

28th Belgian Congress of Rheumatology

18 - 20 September 2024

Namur



FINAL PROGRAMME



Scientific Organiser

Ellen De Langhe
KUL

Local Organising Committee

Charlotte Baert
Stéphanie Dierckx
Alain Heylen
Pauline Montigny
Catherine Naveau
Isabelle Ronsmans
UCL Namur

Scientific Committee

Philippe Carron, *UGent*
Kurt de Vlam, *KUL*
Patrick Durez, *UCL*
Alla Ishchenko, *ZNA, KUL*
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Laurent Méric de Bellefon, *UCL*
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Kristof Thevissen, *Reumacentrum Genk, UHasselt*
Margot Van Mechelen, *UZA*
Jean-Baptiste Vulsteke, *KUL*
Ruth Wittoek, *UGent*

Congress Secretariat

MediCongress Services

Noorwegenstraat 49
B-9940 Evergem, Belgium
Phone: +32 (0)9 218 85 81
reumato@medicongress.com
www.medicongress.com

medicongress
conference & association management



Dear Colleagues, Dear Friends,

The Royal Belgian Society for Rheumatology takes great pleasure in announcing the **28th Belgian Congress on Rheumatology**, taking place in **Namur** on **18 - 20 September 2024**.

This 28th Congress will be hosted at Namur Expo, situated on the verge of the city centre and within walking distance from the railway station and hotels located in the city centre.

We are proud to announce this year's scientific programme, featuring a well-curated mix of state-of-the-art invited lectures by renowned national and international speakers, Updates in Therapeutics organised with the support of the industry, as well as novel formats including a debate and multidisciplinary panel discussion.

The Call for Abstracts has yielded many interesting submissions and the Scientific Committee has selected the best abstracts, now scheduled in the programme. As in previous years, the spotlight will be on the Thieves' Market: the three most challenging clinical cases will be selected, and the best presentation will be awarded € 750.

We are also excited to introduce a novel concept of interactive workshops on Friday, where clinically oriented challenging cases will be discussed in small groups under the guidance of experts.

Together with the Local Organising Committee and the KBVR-SRBR Board members, we hope to welcome you to BCR'24 in Namur!

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Ellen De Langhe
Scientific Organiser



Young Investigators' Meeting

Chairs: Margot Van Mechelen (UZA) & Charlotte Baert (UCL Namur)

- 10.00 **A1** **Prospective evaluation of capillaroscopy in healthy children**
Tessa Du Four (UZ Gent)
- 10.15 **A2** **Unravelling the paratope sequence of rheumatoid factor**
Jonas De Leeuw (KUL)
- 10.30 **A3** **Investigating the role of DUX4 in the pathology of arthritis: A screen of osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis fibroblast like synoviocytes**
Ellen Luyten (UHasselt)
- 10.45 **A4** **Expression of renal progenitor cells is decreased in lupus nephritis patients**
Antoine Enfrein (UCL)
- 11.00 **A5** **An altered subchondral bone architecture increases the risk of cartilage degradation after trauma**
Renée Van der Cruyssen (VIB-UGent)
- 11.15 **A6** **Cardiorespiratory fitness testing in patients with psoriatic arthritis**
Marlies Kaerts (KUL)
- 11.30 **A7** **STING1 as candidate gene for familial SSc**
Jinine Hatoum (UCL)
- 11.45 **A8** **An exploration of DNA methylation signatures in rheumatoid arthritis**
Elise Beeuwsaert (UGent)

12.00 Welcome Lunch

12.45 **Opening Ceremony**

SESSION 1: Rheumatoid Arthritis

Chairs: Patrick Durez (UCL) & Patrick Verschueren (KUL)

Update in Therapeutics - Organised with an educational grant from Alfasigma

- 13.00 **Managing initial TNFi failure in RA patients: How to PROceed**
James Galloway, King's College London, UK



Abstract Presentations (Ethics and Economy)

