21st Belgian Congress on Rheumatology
27 - 29 September 2017
Belfry, Bruges

Scientific Organiser
Valérie Badot

Local Organising Committee
Philippe Carron
Mieke Devinck
Yves Piette

Preliminary Programme

www.rheumacongress.be
Welcome Address

Dear colleagues,

The Royal Belgian Society for Rheumatology takes great pleasure in inviting you to attend the 21st Belgian Congress on Rheumatology, taking place in Bruges on 27-29 September, 2017.

The congress will take place at the impressive Belfry, located on the market square. Situated in the very heart of the city, this medieval bell tower with its carillon of 47 melodious bells will be the unique setting for the 21st edition of our annual Congress.

The scientific programme has been coordinated by Valérie Badot, who has put together a varied and interesting programme with state-of-the-art keynote lectures and oral communications. Furthermore, a poster tour, 4 workshops for early risers and 10 Updates in Therapeutics are scheduled. The ‘Thieves Market’ is also scheduled again this year.

We hope to welcome you to BCR’17 in Bruges and remain,

Yours sincerely,

Philippe Carron
Mieke Devinck
Yves Piette

Local Organising Committee
Wednesday, September 27

Young Investigator Meeting
Chairs: Kristof Thevissen (AZ Alma & ZOL Genk), Muriel Stubbe (OLV Aalst) and Silvia Monteagudo (KUL)

10.00 The paracaspase MALT1 plays a central role in the pathogenesis of rheumatoid arthritis
Elisabeth Gilis, Jens Staal, Rudi Beyaert, Dirk Elewaut

10.15 RORyt inhibition selectively targets pathogenic subsets of human iNKT and γδ-T cells enriched in spondyloarthritis while preserving tissue protective IL-22 responses
Koen Venken, Mark E. Labadia, Peggy Jacques, Tine Decruy, Julie Coudenys, Kathleen Hoyt, Sofie Van Gassen, Joseph Wahle, Gaëlle Varkas, Heleen Cypers, Philippe Carron, Serge Van Calenbergh, Filip Van Den Bosch, Yvan Saeys, Gerald Nabozny, Dirk Elewaut

10.30 Inclusion of anti-DFS70 Ab identification in the diagnostic algorithm of ANA: One year of experience
Mathieu Cauchie, Muriel Stubbe, Stefanie Van den Bremt, Bert Vander Cruyssen, Xavier Bossuyt, Lieve Van Hoovels

10.45 DOT1L inhibition reduces the pro-fibrotic effects of TGFβ in primary human dermal fibroblasts on gene expression level and it increases their viability
Nathalie Berghen, Ellen De Langhe, Rik Lories

11.00 Repositioning suramin as a cartilage-protective drug
Laura-An Guns, Silvia Monteagudo, Maryna Kvasnytsia, Greet Kerckhofs, Jennifer Vandooren, Ghislain Opdenakker, Rik J. Lories, Frédéric Cailotto

11.15 A phage display screen for novel theranostic autoantibodies in rheumatoid arthritis
Patrick Vandormael, Dana Quaden, Patrick Verschueren, Veerle Somers

11.30 SMOC2, a secreted calcium-binding protein affects chondrogenic differentiation of precursor cells and cartilage homeostasis via modulation of the Wnt signaling
Tine Peeters, Rik Lories, Frédéric Cailotto

11.45 Gut-derived TNF as risk factor for the development of sacroiliac inflammation
Karijn Debusschere, Heleen Cypers, Peggy Jacques, Filip Van den Bosch, D. Souza, M. Brown, Gerald Nabozny, Dirk Elewaut

Wednesday, September 27

12.00 Welcome Lunch

12.30 Opening Ceremony

SESSION 1
Chairs: Frédéric Houssiau (UCL) and Rik Joos (ZNA & UGent)

12.50 Vesalius Lecture
Management of antiphospholipid syndrome
Munther Kamashta, London, UK

13.35 Abstract Presentations

Glucocorticoid withdrawal in an inception cohort of lupus nephritis patients
Séverine Wautier, Farah Tamirou, Séverine Nieuwland-Husson, Frédéric A. Houssiau

Syndecan-1 loss at the surface of renal tubular cells amplifies inflammation-induced tubular damage and renal function impairment in lupus nephritis
Cristina Pamfil, Pauline Montigny, C. Galant, Aurélie De Groof, Frédéric A. Houssiau, Bernard R. Lauweys

