

DISORDERS OF BRAIN DEVELOPMENT SYMPOSIUM PROGRAMME

📅 Friday, 23 October, 2026

📍 Auditorium Kinsbergen, route 12, UZA, Antwerp

8:30 – 9:15

Registration

9:15 – 9:25

Opening remarks by Prof Dr Anna Jansen

9:25 – 9:55

Prof Dr Stéphanie Baulac (Paris Brain Institute, Paris, France)

Brain mosaicism in epilepsy and cortical malformations

9:55

Jessica Rosenblum: *Transcriptome analysis of cortical malformations: building disease signatures*

10:10

Zakaria Eddafir: *Long-read genome sequencing resolves complex structural variants in exome-negative developmental and epileptic encephalopathy*

10:25

Kirsten Stam: *Antagonistic effects of Fat4 and Dchs1 on RhoA activity, neuronal migration, and dendritogenesis*

10:40 – 11:00

Coffee break

11:00

Noortje Zonnekeijn: *Modeling KCNQ2 encephalopathy using iPSC-derived excitatory-inhibitory neuronal networks*

11:15

Dr Matthias De Wachter: *4-aminopyridine in KCNA2-GOF-related DEE: the challenges of precision medicine in clinical practice*

11:30 – 12:00

Elly Lewerissa (Nael Nadif Kasri Lab, Radboudumc, Nijmegen, The Netherlands)

CHD2 links lysosomal function to the timing of human brain development

12:00 – 13:00

Lunch



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13:00	Prof Dr Sarah Weckhuysen (VIB Antwerp) Developmental adaptation and therapeutic windows in KCNQ2-related developmental and epileptic encephalopathy: from models to patients
13:20	Lara Colombo (FunGen Lab, UGent) Systematic comparative analysis of 3D genome structure between neuronal and clinically accessible tissues highlights tissue-specific chromatin features at disease loci
13:40	Rachel Schot (Erasmus MC) The Erasmus MC Discovery Unit experience: solving undiagnosed cases
14:00 – 14:30	Prof Dr Verónica Martínez-Cerdeño (UC Davis, California, USA) Interneuron deficiencies in autism
14:30 – 15:00	Coffee break
15:00 – 15:30	Dr Míriam Javier Torrent (GIGA NeuroGenesis (Laurent Nguyen lab), Université de Liège) NEDD4-2 in cortical interneuron migration and brain malformations
15:30	Dr Renske Oegema (UMC Utrecht) TEBiVANED: complex genotype-phenotype correlations in a rare histonopathy
15:50 – 16:20	Prof Dr Hilde Van Esch (KU Leuven) In vivo xenotransplantation model to study neurodevelopmental disorders: MECP2-related disorders as an example
16:20 – 16:30	Closing remarks by Prof Dr Marije Meuwissen

Networking reception
16:30 – 18:00

