

# HEINRICH WIELAND PRIZE



## SYMPOSIUM SPEAKER 2026 | PROFILE

**Professor Dr Kathrin Lang**  
ETH Zurich, Switzerland

Kathrin Lang is a leading figure in chemical biology, known for developing efficient and versatile strategies to incorporate non-canonical amino acids (ncAAs) with novel chemical functionalities into proteins in living cells. Her work has advanced the efficiency, fidelity, and scope of genetic code expansion, enabling new ways to probe and manipulate protein function directly in cells. By combining genetically encoded ncAAs with bioorthogonal chemistries, her lab has created approaches to image proteins, control enzymatic activity and study post-translational modifications. Her group has also developed light- and proximity-triggered crosslinking chemistries to covalently trap transient protein-protein interactions, enabling structural characterisation of otherwise inaccessible complexes. In addition, she has established chemoenzymatic strategies for site-specific installation of post-translational modifications, allowing the dissection of protein ubiquitylation and SUMOylation with temporal control. Most recently, her lab expanded the repertoire of accessible ncAAs by hijacking a bacterial ABC transporter to import ncAA precursors into cells.

Kathrin Lang studied Chemistry at the University of Innsbruck, where she obtained her PhD in 2008. She subsequently held postdoctoral positions at the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge. In 2014, she joined the Technical University of Munich as Rudolf Mössbauer Tenure Track Professor and was promoted to Associate Professor in 2020. Since 2021, she has been Full Professor of Chemical Biology at ETH Zurich. Her work has been recognised with several awards, including the Otto Meyerhof Award, the Arnold Sommerfeld Award, the FEBS Anniversary Award and an ERC Consolidator Grant.