Evaluation of the detection of myositis-specific antibodies by lineblot as a tool for characterization of a prospective multicenter cohort
Caroline Bonray, Yves Piette, Joke Dehoorne, Jan De Bleecker, Maxime De Sloovere, Liesbet Van Praet, An-Sofie Vander Mijnsbrugge, Peggy Jacques, Sten Vandendriessche, Matthieu Versaevel, Filip De Keyser, Vanessa Smith

14.05 FWRO/FRSR award ceremony
Xavier Janssens, Gent

14.30 Update in Therapeutics – Organised with an educational grant from Roche
Treatment strategies in juvenile idiopathic arthritis
Joke Dehoorne, UGent

15.00 Coffee Break
**Wednesday, September 27**

**SESSION 2**
Chairs: Isabelle Peene (AZ Sint-Jan) and Valérie Badot

15.30 **Clinical assessment of patients with idiopathic inflammatory myopathies**  
Ingrid Lundberg, Stockholm, Sweden

16.00 **Hot topics in lupus nephritis: so many exciting advances**  
Farah Tamirou, UCL

16.30 **Update in Therapeutics – Organised with an educational grant from Celgene**  
Dactylitis: A medical challenge in spondyloarthropathies  
Filip Van den Bosch, UGent

17.00 **Update in Therapeutics – Organised with an educational grant from Sanofi-Genzyme**  
Is there a best second biologic in RA?  
Jacques-Eric Gottenberg, Strasbourg, France

17.30 Walking Dinner

**SESSION 3 - Ethics & Economy**
Chairs: Philippe Carron (UGent, AZ Alma), Mieke Devinck (AZ Sint-Lucas) and Yves Piette (AZ Sint-Jan, UZ Gent)

19.00 **Burn-out for dummies**  
Arnout Van den Bossche

19.45 **Patients before paperwork: Panel discussion**  
Moderator: Marleen Finoulst (Editor-in-chief Bodytalk; Coordinator website www.gezondheidewetenschap.be)

Panelists: Jo De Cock (RIZIV-INAMI), Philipe Berkein (Bond Moyson), Guido Herman (Federal Ombudsman), Mitchell Silva (ReumaNet), Filip Van Den Bosch (Rheumatologist)

22.00 End of Day 1

**Thursday, September 28**

07.15 **Workshop 1**  
Hands-on ultrasound imaging of the wrist  
Philippe Carron (UGent, AZ Alma), Anne Durnez (UCL, AZ Jan Portaels Vilvoorde), Maria-José Fernandez (Centre Medicis, UZ Antwerpen), Jan Lenaerts (KUL, Reuma-Instituut Hasselt), Laurent Méric de Bellefon (UCL, CNDD, CHU Saint-Pierre Brussels), Maria S. Stoenoiu (UCL)  
On behalf of the Belgian Young Rheumatologists group (BYRc)

Over the past few years, important progress has been made in the field of ultrasound, allowing it to become a very powerful tool in daily rheumatology practice. Accordingly, ultrasound has now been introduced in the core curriculum of rheumatology training in most EU countries. The scope of this workshop is to improve practical skills in ultrasound imaging of the wrist.

**Workshop 2**  
PASI and psoriatic score use in rheumatology  
Laure Tant (ULB) and Farida Benhadou (ULB)

**SESSION 4**
Chairs: Ellen De Langhe (KUL) and Marie Vanthuyne (UCL)

08.30 **Abstract Presentations**

The low-dose intravenous cyclophosphamide Euro-Lupus regimen does not impact the ovarian reserve of lupus patients, as measured by serum anti-Mullerian hormone levels  
Farah Tamirou, Séverine Nieuwland-Husson, Damien Gruson, Frédéric Debiève, Bernard R. Lauwerys, Frédéric A. Houssiau

Autoantibodies to two novel peptides in seronegative and early rheumatoid arthritis  
Liesbeth De Winter, Wendy Hansen, Hanna W. van Steenbergen, Piet Geusens, Jan Lenaerts, Klaartje Somers, Piet Stinissen, Annette H. M. van der Helm-van Mil, Veerle Somers

