



**Second International Symposium on Palaeo-Bioinspiration**  
25-27 Jun 2025 Edinburgh (United Kingdom)

Dear friends and colleagues,

On behalf of the Organising Committee (University of Edinburgh, Heriot Watt University and the French Natural History Museum), we are pleased to invite you the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Symposium on Palaeo-Bioinspiration (PALBINS 2) to be held in the city of Edinburgh, Scotland, UK. This event follows on from PALBINS 1 held in Paris in 2023, hosted by the French Natural History Museum.

This symposium is the *only* international meeting dedicated specifically to Palaeo-bioinspiration, an exciting new field. We welcome presentations on all aspects that use an approach to innovation and design based on the observation of palaeobiological systems.

Scientific sessions will take part at the University of Edinburgh central George Square campus in the heart of the city. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Edinburgh was the centre of the Scottish Enlightenment and hosts many historical institutions.

There are many options for accommodation in the city centre within walking distance to the University's George Square. We also have a special arrangement with the University's Pollock Halls of residence, which lies immediately next to the beautiful Holyrood Park and is just 20 minutes walk from the conference venue. There are plenty of places to eat out or simply buy yourself lunch or dinner within 5 minutes walk of the conference venue.

Edinburgh in June enjoys a typical Scottish climate that can range from sunshine to rain throughout the course of the day (!). Please do bring warm clothing and a waterproof coat.

Although basic information is given below we will provide further details in the second circular and on the website <https://palbins2025.sciencesconf.org/>. On the webpage you will find the option for registration and abstract submission. We will be accepting abstracts for both talks and poster presentations. Please be aware that only those who register will receive the second circular in late February.

**Registration and abstract submission open on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January.**

Please distribute this message among your colleagues, students and everybody who might be interested in participating in Palbins 2025 and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

We look forward to seeing you in Edinburgh in June!

Palbins 2025 Organising Committee

Tom Challands  
Marc Desmulliez  
Annabelle Aish

Palbins 2 Scientific Committee

Alexandra Houssaye  
Thomas Speck  
Mike Habib



## PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

### Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June

09:00 – 12:00 OpenFOAM workshop

From 09:30 registration 40 George Square

13:00 – 13:30 Arrival and coffee

13:30 - Welcome and introduction

14:00 - First keynote presentation - Julian Vincent (Heriot Watt University): Biomimetics – Ancient, Modern, both or neither?

15:00 -15:30 Coffee and posters

15:30– 17:10 First scientific session

17:10 – 17:20 Thanks, announcements and finish for first day

### Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June

09:00 - 09:30 Arrival and coffee

09:30 - 10:30 Second keynote presentation - Michelle Spanjaards (Eindhoven University of Technology): Bioinspired microsystems: how insights from nature can inspire cutting-edge engineering designs.

10:30 - 11:00 Coffee and posters

11:00 - 12:40 Second scientific session

12:40 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 15:40 Third scientific session

15:40 – 16:00 Coffee and posters

16:00 – 17:15 Panel discussion

17:15 – 17:30 Thanks, announcements and finish for second day

19:00-23:00 Drinks reception, Playfair library

### Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June

09:00 - 09:30 Arrival and coffee

09:30 - 10:30 Third keynote presentation - Nick Rowe (AMAP research Laboratory, Montpellier): Plants across deep time: functional mechanisms that have survived the past and their potential for a bioinspired future.

10:30 - 11:00 Coffee and posters

11:00 - 12:40 Third scientific session

12:40 – 12:50 Closing and thanks

12:50 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 –To be confirmed - National Museums Scotland Collection Centre palaeobiology collections visit



### REGISTRATION FEE

Non-student registration fee £160 (€193)

Student registration fee £120 (€145)

OpenFOAM workshop £20 (€24)

National Museums Scotland Collection Centre palaeobiology collections visit Free – We will be using public transport to get to the collection centre and delegates will have to pay the cost of the bus fare themselves (£2 €2.38 per single journey – two single journeys required - or £5 €5.94 for a limitless travel day ticket).

The registration fee includes the drinks reception in the Playfair library on the evening of the 26<sup>th</sup> June

Further details will be sent in the next circular in February 2025, but the information will be regularly updated on our webpage.



## IMPORTANT DATES

General registration opens: 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Registration closes: 20<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Abstract submissions open: 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Abstracts submission deadline: 20<sup>th</sup> April 2025

## OpenFOAM workshop Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June 09:00-12:00

A workshop for complete beginners to computational fluid dynamics (CFD) who may wish to begin using CFD in their research. OpenFOAM is a free and open source software used in academia and industry and is capable of solving anything from complex fluid flows involving chemical reactions, turbulence and heat transfer, to acoustics, solid mechanics and electromagnetics. See <https://www.openfoam.com/> for further information.

The workshop will be led by Dr Chandan Bose (University of Birmingham) and cover the very basics from installation, mesh building, running a simple simulation and viewing the results. Participants will require their own computer.

## TO BE CONFIRMED

### Post-symposium National Museums Scotland Collection Centre visit

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> 14:00-17:00

An opportunity to go behind the scenes and visit the palaeontological collections of National Museums Scotland – a huge repository of palaeo-bioinspiration containing over 250 000 fossil specimens!

<https://www.nms.ac.uk/collections/departments/natural-sciences/palaeobiology>

