



EMBO Workshop: Intracellular Mechanics and Organelle Mechanobiology

February 16, 2026 to February 20, 2026
ICFO Auditorium

About:

Mechanobiology is an interdisciplinary field that emerges at the cross-section of biology, physics and engineering. It aims to understand how living cells, tissues and animals sense and respond to mechanical force. In recent decades, we have gained significant insights into how the cytoskeleton and plasma membrane drive cellular functions, cell movements, and tissue shaping during development. Despite the recognized importance of mechanical forces on multiple scales, our understanding of cellular mechanics and force sensing has largely ignored the cell's interior and their organelles. However, evidence accumulates that the nucleus, mitochondria, and membraneless organelles are mechanosensitive, yet their force responses within intact cells, material properties, and physiological roles in

mechanosensitive functions remain largely unexplored. With this Workshop, we aim to unite mechanobiologists and phase separation experts to exchange emerging ideas, share techniques, and foster collaborations, thereby advancing our understanding of intracellular mechanics and organelle mechanobiology in health and disease.

EMBO Courses and Workshops:

EMBO Courses and Workshops are selected for their excellent scientific quality and timelines, provision of good networking activities for all participants and speaker gender diversity.

Speakers:

[Adel Al Jord](#), CRG Barcelona, ES

[Priya Banerjee](#), University of Buffalo, US

[Timo Betz](#), University of Goettingen, DE

[Julia von Blume](#), Yale University, US

[Cliff Brangwynne](#), Princeton University, US

[Luciana Bruno](#), Universidad Buenos Aires, AR

[Rumiana Dimova](#), Max Planck Institute for Colloids and Interfaces, DE

[Sirio Dupont](#), Padua University, IT

[Hesso Farhan](#), Medical University Innsbruck, AT

[Jean-Leon Maitre](#), Institut Curie, FR

[Jean-Baptiste Manneville](#), CNRS-Universite de Paris Cite, FR

[Suliana Manley](#), EPFL, CH

[Kate Miroshnikova](#), Max Planck Institute for Molecular Biomedicine, DE

[Nicolas Minc](#), Institut Jacques Monod, FR

[Manu Prakash](#), Stanford University, US

[Padmini Rangamani](#), UCSD, US

[Pere Roca Cusachs](#), IBEC, ES

[Aurelien Roux](#), University of Geneva, CH

[Raya Sorkin](#), Tel Aviv University, IL

[Jeanne Stachowiak](#), UT Austin, US

[Samantha Stehbens](#), University of Queensland, AU

[Susanne Wegman](#), DZNE Berlin, Charite, DE

[Wenting Zhao](#) Nanyang Technological University, SG

Registration:

Registration Deadline (in person): 15 December 2025

Registration Deadline (virtual): 1 February 2026

Abstract Submission Deadline: 14 November 2025

Chosen Participants Will Be Notified By: 1 December 2025

Payment Deadline (in person): 31 December 2025

Payment Deadline (virtual): 1 February 2026

Participation fees:

Students / PostDocs: 300?

Academic: 400?

Industry: 1.000?

The registration includes:

On-site registration fees include admission, conference materials, lunches and coffee breaks, and the Welcome Reception and the Gala Dinner. Participants are expected to book and pay their own accommodation and travel expenses.

Virtual registration fees include access to all of the talks (livestreamed and on demand) and a facility to submit questions.

Childcare service will be covered during the duration of the event (please detail during the registration)

Travel grants and registration fee waivers are available for participants.

Selection of awardees is handled directly by the organizers. EMBO travel grants and registration fee waivers are allocated on the basis of the quality of the submitted abstract.

Applicants do not need to apply separately for these but should indicate on the registration form if they wish to be considered

Payment:

Registration will be on a first come, first served basis. Your place can only be confirmed after payment of the registration fee. If you are added to our waiting list, please consider taking advantage of our offerings to participate virtually.

On-site participants: Types of payments accepted are international bank transfers and credit card payments.

Virtual participants: We are only able to accept card payments. In exceptional cases we can accept bank transfers.

Cancellation policy:

All requests for cancellation must be submitted in writing to merce.latorre@icfo.eu no later than 1. January 2026. The registration fee will be refunded in full, less an administrative fee of 20% of the registration amount.