Sustained effectiveness after remission induction with methotrexate and step-down glucocorticoids (COBRA Slim) in patients with early rheumatoid arthritis following a treat-to-target strategy: 2 year data from the CareRA study  
Veerle Stouven, Johan Joly, Diederik De Cock., Sofia Pazmino, Kristien Van der Elst, René Westhovens, Patrick Verschueren
Thursday, September 28

09.00  Optimal management of patients with systemic sclerosis
       Vanessa Smith, UGent

09.50  Coffee Break

SESSION 5
Chairs: Patrick Durez (UCL) an Ilse Hoffman (GZA)

10.30  Belgian Rheumatology in Review
       Peggy Jacques (UGent) and Jan Lenaerts (KUL, Reuma-Instituut Hasselt)

11.00  Update in Therapeutics – Organised with an educational grant from Janssen-Cilag
       Treatment strategies in early RA
       Patrick Verschueren, KUL

11.30  Update in Therapeutics – Organised with an educational grant from Novartis
       Novel therapies in SpA
       Rik Lories, KUL

12.00  Lunch

13.00  Poster Tour

14.00  General Assembly

SESSION 6
Chairs: Christian Von Frenckel (ULG) and Marco Hirsch (ZithaKlinik Luxembourg)

14.30  Autoinflammatory disorders: From gene to therapy
       Carine Wouters, KUL

15.10  Update in Therapeutics – Organised with an educational grant from Pfizer
       Restoring immune homeostasis in RA
       Bernard Combe, Montpellier, France

15.40  Coffee Break

Thursday, September 28

SESSION 7
Chairs: Patrick Verschueren (KUL) and Pierre De Marneffe (CHR Huy)

16.15  Abstract Presentations

  Disease activity evolution in the CareRA cohort: A detailed component analysis
  Sofia Pazmino, René Westhovens, Johan Joly, Veerle Stouten, Kristien Van der Elst, Patrick Verschueren

  Non OMERACT -expert Rheumatologists sonographers and inter-ultrasound machine reliability of the OMERACT Ultrasound Scoring in Rheumatoid arthritis in a clinical-based setting: A Belgian study
  Jean-Philippe Hauzeur, Marie-Joëlle Kaiser, Jacques Bentin, Jean-Pierre Brasseur, Béatrice André, Philippe Carron, Etienne Deflandre, Elena Dragan, Cécile Mbona, Catherine Naveau, Clio Ribbens, Charline Rinkin, Ruth Wittoek for the Belgian Group of Ultrasoneography in Rheumatology, SRBR, Maria-Antonietta d’Agostino, Viviane De Maertelaer

  Ultrasound lesions underlying dactylitis are associated with patient-reported outcomes
  Adrien Nzeusseu Toukap, T. Kirchgesner, P. Navarro Guerra, F. Lecouvet, Anne Durnez, Maria S. Stoenoiu

  Use of biological therapies during pregnancy
  Catherine Nelson-Piercy, London, UK

16.45  Update in Therapeutics – Organised with an educational grant from AbbVie

17.15  Official opening of the first virtual symposium on rheumatology in Belgium
       Gerd Jacobs (President of ReumaNet)

17.25  End of Day 2
Friday, September 29

07.15 Workshop 3
Joint and soft tissue injections
Yves Piette (AZ Sint-Jan, UGent) and Laurent Méric de Bellefon
(UGent, CNDG, CHU Saint-Pierre Brussels)

Workshop 4
Autoantibodies for dummies
Isabelle Peene (AZ Sint-Jan)

SESSION 8
Chairs: Anne Durnez (UCL, CHIREC, AZ Jan Portaels) and
Valérie Gangji (ULB)

08.30 Osteoporosis: New recommendations on fracture prevention
Piet Geusens, Genk, UHasselt & Maastricht, The Netherlands

09.10 Abstract Presentations

High drug-free remission in early peripheral spondyloarthritis after
induction therapy with golimumab
Philippe Carron, Gaëlle Varkas, Heleen Cypers, Liesbet Van Praet,
Dirk Elewaut, Filip Van den Bosch and on behalf of the CRESPA-investigators

Effect of mechanical stress on magnetic resonance imaging of the
sacroiliac joints: The Assessment of military Recruits by Magnetic
resonance Imaging (ARMI) study
Gaëlle Varkas, Manouk de Hooge, Thomas Renson, Sophie De Mits,
Philippe Carron, Peggy Jacques, Muriel Moris, G. Souverijns, Lennart Jans,
Dirk Elewaut, Filip Van den Bosch

