

KP10-09 and KP10-10 significantly delayed HeLa cell wound areas over 72 h compared to native KP10.  
These analogues showed a sustained inhibitory effect on cell motility, suggesting potential for wound healing.



PROTOTYPES FOR HUMANITY

# SHORT PAPERS PLATFORM

2026 EDITION  
DUBAI

The Short Papers Platform is a unique forum for professors to disseminate research and insights in close connection with industry needs and opportunities, fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange. It connects academics with an international and interdisciplinary group of peers, alongside leaders from the private and public sector, to advance research and innovation.

**Prototypes for Humanity is delighted to announce that the 2026 Short Papers Platform will be held in strategic partnership with the Investment Corporation of Dubai (ICD), reinforcing the programme's commitment to advancing impactful innovation through collaboration between academia and industry, focusing on the key sectors that reflect international research priorities and that are relevant to the city and to the fund.**

**The organising committee welcomes abstract submissions until 22 May 2026. Selected authors will be invited to develop and present their short papers at a conference in Dubai in November 2026, ahead of publication in an academic volume in 2027.**

Submissions are welcome from academics across all disciplines and fields of enquiry, whose research aligns with the programme's thematic areas.

## THEMES FOR 2026

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This year's themes address critical scientific, technological, environmental and socio-economic challenges and opportunities worldwide, while reflecting the long-term development priorities and areas of strategic relevance to ICD and Dubai. Together, they create opportunities for professors to engage with pressing issues and propose solutions with tangible application and impact.

## BEST PAPER AWARD

As part of the programme's ongoing commitment to research translation, ICD will award a \$50,000 prize to one of the short papers presented at the conference. The award recognises academic work with strong potential for practical application, identified through engagement with ICD industry experts, and will support the winning project's next stage of development towards implementation.

### KEY DATES 2026

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May 22	<i>Deadline to submit abstracts</i>
July 8	<i>Invitations to develop short papers</i>
September 1	<i>Deadline to submit short papers</i>
November 15-19	<i>Short Papers Platform Conference, Dubai</i>



## EVALUATION CRITERIA

Evaluation of abstracts will be according to the criteria of Innovation, Insights and Impact. Following initial eligibility checks signed off by the Organising Committee, abstracts will be assessed by an international peer review panel of experts from industry and academia, which will agree upon abstracts to be developed for the Prototypes for Humanity Short Papers platform in November.

Abstracts are welcome from all disciplinary, interdisciplinary and theoretical perspectives and submissions are evaluated based on:

# 01

## INNOVATION

Novel ideas, approaches, or methodologies that advance knowledge and offer fresh perspectives on critical issues, demonstrating originality in thought, research processes or application.



# 02

## INSIGHTS

Meaningful analysis, well-rounded arguments, or compelling interpretations that contribute to a deeper understanding of the subject, reflecting intellectual rigour and clarity in conveying complex concepts.

# 03

## IMPACT

Addressing real-world challenges with the potential to drive meaningful change, through academic discourse, policy influence, technological advancement, or societal benefit - with a strong focus on applicability, reflecting Prototypes for Humanity and ICD's shared commitment to impactful, applicable research.



# 01 HUMAN PERFORMANCE AND WELLBEING

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Cutting-edge research and innovations are shaping the future of health, wellbeing, and human performance through advances in medical technologies, design, materials, and preventative health approaches. This theme invites research exploring advances that improve physical, mental, and environmental health and enhance human performance. Contributions may include, but are not limited to:

## Human Performance and Wellbeing

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- *Mental health and psychosocial resilience*
- *Human performance and improvement*
- *Cabin crew and passenger health and wellbeing in longhaul travel*
- *New materials for improved wellbeing*
- *Healthy ageing and positive gerontology*

## Wellbeing, Hospitality and Leisure

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- *Wellbeing management and delivery within leisure and hospitality*
- *Inclusive design and design for an ageing society*

## Clinical Health and Prevention

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- *Lifestyle diseases and preventive healthcare*
- *Genomics and precision medicine*
- *Women and children's health*

## Medical Innovation

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- *Medical innovations, devices and diagnostics*
- *Digital healthcare and remote monitoring*

## Environmental Health

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- *Healthy buildings and design for wellbeing*
- *Equity in health access*
- *Workforce safety enhancements*

## 02 INFRASTRUCTURES AND CITIES

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Advances in innovative strategies, products and design for building and maintaining cities and infrastructure that prioritise materials innovation, sustainability, efficiency and long-term resilience. This includes the development of smart cities and smart infrastructure systems. Contributions may include, but are not limited to:

### Infrastructure and Cities

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- *Energy, cooling and water efficiency in buildings*
- *Sustainable building materials*
- *Smart infrastructure and cities, including applied technologies:*
  - *Digital twins*
  - *Augmented and virtual reality*
  - *IoT and smart sensors*
  - *Property management*
  - *Predictive and autonomous maintenance and inspection*
  - *Data governance, cybersecurity, and trust in smart infrastructure*
- *Urban planning, design, housing*
- *Population density, demographic change*
- *Public space, accessibility, and inclusive design*
- *Advanced construction technologies*
- *Waste management technologies*

## AUTONOMOUS SYSTEMS AND ADVANCED MANUFACTURING

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Rapid developments in artificial intelligence, computing, automation, and engineering technologies are enabling new forms of intelligent and autonomous systems and advanced manufacturing across scientific, technological, and industrial domains. Contributions may include, but are not limited to:

### Autonomous Systems and Advanced Manufacturing

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- *Advanced and quantum computing*
- *Cyber security and privacy*
- *Digital twins*
- *Intelligent and advanced manufacturing*
- *AI ethics, governance and trust*
- *Smart and advanced materials*
- *Industrial IoT*
- *Autonomous systems and robotics*
- *Human-AI integration and collaboration*
- *Cyber-physical and adaptive systems*
- *Machine reasoning and decision making*
- *Nanomanufacturing and semiconductor engineering*
- *AI driven personalisation*

# 04 ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY AND ENERGY

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Innovative and forward-thinking solutions are essential for driving sustainability across industries and creating a more environmentally conscious and resilient future. This includes research exploring solutions that reduce harmful environmental impacts, support sustainable resource management and accelerate the transition to more sustainable energy systems. Contributions may include, but are not limited to:

## Environment, Sustainability and Energy

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- *Practical adaptations and mitigations in response to climate change*
- *Pollution, waste reduction, waste valorisation*
- *Emissions and air quality, including:*
  - *Monitoring, reporting and verification*
  - *Methane detection and reduction*
  - *Carbon capture, storage and utilisation*
- *Renewable, alternative energy technologies, including:*
  - *Solar, electric, blue and green hydrogen alternatives*
  - *SAFs, sustainable propulsion*
  - *Batteries and charging infrastructure*
- *Sustainable materials and manufacturing*
- *Circular economy: proof of concept and case studies*
- *Biodiversity and ecosystem restoration*
- *Nature-based low carbon and green solutions*
- *Sustainable food systems*

# 05 MOBILITY AND LOGISTICS

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Advances in mobility and logistics are transforming how people and goods move across cities, regions, and global networks. This theme invites research in sustainability, efficiency, digitalisation and technological innovation in mobility, aviation, and logistics. Contributions may include, but are not limited to:

## Mobility and Logistics

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- *Multimodal mobility and transport systems*
- *Autonomous cargo operations, drones, and robotic logistics*
- *Sustainable aviation and airport systems*
- *Digital air-traffic management and UTM systems*
- *Logistics, supply chains and urban freight*
- *Traffic optimisation*
- *Mobility-as-a service platforms*
- *Decarbonisation, SAF and hydrogen pathways*
- *Cyber-physical security, digital twins, AI decisioning*
- *Passenger experience and behavioural insights, including:*
  - *handling, biometrics and seamless journeys*
  - *wellbeing, health monitoring and ambient environments*
- *Inclusive and accessible smart mobility, including:*
  - *Air mobility*
  - *eVTOL*
  - *Vertiports*
  - *Urban delivery*

## SOCIO-ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT, DIGITAL ECONOMIES AND FUTURE MARKETS

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Advances in financial technologies, digital finance and new regulatory approaches are enabling the development of future markets and digital economies. This theme invites research on emerging financial technologies and systems, digital financial infrastructure and innovations that shape how financial services are delivered, governed and accessed. Contributions may include, but are not limited to:

### Socio-Economic Empowerment, Digital Economies and Future Markets

- *Client Intelligence, customer services*
- *Sustainable, green finance and transition finance*
- *Payment and market infrastructure innovation*
- *AI-enabled fraud detection and cybersecurity*
- *AI governance and trust in digital economies and systems*
- *Tokenisation, digital and virtual assets, and blockchain*
- *Regulatory technology and digital compliance*
- *Digital identity, trust infrastructure and data portability*
- *Technology for Inclusive economic growth:*
  - *Financial inclusion, and banking accessibility*
  - *Workforce transformation and future skills*
  - *Policy design and empowerment*
  - *Financial wellbeing*
  - *Clearing, settlement, and platform economies*

# 07 OPEN AND SPECULATIVE

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This theme invites impactful research that may not fit within a single theme or that spans multiple themes. The emphasis is on exploratory and interdisciplinary work that advances new ideas and approaches, including investigations into emerging technologies, novel approaches to long-standing challenges, and speculative or future-focused innovation. Contributions may include, but are not limited to:

## Open and Speculative

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- *Cross-disciplinary innovations*
- *Interdisciplinary explorations of new technological frontiers and emerging technologies*
- *Novel approaches to long-standing challenges*
- *Speculative design and future-focused innovation*
- *Unforeseen disruptive technologies*
- *Experimental designs and pilot studies*
- *Interdisciplinary collaborations and cross-sector partnerships*
- *Participatory research and citizen science*
- *Co-design with non-expert stakeholders*
- *Problem-identification and mixed-methods approaches*

## SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

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### Length

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Abstracts should be concise yet substantive, ranging between 200 – 300 words.

Short papers are expected to range between 1500-2000 words and may be illustrated with a limited number of diagrams, charts, drawings and/or photographs where these are integral to explaining the research.

### Language and Formatting

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Submissions must be in English. Detailed formatting guidelines for short papers will be provided upon acceptance.

### Originality & Terms

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Submitted work must be original, not previously published, and submitted exclusively to Prototypes for Humanity. Multiple submissions, simultaneous submissions to other publications or conferences, or close variants of previously published work will be excluded. Additional terms and conditions can be reviewed on the application platform.

### Eligibility

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Participation is open to all teachers or researchers, currently or formerly employed in higher education or industry, with substantial academic or professional experience related to the themes and to their submission. Current PhD research students are not eligible, including while simultaneously holding an academic position. Where a submission is co-authored with one or more authors, the main (presenting) author must meet the eligibility criteria.

### Registration Fee

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Registration is entirely Free.



**SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACT** 

*Deadline: May 22nd, 2026*

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*Abstract Deadline*

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**Nov 15 - 19**  
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