

BCR  
2023



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27th Belgian Congress of Rheumatology  
20 - 22 September 2023  
De Bijloke, Gent

# Final Programme

[www.rheuma.be](http://www.rheuma.be)



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CHU de Liège

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Dear Colleagues,

The Royal Belgian Society for Rheumatology takes great pleasure in announcing the **27<sup>th</sup> Belgian Congress of Rheumatology**, taking place in Gent on **20 - 22 September 2023**.

This 27<sup>th</sup> Congress is hosted at De Bijloke, one of the historic hospitals of Ghent, an architectural jewel, which has been completely refurbished. The medieval infirmary now is the main Concert Hall (where for instance the Symphony Orchestra Flanders has its home base). The other meeting rooms with enthralling names such as the 'Anatomical Theatre' have also been completely renovated.

We are proud to announce this year's scientific programme, which will be a well-known mix of state-of-the-art invited lectures by renowned speakers, selected oral presentations and Updates in Therapeutics organised with the support of the industry.

This year, we also put the spotlight on the Thieves' Market: The three most challenging clinical cases have been selected and the best presentation will be awarded € 750. The winner will be announced at the end of the Congress.

Together with the KBVR-SRBR Local Organising Committee and Board members, we hope to welcome you BCR'23 in Gent!

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Olivier Malaise  
Scientific Organiser



**Young Investigators' Meeting**

- 10.00 **A1** **IgG-Fc-N-sialylation and -galactolysation in primary Sjögren's Syndrome (pSS) in its potential as marker of disease state and disease activity**  
*Helena Achten (UGent)*
- 10.15 **A2** **Patient-physician discordance is associated with less consistent treat-to-target implementation, impairing remission in early RA: A mediation analysis of CareRA**  
*Michaël Doumen (KUL)*
- 10.30 **A3** **B cell and plasmablast signature underpins transcriptomic heterogeneity in JIA synovitis**  
*Clément Triaille (UCL)*
- 10.45 **A4** **Upstream modulation of kindlin-2 as a possible therapeutic target of osteoarthritis**  
*Ana Victoria Rojo (KUL)*
- 11.00 **A5** **Monoclonal anti-MDA5 autoantibodies derived from a dermatomyositis patient target the Hel2i domain of the MDA5 protein**  
*Eveline Van Gompel (KUL)*
- 11.15 **A6** **Description of peripheral blood perfusion by Laser Speckle Contrast Analysis (LASCA) in 'Early' versus 'Clinically Overt' Systemic Sclerosis in routine clinics**  
*Seppe Willems (UGent)*
- 11.30 **A7** **Immunoprofiling of immunoglobulin-associated peptides in patients with rheumatoid arthritis using liquid chromatography tandem mass spectrometry**  
*Jonas De Leeuw (KUL)*
- 10.45 **A8** **Decoding the T-cell receptor repertoire in chronic arthritis across different ages, disease groups, and T-cell subsets**  
*My Ha (UAntwerpen)*
- 12.00 Welcome Lunch



- 12.45 Opening Ceremony
- SESSION 1: Spondyloarthropathy and psoriatic arthritis**
- 13.00 **Vesalius Lecture**  
**I1 Tell me your secret: What's the best strategy to induce remission in SpA?**  
*Dirk Elewaut (UGent)*
- Update in Therapeutics 1 - Organised with an educational grant from UCB**
- 13.30 **Advancing SpA Treatment by optimally using innovative therapies**  
*Filip Van den Bosch (UGent)*
- Abstract Presentations**
- 14.00 **A9 Sacroiliac bone marrow oedema on postpartum MRI does not result in significant spondyloarthritis-like structural lesions: Results of a 5-year follow-up study**  
*Liesbeth De Meester (UGent)*
- 14.10 **A10 Facet joint inflammation is rare, but when present it is associated with facet joint ankylosis in radiographic axial spondyloarthritis patients from the SIAS cohort**  
*Manouk de Hooge (UGent)*
- Update in Therapeutics 2 - Organised with an educational grant from Amgen**
- 14.20 **Comorbidities in psoriatic arthritis: The chicken or the egg?**  
*Kurt de Vlam (KUL)*
- 14.50 Coffee Break
- SESSION 2: Osteoporosis and bone disease**
- Bone & Joint Lecture**
- 15.20 **I2 Alkaline phosphatase, too much or not enough: What the rheumatologist should know**  
*Michaël Laurent (KUL)*
- 15.50 **I3 What can we expect from bone turnover markers for OP management?**  
*Etienne Cavalier (CHU de Liège)*