- 13.30 **A9** **Smartphone apps to support self-management in patients with rheumatoid arthritis: Primary results of the randomized controlled AEGORA trial**
Michaël Doumen (KUL)
- 13.40 **A10** **Immune checkpoint-induced arthritis: A comprehensive single cohort descriptive analysis from clinical evaluation to histology**
Laurent Méric de Bellefon (CNDG, UCL)
- 13.50 **A11** **Association of HLA DRB107:01 and DQB103:01 haplotypes with systemic sclerosis: Findings from the Belgian Multicentre ESScENT Study**
Anne-Catherine Dens (KUL)
- 14.00 **I1** **Equity in rheumatology healthcare (Ethics and Economy)**
Annelies Boonen, MUMC, Maastricht, The Netherlands

14.30 Coffee Break

SESSION 2: Osteoarthritis

Chairs: Mieke Devinck (AZ Sint-Lucas Brugge) & Xavier Theunssens (GHdC)

Bone & Joint Lecture

- 15.00 **I2** **Osteoarthritis: Recent insights and a perspective on the future**
Rik Lories (KUL)
- 15.30 **Debate: Does OA benefit from a local or a systemic treatment approach?**
Rik Lories (KUL) & Margreet Kloppenburg, LUMC, Leiden, The Netherlands

Abstract Presentations

- 16.15 **A12** **Clinical features of patients with SpA, with or without IBD: Results from the METEOR cohort**
Manouk de Hooe (UZ Gent)
- 16.25 **A13** **Tofacitinib and baricitinib alleviate metabolic dysregulation, inflammation and fibrosis in osteoarthritis: Insights from human joint cells and synovium**
Olivier Malaise (CHU de Liège)
- 16.35 **A14** **MRI-based synthetic CT is superior to conventional MRI for the detection of structural lesions in postpartum women after 5 year follow-up**
Manouk de Hooe (VIB-UGent)



- 16.45 Coffee Break
- SESSION 3: Ethics and Economy**
Chairs: Stéphanie Dierckx (UCL Namur) & Charlotte Baert (UCL Namur)
- 17.30 **I3** **Challenges ahead in outpatient medicine in Belgium: A point of view from VBS-GBS**
Stan Politis, President VBS-GBS
- 18.00 **I4** **Reforming the nomenclature: State of play and impact for rheumatologists**
Jo De Cock, former CEO of RIZIV/INAMI and former chair of commission medical doctors and health insurance funds
- 18.30 **Update from BRV-AMRB**
Philip Remans, President BRV-AMRB
- 18.45 **Update from ReumaNet/CLAIR and BeHPR**
Veerle De Pourcq (ReumaNet)
Véronique Frennet (CLAIR)
Thanny Bries (BeHPR)
- 19.00 **I5** **AI innovations in Rheumatology: Applications of large language models**
Marie Binignat, Sorbonne University, Paris, France
- 19.30 Adjourn



- SESSION 4: CTD-ILD**
Moderator: Ellen De Langhe (KUL)
- Abstract Presentations**
- 08.30 **A15** **Ultrasound guided core needle biopsy of the parotid gland: A reliable technique in the work up of primary Sjögren's Disease**
Helena Achten (VIB-UGent)
- 08.40 **A16** **Lung involvement in early rheumatoid arthritis, analysis of ERA UCLouvain Brussels FINDRA cohort**
Antoine Froidure (UCL)
- 08.50 **A17** **Ultrasonography for day-to-day clinical use: Construction of a simple discriminator between healthy skin and thickened systemic sclerosis skin**
Nathalie Berghen (UZ Gent)
- Update in Therapeutics - Organised with an educational grant from Pfizer**
- 09.00 **Lungs on Fire: A case-based multidisciplinary discussion (part 1): How to diagnose and monitor?**
Yves Piette (UGent, AZ Sint-Jan Brugge – Oostende) & Johny Verschakelen (KUL)
- Update in Therapeutics - Organised with an educational grant from Boehringer-Ingelheim**
- 09.30 **Lungs on Fire: A case-based multidisciplinary discussion (part 2): How to treat?**
Vanessa Smith (UGent), Antoine Froidure (UCL) & Wim Wuyts (KUL)
- 10.10 Sharing of the QR code to vote for KBVR/SRBR board members
- 10.15 Coffee Break