Needle arthroscopy of the knee: complication rate, short term articular
effects, and rate of tissue contamination
Kristel Van Landuyt, Patrick Verschueren

09.40 Bone and Joint Lecture
Mesenchymal stem cell therapy in rheumatology
Christian Jorgensen, Montpellier, France

10.30 Update in Therapeutics – Organised with an educational grant from MSD
Treatment persistence from both patient and physician perspectives
Thao Pham, Marseille, France

11.00 Coffee Break

Friday, September 29

SESSION 9
Chairs: Dirk Elewaut (UGent) and Bernard Lauwerys (UCL)

11.30 Thieves Market
An infected abdominal aortic aneurysm presenting as a septic arthritis
Steven Van Offel, Elke Geens, Michiel Schils, Ruth Wittoek, Kurt De Vlam,
Rik Joos

Severe panniculitis and polyarthritis in an old man
Marc Plier, Alexandros Rapitis, Maria Stoenoiu, Adrien Nzeusseu,
Frédéric Houssiau, Patrick Durez

Paraneoplastic acral vascular syndrome: Presentation of 2 cases
Inge Vanassche, Filip De Keyser, Dirk Elewaut, Saskia Decuman,
Filip Van den Bosch, Herman Mielants, Vanessa Smith

12.00 Update in Therapeutics – Organised with an educational grant from BMS
Immune checkpoints and rheumatic diseases: What can cancer immuno-
therapy teach us
Timothy R.D.J. Radstake, Utrecht, The Netherlands

12.30 Update in Therapeutics – Organised with an educational grant from Eli Lilly
The unmet need in RA management
Ernest Choy, Cardiff, UK

13.00 Closure of the Congress

13.10 Farewell Lunch

14.00 KBVR-SRBR Board Meeting
Meeting for Health Professionals in Rheumatology - Morning
Organised by the Belgian Health Professionals in Rheumatology (BHPR) vzw/asbl
Chairpersons: Kristien Van der Elst (KU Leuven) and Pauline Hoellinger (University Hospital Saint-Luc)

08.15 Registration*

08.50 Welcome to the Health Professionals in Rheumatology Meeting
Kristien Van der Elst, Rheumatology Nurse; PhD-student; Skeletal Biology and Engineering Research Center, Department of Development and Regeneration, KU Leuven
Pauline Hoellinger, Occupational therapist; Rheumatology and Orthopedics, University Hospital Saint-Luc; ISEI, Haute Ecole Léonard de Vince, Brussels

09.00 Patient-led projects in rheumatology: An update from ReumaNet vzw
Gerd Jacobs, Chair ReumaNet vzw

What’s hot in Rheumatology? Part I
Illness perceptions in systemic diseases: A summary
Seher Arat, Rheumatology Nurse, PhD-student; Skeletal Biology and Engineering Research Center, KU Leuven

09.35 Co-design of a mobile application for patients with axial spondylo-arthritis
Jonas Geuens, Engineer, PhD-student; Electrical Engineering (ESAT) TC, Group-T, KU Leuven

09.50 The power of food supplements in rheumatology: Evidence-based nutritional advice in clinical practice
Sofie De Clercq, Dietician, Fly-Over center, Ghent

10.15 Coffee Break

10.45 How to implement evidence-based practice for health professionals in rheumatology
Thanny Bries, Rheumatology Nurse, REUMA instituut, Hasselt

Pharmacological therapies

11.00 Biologics versus Biosimilars: A survey among patients and rheumatologists
Eline van Overbeeke, PhD researcher; Clinical Pharmacology and Pharmacotherapy, KU Leuven

11.15 Panel discussion (moderator: Eline van Overbeeke)
René Westhovens, Rheumatologist, Chair covenant biosimilars, RIZIV
Karien Claes, Nurse specialist, Ghent university hospital,
Wouter De Bock, Rheumatologist, GZA hospitals
Bruno Mattelaer, Patient Organization ReumaNet, Industry
Liese Barbier, Pharmacist, Researcher, KU Leuven

11.45 Lunch Break and Networking

Meeting for Health Professionals in Rheumatology - Afternoon
Organised by the Belgian Health Professionals in Rheumatology (BHPR) vzw/asbl
Chairpersons: Kristien Van der Elst (KU Leuven) and Pauline Hoellinger (University Hospital Saint-Luc)