**Abstract Presentations**

- 16.20 **A11** **Prevalence and risk factors of osteoporosis in a Belgian cohort of lung transplant candidates: The PROgres Study**  
*Edwin Curraj (UCL)*
- 16.30 **A12** **Soluble buffered alendronate after denosumab discontinuation in erosive hand OA patients**  
*Tine Vanhaverbeke (UGent)*
- 16.40 **A13** **Can “Trabecular Bone Score” predict bone micro-architecture in patients with rheumatoid arthritis?**  
*Olivier Malaise (CHU de Liège)*
- 16.50 Break

**SESSION 3: Ethics and Economy**

- 17.30 **I4** **Updates from ReumaNet, CLAIR and BeHPR: How we can help each other**  
*Kathleen Sohler (ReumaNet), Véronique Frennet (CLAIR) and Thanny Bries (BeHPR)*
- 18.00 **General Assembly for the Professional Association**  
*Laurent Méric de Bellefon (CNDG, CHU Saint Pierre, UCL)*

**Abstract Presentations**

- 18.15 **A14** **Is it more efficient to realize systematic vertebral fracture assessment (VFA) during dual energy X-ray, or to follow the guidelines?**  
*Pauline Salpetier (CHU de Liège)*
- 18.25 **A15** **The cost-effectiveness of etanercept tapering in patients with established rheumatoid arthritis in terms of disease control**  
*Kjell van der Walle (KUL)*
- 18.35 **I5** **An engineer’s look at the future of health**  
*Pascal Verdonck (AZ Maria Middelaes)*
- 19.30 **Walking Dinner**



**SESSION 4**

- 08.30 **Update in Therapeutics 3 - Organised with an educational grant from GSK**  
**Vaccine preparation, particularly zona vaccination, for immunosuppressive treatments in rheumatological patients**  
*Maya Hites (ULB)*
- 09.00 **Update in Therapeutics 4 - Organised with an educational grant from Abbvie**  
**Sense and non sense of axPsA**  
*Gaëlle Varkas (UGent)*

**Abstract Presentations - Basic Research**

- 09.30 **A16** **A novel brain-bone axis mediates bone loss in psoriatic arthritis, without affecting inflammation severity**  
*Renée Van der Cruyssen (UGent)*
- 09.40 **A17** **Influence of cigarette smoke on innate-like T cells in HLA-DR4 transgenic mice**  
*Matthias Jarlborg (UGent)*
- 09.50 **A18** **Cartilage-specific deletion of Igf-1 protects against post-traumatic osteoarthritis in mice**  
*Ana Escribano (KUL)*
- 10.00 Coffee Break
- 10.30 **I6** **Giant cell arteritis imaging: Update on PET-CT**  
*Daniel Blockmans (KUL)*
- 10.55 **I7** **Giant cell arteritis treatment: Something other than glucocorticoids?**  
*Daniel Blockmans (KUL)*
- 11.20 **I8** **CAP-48 early arthritis cohort: How to better understand disease from clinic to lab?**  
*Patrick Durez (UCL), Paschalis Sidiras (ULB) & Dominique de Seny (ULiège)*

**General Assembly**

- 12.15 **General Assembly**
- 12.30 Lunch



- 13.30 **FWRO/FRSR Awards Ceremony**  
**Best FWRO/FRSR Projects**
- 13.40 **A19 Genetic predisposition to Systemic sclerosis**  
*Pierre Maus (de Duve institute)*
- 13.50 **A20 Identification of new autoantibodies in idiopathic inflammatory myopathy**  
*Jean-Baptiste Vulsteke (KUL)*
- 14.00 **A21 Incidence, prevalence and long-term progression of Goh algorithm rated interstitial lung disease in systemic sclerosis in two independent cohorts in Flanders: A retrospective cohort study**  
*Vanessa Smith (UGent)*
- SESSION 5**
- Update in Therapeutics 5 - Organised with an educational grant from Galapagos**
- 14.10 **JAK to the basics: How real-world JAKi data in RA can support you in clinical practice**  
*Lars Erik Kristensen, Denmark*
- 14.40 **I9 At-risk of RA: Are you tempted to treat?**  
*Laurence Duquenne, United Kingdom*
- Abstract Presentations**
- 15.10 **A22 Effectiveness of COBRA-Slim with or without early access to 24-weeks etanercept in early RA: Primary outcome of CareRA2020**  
*Delphine Bertrand (KUL)*
- 15.20 **A23 Heterogeneity of the joint location supports the importance of local factors in early RA synovitis: Analysis of the ERA UCLouvain Brussels cohort**  
*Laura Bricman (UCL)*
- 15.30 **A24 Lung ultrasound as a screening tool in rheumatoid arthritis: Preliminary results**  
*Marie Vermant (KUL)*
- 15.40 Coffee Break