SESSION 5: Systemic diseases

Chairs: Jan Lenaerts (Reumainstituut Hasselt, UZ Leuven) & Christian Von Frenckell (CHU de Liège)

- 10.45 16 **Vesalius Lecture**
The moving field of SLE: The perspective of a lupologist
 Frédéric Houssiau (UCL)
- 11.15 17 **CAR-T cells, a new horizon for autoimmunity?**
 Georg Schett, Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany
- 11.45 **Update in Therapeutics - Organised with an educational grant from AbbVie**
How cytokine networks fuel inflammation: Towards a cytokine-based taxonomy Ten years later: A perspective on the future of IMIDS?
 Georg Schett, Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany
- 12.15 **General Assembly**
- 12.45 Lunch Break
- 13.45 **Poster Viewing**
- 14.15 **FWRO Award Ceremony**
 René Westhovens (KUL)

SESSION 6: Spondyloarthritis

Chairs: Barbara Neerinckx (KUL) & Kathleen De Knop (GZA)

- 14.45 **Update in Therapeutics - Organised with an educational grant from Lilly**
Assessing and treating psoriasis: more than scratching the surface
 Peter van de Kerkhof, Radboud University, Nijmegen, The Netherlands
- 15.15 **Update in Therapeutics - Organised with an educational grant from UCB**
Swift resolution of inflammation: The holy grail?
 Filip Van den Bosch (UGent)
- 15.45 18 **Clinical assessment of hypermobility disorders**
 Marijn Vis, Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
- 16.15 Coffee Break



SESSION 7: Bone and Joint Health

Chairs: Kurt de Vlam (KUL) & Olivier Malaise (CHU de Liège)

- 16.45 19 **How to tackle rebound in osteoporosis**
 Serge Ferrari, University of Geneva, Switzerland
- 17.15 **Update in Therapeutics - Organised with an educational grant from Amgen**
The link between inflammatory disorders and coronary heart disease: Where cardiology and rheumatology meet: A perspective on the future
 Nehal N. Mehta, The George Washington University, Washington, USA
- Abstract Presentations**
- 17.45 A18 **An atlas of the synovium in knee osteoarthritis: Fibroblast activation defines disease progression**
 Eric Gracey (VIB-UGent)
- 17.55 A19 **The pathological role of a novel autoantibody biomarker in therapy response in a mouse model of arthritis**
 Sukayna Fadlallah (UHasselt)
- 18.05 A20 **Deep cellular profiling reveals a pathological fibroblast population in human Achilles tendinopathy**
 Guillaume Planckaert (VIB-UGent)
- 18.15 Adjourn



Workshops

09.00 - 09.45 Workshops 1 - 4

09.45 - 10.00 Transfer time

10.00 - 10.45 Workshops 1 - 4

Workshop 1 – Organised with an educational grant from Lilly
Challenging PsO cases: Clinical myths and pearls workshop
 Peter van de Kerkhof, Radboud University, Nijmegen, The Netherlands

Workshop 2 – Organised with an educational grant from AbbVie
Challenging imaging cases in PsA : Tips, tricks and pitfalls
 Lennart Jans (UGent)

Workshop 3 – Organised with an educational grant from Alfasigma
Challenging RA cases: Interactive case discussions
 Peggy Jacques (UGent)

Workshop 4 – Organised with an educational grant from Amgen
Challenging osteoporosis cases: beyond postmenopausal osteoporosis: Meet the expert
 Serge Ferrari, University of Geneva, Switzerland

10.45 Coffee Break

SESSION 8: Closing Session: The past, present and future of Belgian rheumatology
 Chairs: Jan Lenaerts (Reumainstituut Hasselt, UZ Leuven) & Laurent Méric de Bellefon (CNDG, UCL)

11.15 **I10** **New kids on the block in the treatment of ANCA vasculitis**
 Frédéric Vandergheynst (ULB)

11.45 **Year in Review**
 Olivier Malaise (CHU de Liège)



Thieves' Market: Best Clinical Case Contest - Young (future) Rheumatologists

12.15 **A21** **A case of granulomatous disease evolving at a sluggish pace misdiagnosed as sarcoidosis**
 Nele Verbeuren (VUB)

