLINE REYMOND, Swiss Academy of Sciences, Platform Biology

Where and when?

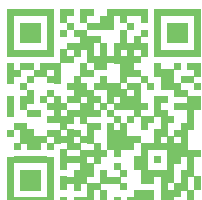
The 3-days course takes place in the hotel Rigi-Kulm on top of the Rigi Mountain, one of the most scenic places in Switzerland, from 25 to 27th of January 2026.

Who can apply?

PhD students and Postdocs from all Swiss institutions of higher education. The workshop is aimed at students from all domain of biology interested in this topic. MSc students' applications might also be considered. Please contact your doctoral school for the accreditation of ECTS which we estimate at **1 ECTS**.

Registrations

The registration fee is CHF 150.– and includes housing and meals in double room (or CHF 190.– in single room). Please register online and submit your abstract of research and a short letter of motivation by **15 October 2025**. The organising committee will select up to 30 outstanding applicants.



biol.scnat.ch/rigiworkshop26

Programme

Sunday, January 25

13.30 Welcome and Introduction Round

14.15 **Talk 1**
GAUTAM DEY, EMBL (DE): Evolutionary cell biology of cell division

15.00 **Coffee Break**

15.30 **Workshop 1**
How to pick your (Non) Model system?

17.30 **Science Karaoke Part 1**

19.00 **Dinner**

21.00 **Science Karaoke Part 2**

Monday, January 26

07.30 **Breakfast**

08.30 **Talk 2**
SUSANA COELHO, MPI Tübingen (DE): Multicellular development in brown algae

09.15 **Talk 3**
JAN DE VRIES, University of Göttingen (DE): Comparative genomics of Streptophyte algae and early plant evolution (tbc)

10.00 **Coffee Break**

10.30 **Workshop 2**
Sampling trip with Foldscopes

12.15 **Group Picture**

12.20 **Lunch and Free Time**

15.00 **Coffee Break**

15.30 **Talk 4**
LAUREN SAUNDERS, COS Heidelberg (DE): Single-cell transcriptomics of evolutionary cell fate trajectories

16.15 **Workshop 3**
Open Science, Preprinting

18.00 **Discussion Time**

19.00 **Dinner and social time**

Tuesday, January 27

07.30 **Breakfast**

08.30 **Talk 5**
EDWIGE MOYROUD, Sainsbury Laboratory (Cambridge, UK): Development, evolution and function of floral patterns.

09.15 **Workshop 4**
Survivor Bias, how to be a kind and engaging PI? How do we think about the limitations of exploration research? Cultural changes?

10.00 **Coffee Break**

11.45 **Talk 6**
ANNIKA GUSE, LMU Munich (DE): Cellular mechanisms of Coral-Algal symbiosis

12.00 **Lunch**

13.15 **Workshop 5**
New ways of outreach and public engagement

14.30 **Plenum**
Closing of Rigi Workshop and evaluations

15.00 **Departure**