- 16.10 **Update in Therapeutics 6 - Organised with an educational grant from Novartis**  
**Juvenile Rheumatic Diseases: From autoinflammation to autoimmunity: An update on diagnostics and therapeutics**  
*Rik Joos (ZNA)*
- Abstract Presentations**
- 16.40 **A25 Novel antibodies that predict failure to reach early and sustained remission or low disease activity after first-line therapy in rheumatoid arthritis**  
*Sukayna Fadlallah (UHasselt)*
- 16.50 **A26 CD68 and fibrinoid necrosis are synovial biomarkers of severity in early rheumatoid arthritis and are associated with a better response to methotrexate: Analysis of the UCLouvain Brussels ERA cohort**  
*Francesco Natalucci (UCL)*
- 17.00 **I10 My RA patient has difficulty breathing, what should I think?**  
*Antoine Froidure (UCL)*
- 17.45 Adjourn





### SESSION 6: Immunology

- 08.45 **I11 Myositis: Show me your antibody, I will tell you who you are**  
*Yves Piette (UGent, AZ Sint-Jan Brugge - Oostende)*
- Abstract Presentations**
- 09.15 **A27 Systematic screening of swallowing disorders in idiopathic inflammatory myopathies: A retrospective study**  
*Meilyn Bolland (CHU de Liège)*
- 09.25 **A28 Obesity is an independent poor prognostic factor in Lupus Nephritis**  
*Farah Tamirou (UCL)*
- 09.35 **Year in review**  
*Olivier Malaise (CHU de Liège)*
- 10.15 **Update in Therapeutics 7 - Organised with an educational grant from Lilly**  
**Finding the right treatment for the right patient**  
*Kristof Thevissen (Reumacentrum Genk)*
- 10.45 Coffee Break
- 11.15 **Update in Therapeutics 8- Organised with an educational grant from Pfizer**  
**Healing the healers: Cultivating mental wellness among physicians**  
*Bert Van den Bossche (Reumacentrum Genk)*



### SESSION 7: Thieves' Market: Show me your best case and become a rich rheumatologist

#### Best Clinical Cases

- 11.45 **A29 Help, my ears are dying!**  
*Farah Tamirou (UCL)*
- 12.00 **A30 Lipoid pneumonia in adult autoinflammatory disease: Cytokine blocking agents as unusual suspects? Case report and literature review**  
*Katrien Slabbynck (UGent)*
- 12.15 **A31 Pituitary necrosis in a patient with ANCA-PR3: Should we think of other diagnoses than granulomatosis with polyangeitis?**  
*Cédric Peters (CHU de Liège)*
- 12.30 Thieves' Market Award
- 12.40 **Closure of the Congress**
- 12.45 Farewell Lunch

**Meeting for Health Professionals in Rheumatology - Morning**

- 08.45 Registration
- 09.00 Welcome
- Session 1**  
*Chair: Tanja De Bruyn*
- 09.15 **Rheumatology in the emergency room**  
*Femke Meynen (Reuma Instituut Hasselt/Jessa Ziekenhuis/  
Medisch Centrum Beringen)*
- 10.15 **Highlights from EULAR HPR 2023**  
*Diederik De Cock (VUB)*
- 10.30 Coffee Break
- Session 2**  
*Chair: Thanny Bries*
- 10.45 **Living with sclerodema**  
*Anja Römling (CIB Liga)*
- 11.00 **The social map**  
*Anja Marchal (ReumaNet)*
- 11.40 **General Assembly BeHPR**
- 12.00 Lunch & opportunity to network

**Meeting for Health Professionals in Rheumatology - Afternoon**

- Session 3**  
*Chair: Tanja De Bruyn*
- 13.00 **Patient empowerment, in the interest of all**  
*Edgar Eeckman (President VZW Patient Empowerment)*
- 14.10 **Empowering personal well-being: Learning psychological tools for a stronger you**  
*Anne-Lize Stassen (Cocoun consulting, psychotherapy/coaching)*
- 15.00 Coffee Break
- Session 4**  
*Chair: Thanny Bries*
- 15.15 **Pediatric rheumatology**  
*Rik Joos (UZA)*
- 16.00 **Physical Therapy and physical activity in patients with spondyloarthritis**  
*Marlies Kaerts (UZL)*
- 16.30 **Closing and a safe trip back home**

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



## Registration Fees

**LATE**  
As of 1 September

<b>Member KBVR-SRBR</b>	€ 400,00
<b>Non Member</b>	€ 500,00
<b>Trainee in Rheumatology*</b>	€ 75,00
<b>Other Trainee*</b>	€ 100,00
<b>Researcher non-MD*</b>	€ 75,00
<b>Emeritus</b>	€ 75,00
<b>Congress Dinner</b>	€ 75,00
<b>Health Professionals' Meeting on 21 September</b>	Free

\*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.

### The registration fee for participants includes

- Participation in all scientific sessions
- Participation in the 'Updates in Therapeutics' organised by the Industry
- 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 2023, 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.

## Platinum Partners



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