13.15 General Assembly Belgian Health Professionals in Rheumatology vzw/asbl
(welcome -and a must do- to all)
- Projects from BeHPR vzw: e-learning in rheumatology
- New board election
- Discussion on working groups

Workshop

14.00 Motivation by negotiation: Lessons for rheumatology from the crime scene
Speaker TBC

15.00 Coffee Break

15.20 What’s hot in Rheumatology? Part II
Message from the lab: Interpretation of laboratory parameters for clinicians
Ellen De Langhe, Rheumatologist, Professor; Division of rheumatology, University Hospitals Leuven, Skeletal Biology and Engineering Research Center, KU Leuven

15.55 Closing discussion and future congress
Kristien Van der Elst, Pauline Hoellinger and new chair BeHPR vzw

*Free of charge: Includes registration, coffee breaks and lunch. Pre-registration, however, is mandatory. To register, send an email to thijs.swinnen@uzleuven.be
**Registration**

**Registration Fees**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>EARLY</th>
<th>LATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Until 31 August</td>
<td>As of 1 September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Members KBVR-SRBR</td>
<td>€ 150,00</td>
<td>€ 250,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non Members</td>
<td>€ 250,00</td>
<td>€ 350,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trainees in Rheumatology*</td>
<td>€ 50,00</td>
<td>€ 75,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Trainees*</td>
<td>€ 75,00</td>
<td>€ 100,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Researchers non-MD*</td>
<td>€ 50,00</td>
<td>€ 75,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emeriti</td>
<td>€ 50,00</td>
<td>€ 75,00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Workshops**

|                      | Free | Free          |

* Registration as a trainee or researcher non-MD will only be accepted if accompanied by a copy of your student card or a certificate of your director (proof to be uploaded during the registration process). Without proof the non-member fee will be charged.
** Participation in the workshops is free of charge and is limited to 30 participants (25 for WS1).

The registration fee for participants includes
- Participation in all scientific sessions
- Participation in the hands-on workshops (separate registration required, limited to 30 participants; 25 for Workshop 1)
- Participation in the ‘Updates in Therapeutics’ organised by the Industry
- Congress bag with the Programme and Abstracts, tourist info and congress related documents
- Access to the exhibition
- Lunches and coffee breaks

**Hotel Accommodation**

A number of hotel rooms have been booked at special group rates, including breakfast and VAT. You can reserve your hotel room through the online registration form.

The below rates are only valid for reservations made through Medicongress.

Any requests for hotel accommodation must be accompanied by a credit card number, in order to secure the room. This credit card will not be charged by the organisers but only serves as a reservation guarantee.

Participants will have to pay their hotel room and personal expenses at the reception of the hotel. In case of late cancellation or no show, the room will be charged on the credit card.

**Hotel Academie**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Wednesday &amp; Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single Room</td>
<td>€ 105,00</td>
<td>€ 120,00</td>
<td>€ 150,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Double Room</td>
<td>€ 120,00</td>
<td>€ 135,00</td>
<td>€ 165,00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**City tax**

€ 2,12/person/night

**Cancellation Policy**

Rooms can be cancelled free of charge until 7 days before arrival. Rooms cancelled later will be charged at 100%.

**Hotel Martin’s Brugge**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Wednesday &amp; Thursday</th>
<th>Friday &amp; Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single Room</td>
<td>€ 115,00</td>
<td>€ 135,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Double Room</td>
<td>€ 125,00</td>
<td>€ 145,00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**City tax**

€ 2,12/person/night

**Cancellation Policy**

Rooms can be cancelled free of charge until 48 hours before arrival. Rooms cancelled later will be charged at 100%.

**How to register**

You can register online through the congress website www.rheumacongress.be. Click on ‘Registration’ for details and access to the online registration form. When your registration is completed successfully, you will receive an automatic confirmation. You can also print an invoice when you finalise your online registration.

**Changes/Name Substitutions**

You will receive a personal link in your final confirmation email. With this link it will be possible to make changes or transfer your registration to a colleague free of charge.

**Cancellations**

Participants canceling their registration before 1 September 2017, will receive a full refund, less € 50,00 administration costs. 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.
Major Sponsors

AbbVie

Bristol-Myers Squibb
Together we can prevail.

Celgene

Lilly

Janssen

MSD

Novartis

Pfizer

Roche

Sanofi Genzyme