12.15 **A22** **It started with a foot drop**
 Josefien Van Leeuwen (AZ Sint-Jan Brugge)

12.15 **A23** **Refractory seronegative rheumatoid arthritis: Trust your gut feeling**
 Elke Decommer (UZ Leuven)

12.45 Voting & Thieves' Market Award Presentation

13.00 Closure of the Congress

13.15 Farewell Lunch

Crash course voor reumaverpleegkundigen: Waarom behandelen we reumatische aandoeningen

Georganiseerd met een educatieve beurs van Novartis

- 08.30 **Anatomie gezond/ reumatisch gewricht, pijn**
Fleur Boelhouwers, Reumacentrum Genk
- Artritis vs. artrose, treat to target**
Gaëlle Varkas, UGent
- 14.00 **Impact van reumatische aandoeningen**
Patiëntenverenigen, Patient Partner Program en Patient Experts

The crash course is sold out.

Thursday 19 September

Meeting for Health Professionals in Rheumatology – Morning

- 08.45 Registration*
- 09.00 Welcome
- Session 1**
Chair: Deborah Defranck
- 09.15 **Elevate your impact: Mastering good clinical practices**
Sanne D'hondt (PhD), HIRUZ, UZ Gent
- 10.00 **Navigating the decision tree: Optimizing biologicals in rheumatology**
Louis Van Praet, AZ Sint-Jan Brugge
- 10.45 Coffee break
- Session 2**
Chair: Tanja De Bruyn
- 11.00 **The multidisciplinary team: What does your team look like?**
Interactive session
- 11.45 **The power of experience: The importance of patient experts in healthcare**
Veerle De Pourcq, ReumaNet, Coordinator Patient Expertise

- 12.15 Lunch & Networking

Meeting for Health Professionals in Rheumatology - Afternoon

- Session 3**
Chair: Thanny Bries
- 13.15 **Cutting-edge insights: The latest vaccine updates in rheumatology**
Sam Beeckman, AZ Sint-Jan Brugge
- 14.15 **Heart matters: Understanding cardiovascular risk in rheumatology patients**
Laurent Méric de Bellefon, Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc
- 15.00 Coffee Break
- Session 4**
Chair: Nele Ooms
- 15.15 **Highlight from EULAR 2024**
Diederik De Cock, VUB
- 15.30 **Focus on RA, patient-reported outcomes & mHealth**
Michaël Doumen (PhD), KULeuven
- 15.45 **'My knee is bone on bone!' How can communication and education impact self-management of people with osteoarthritis?**
Céline Labie (PhD), KULeuven
- 16.30 **Closing and a safe trip back home**

*Registration (including coffee breaks and lunch) is free of charge, but obligatory

Registration



Registration Fees

| | EARLY Until 31 August | LATE As of 1 September |
|---|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Member KBVR-SRBR | € 300,00 | € 400,00 |
| Non Member | € 400,00 | € 500,00 |
| Emeritus | € 50,00 | € 75,00 |
| Researcher non-MD* | € 50,00 | € 75,00 |
| Trainee in Rheumatology* | € 50,00 | € 75,00 |
| Other Trainee* | € 75,00 | € 100,00 |
| Congress Dinner | € 75,00 | € 75,00 |
| Health Professionals' Meeting on Thursday 19 September | Free | Free |

*Please upload a copy of your student card or a certificate of your director. Without proof the non-member fee will be charged.

The registration fee for participants includes

- Participation in all scientific sessions
- Participation in the 'Updates in Therapeutics' organised by the Industry
- Participation in the Workshops on Friday morning
- Congress bag with the Programme and congress related documents
- Access to the exhibition (MDs only)
- Lunches and coffee breaks
- Walking Dinner on Wednesday

Cancellations

Participants canceling their registration before 1 September 2024, will receive a full refund, less administration costs (€ 50,00 for members and non-members and € 25,00 for trainees, researchers and emeriti). There will be no refunds for cancellations received after this date. Cancellations must be confirmed in writing to the Organising Secretariat. All refunds will be processed after the Congress.

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