

Bench meets bedside:

A scientific networking event in translational neuro-research

6th of November, 2024

Campus Drie Eiken, building Q (Foyer & Promotiezaal)

Final program

16:00 Introduction & welcome

Dr. Liesbeth Vanherp (Research Manager μ NEURO Research Center of Excellence)
Prof. dr Jonathan Baets (Head of Neurology Department, UZA)

16:15 Research highlights from clinical and fundamental research teams – part 1

16:15 Movement disorders

Introduction clinical team	Prof. Dr. David Crosiers (UZA & UAntwerp, Translational Neurosciences)
Research highlight	Kaat Colman (UZA & UAntwerp, Translational Neurosciences) <i>From Past Discoveries to Future Directions: Evolving Biomarker Strategies for Early Diagnosis of Parkinson's Disease and Related Alpha-Synucleinopathies</i>
Introduction fundamental team	Prof. Dr. Daniele Bertoglio (UAntwerp, Bio-Imaging Lab)
Research highlight	Claudia Schrauwen (UAntwerp, Bio-Imaging Lab) <i>Preclinical longitudinal in vivo imaging of tissue volume alterations and synaptic density as non-invasive biomarkers for spinal cord injury</i>

16:45 Neuromuscular Disorders

Introduction clinical & fundamental team	Prof. Dr. Jonathan Baets (UZA & UAntwerp, Translational Neurosciences) <i>Hereditary neuromuscular disorders using the patient as a disease model</i>
Research highlight	Dr. Jonathan De Winter (UZA & UAntwerp, Translational Neurosciences) <i>Clinical insights into distal weakness syndromes</i>
Research highlight	Dr. Liedewei Van De Vondel (UAntwerp, Translational Neurosciences) <i>Novel genetic discoveries and techniques drive biological insights</i>

17:15 Stroke and traumatic brain injury

Introduction clinical team	Prof. Dr. Laetitia Yperzele (UZA & UAntwerp, Translational Neurosciences)
Research highlight	Amber Van Hinsberg (UAntwerp, MOVANT/REVAKI) <i>Investigating the relationship between neural changes and individual balance- and gait impairments during the recovery poststroke</i>
Introduction team	Prof. Dr. Pieter Van Dyck (UZA, Radiology & UAntwerp, MIRA)
Research highlight	Dr. Thijs Vande Vyvere (UZA, Radiology & UAntwerp, MIRA) <i>Imaging of traumatic brain injury</i>

17:45 Short break with coffee

18:15 Research highlights from clinical and fundamental research teams – part 2

18:15 Neuro-inflammation

Introduction clinical team	Prof. Dr. Barbara Willekens (UZA & UAntwerp, Translational Neurosciences)
Research highlight	Dr. Anna-Victoria De Keersmaecker (UZA & UAntwerp, Translational Neurosciences) <i>The MACSIMISE-BRAIN study</i>
Introduction fundamental team	Prof. dr. Samir Kumar-Singh, Prof. Dr. An Hotterbeekx (UAntwerp, Laboratory of Cell Biology and Histology)
Research highlight	Prof. dr. Kumar-Singh (UAntwerp, Laboratory of Cell Biology and Histology) <i>Post-stroke immune alterations in the brain and peripheral system</i>

18:45 Epilepsy and neurodevelopment

Introduction clinical team	Prof. Dr. Sarah Weckhuysen (UZA & VIB-CMN) & Dr. Marije Meuwissen (UZA & UAntwerp, MEDGEN)
Research highlight	Dr. Hannah Stamberger (UZA & VIB-CMN) <i>Natural History Study in STXBP1-Developmental and Epileptic Encephalopathy</i>
Introduction fundamental team	Prof. Dr. Sarah Weckhuysen (VIB-CMN, Applied and Translational Neurogenomics Group) & Prof. Dr. Tommas Ellender (Experimental Neurobiology Unit)
Research highlight	Noortje Zonnekeijn (VIB-CMN and Experimental Neurobiology Unit) <i>Investigating KCNQ2-encephalopathies using brain cells in a dish</i>

19:15 Dementia

Introduction clinical team	Dr. Sara Van Mossevelde (UZA)
Research highlight	Dr. Elisabeth Hendrickx – Van De Craen (UZA) <i>Overlap in genetics in Alzheimer's disease and CAA</i>
Introduction fundamental team	Prof. Dr. Winnok De Vos (UAntwerp, Laboratory of Cell Biology and Histology)
Research highlight	Dr. Peter Verstraelen (UAntwerp, Laboratory of Cell Biology and Histology) <i>Serum amyloids as potential neurodegenerative disease mediators along the microbiome-gut-brain axis</i>

20:00 Reception with walking dinner

Including guided networking