Cancellations received after 1. January 2026 or no-show will not be refunded at all.

Selection:

We ask the interested applicants to submit an abstract as outlined below together with their CV and a motivational letter to be considered for the travel grant and registration fee waiver. The scientific organisers will select conference participants on the basis of the scientific content of the abstract. Outstanding abstracts will be selected for short oral presentations.

In addition, the selection process will prioritize international participation and broad representation across different countries, ensuring that no more than 25% of attendees come from the host country. Such a balance will ensure a global scope, and foster a diverse and inclusive environment, promoting knowledge exchange across scientific communities and cultural backgrounds.

Abstract guidelines:

Only participants registering to attend the on-site event are eligible to submit an abstract.

Abstracts will not be accepted from virtual participants.

After registration you can submit your abstract via a separate link that will be provided in the email confirmation. Alternatively, you can access the link on the confirmation page directly after registering. The same login credentials are used for both processes.

Please note:

Abstract body: The limit of 2000 characters refers to manually typed text and excludes spaces. If an error occurs try using a different web browser (preferably Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox). If you copy-paste the text into the form, hidden formatting might still be included which may cause the text to exceed the 2,000 character limit resulting in an error message. We recommend you clear all formatting before pasting in the text. If you have special symbols in your text, make sure you are using Unicode characters, otherwise these will not be recognised.

Title: The title should not exceed 20 words. Only the first word of the title should start with a capital letter and the rest should be lowercase.

Authors and affiliations: Please fill in the author's details as requested in the online form. The compulsory fields are: First Name, Last Name, Organisation Name (Affiliation or Company), Country and Email. Kindly mark only one author in the role of First Author and please don't forget to indicate who will be the Presenter. Please enter your co-authors correctly via the system by adding accounts together with their organisation/institute. Do not copy-paste them into the body of the abstract text, as they will not be indexed in the abstract book.

Presentation types: When submitting your abstract, you can apply for an oral or poster presentation. A selection process will take place with the results announced 2 weeks after the abstract submission deadline.

Poster boards allow for A0-sized posters (1189 mm x 841 mm), portrait format.

Grants and registration waivers:

Travel grants and registration fee waivers are available for participants.

Selection of awardees is handled directly by the organizers. [EMBO travel grants and registration fee waivers](#) are allocated on the basis of the quality of the submitted abstract and their CV and a motivational letter.

Applicants do not need to apply separately for these but should indicate on the registration form if they wish to be considered.

Additional travel grants are available for EMBC Associate Member States **Chile, India, Singapore and Taiwan.**

EMBO Courses and Workshops offers grants to offset additional childcare costs incurred by participants or speakers when participating at any EMBO Courses and Workshop funded meeting. Eligible costs include fees for a caregiver or child-care facility, travel costs for a caregiver, or travel costs for taking the child to the meeting etc. Please indicate on the registration form whether you would like to be considered for the grant. Please also describe how you intend to use the childcare grant and specify the sum that you will need.

EMBO offers accessibility grants to support participants at EMBO Courses & Workshops with any access needs. These grants cover up to 500 euros for any additional costs e.g. to adapt the conference environment, or to be accompanied by someone to assist them where necessary.

Participants with access needs may apply for a grant via the registration system of the related EMBO event, or by emailing the organizers of the related EMBO event directly.

Code of conduct:

Anti-harassment and non-discrimination policy: At EMBO, we believe that harassment and discriminatory behaviour are unacceptable in any setting

Media and communications policy: Recording or communication of the presented data needs to be agreed upon by all concerned

. EMBO's code of conduct is applicable for all participants of this EMBO meeting and can be found [here](#).

Organizers:

[Michael Krieg](#), ICFO, ES

[Verena Ruprech](#), University of Innsbruck, AT

[Felix Campelo](#), Universitat Pompeu Fabra, ES

Co-organizer:

[Giovanna Petrillo](#), ICFO, ES

[Merce Latorre](#), ICFO, ES

Venue: [ICFO](#)

The workshop will be held at ICFO, the Institute of Photonic Sciences, located in Castelldefels (Barcelona)

Address: Av. Carl-Friedrich Gauss 3 08860 Castelldefels, Barcelona, Spain

Find more details and information regarding the accommodation options in Castelldefels, public transport and other useful details at [EMBO Event Site](#).