

29TH BELGIAN CONGRESS OF RHEUMATOLOGY

24 – 26 SEPT 2025 • HILTON HOTEL • ANTWERP



Rheuma.be
KBVR-SRBR

**PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME &
CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: 1 JUNE



Scientific Organiser

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Scientific President

Patrick Durez, M.D., Ph.D., UCL
Co-president

Local Organising Committee

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Margot Van Mechelen, UZA

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Dear Colleagues, Dear Friends,

The Royal Belgian Society for Rheumatology takes great pleasure in announcing the **29th Belgian Congress on Rheumatology**, taking place in **Antwerpen** on **24 – 26 September 2025**.

This 29th Congress will be hosted at Hilton Antwerp Old Town, situated in the heart of the city overlooking the Cathedral of Our Lady and the Old Town square.

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, and Updates in Therapeutics organised with the support of industry.

Following last year's success, we are excited to once again offer interactive workshops on Friday morning, where clinically oriented, challenging cases will be discussed in small groups under the guidance of experts.

We have also provided ample space for participants to present their own work:: The Scientific Committee will select a limited number of abstracts for oral presentation in the Young Investigators' Meeting, the abstract sessions and the Thieves Market (send us your most remarkable clinical cases!).

This year again, a **€ 500 prize** will be awarded to the young clinician who presents the best of the three selected clinical cases in the Thieves' Market. Please note that only trainees or rheumatologists within maximum 3 years of board certification are eligible to apply.

Furthermore, a **€ 500 prize** will be awarded to each of the four best abstracts.

Kindly note that the final abstract submission deadline is **1 June 2025**.

Together with the Local Organising Committee and the KBVR-SRBR Board members, we hope to welcome you to BCR'25 in Antwerpen!

Yours sincerely,

Nisha Limaye, Ph.D.
Scientific President

Patrick Durez, M.D., Ph.D.
Co-president



- 10.00 Young Investigators' Meeting
- 12.00 Welcome Lunch
- 12.45 **Opening Ceremony**
- Session I. To the bone: The experts' guide to osteoarthritis & osteitis**
- Bone and Joint Lecture**
Osteoarthritis treatment innovation: Emerging strategies and future perspectives
Jérémie Sellam, Sorbonne University, Paris, France
- 13.00
- 13.35 **What you should know on chronic nonbacterial osteitis**
Liesbeth Winter, Leiden University Medical Center, Leiden, The Netherlands
- 14.10 **Selected abstract presentations**
- 14.40 Coffee Break
- Session II. Not child's play: Lessons from rare pediatric disorders**
- 15.10 **Novel/adaptive designs for rare diseases - Paediatric model**
Athimalaipet Ramanan, Bristol Royal Hospital for Children & University of Bristol, Bristol, UK
- 15.40 **Fundamental immunology shapes the diagnosis and treatment of patients with rare immune disorders**
Selket Delafontaine (KUL)
- 16.10 **Selected abstract presentations**
- 16.50 Coffee Break



Session III. Ethics & Economy

- 17.20 **Update from BRV-AMRB**
Philip Remans, President BRV-AMRB
- 17.40 **Structured health data: The road to Mordor**
Mark Helbert (ZAS)
- 18.40 **From insight to impact: What Rheuma.be membership can do for you!**
Laurent Meric de Bellefon, President KBVR-SRBR
Saskia Verwijs, Managing Director KBVR-SRBR
- 19.00 **2025 Review by BeHPR**
Thanny Bries
- 19.05 **2025 Review by ReumaNet**
Veerle De Pourcq
- 19.10 **2025 Review by Clair**
Veronique Frennet
- 19.20 End of Day 1 and Walking Dinner



Session IV. Reality bytes: Pragmatic wisdom for the management of rheumatoid arthritis

- 09.00 Update in Therapeutics - Organised with an educational grant from Alfasigma
Unraveling RA pathogenesis: Translation into clinical practice and real-world impact
Ernest Choy, Cardiff University, Cardiff, UK
- 09.30 Update in Therapeutics - Organised with an educational grant from AbbVie
Lessons from the RABBIT registry
Anja Strangfeld, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Germany
- 10.00 **Art's debt to musculoskeletal knowledge**
Alain Saraux, Centre hospitalier universitaire de Brest, Brest, France
- 10.20 Selected abstract presentations
- 10.50 Coffee Break

Session V. And in local news....

- 11.20 **FWRO awards and updates**
René Westhovens (KUL)
- 11.45 **Year in review**
Olivier Malaise (CHU de Liège)
- 12.10 **My PhD project in five minutes**
- 12.40 **General Assembly**
- 13.15 Lunch Break

Parallel training sessions:

Hands-on training e-platform Clinical patient management system

Yves Piette (UGent, AZ Sint-Jan Brugge – Oostende)

Hands-on capillaroscopy workshop

Vanessa Smith (UGent)

- 14.00 **Poster Viewing**



Session VI. Quench the spark? Damage-control in systemic autoimmunity

- 14.30 **Treatment of fibrotic manifestations of SSc**
Jörg Distler, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Erlangen, Germany
- 15.00 Vesalius Lecture
Lessons from targeting B lineage cells in systemic autoimmunity – SLE as a model
Thomas Dörner, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Germany
- 15.35 Selected abstract presentations
- 16.05 Coffee Break

Session VII. Both sides of the aisle: Fibromyalgia and polymyalgia rheumatica

- 16.35 **Optimal care of patients diagnosed with fibromyalgia**
Fabiola Atzeni, University of Messina, Messina, Italy
- 17.05 Update in Therapeutics - Organised with an educational grant from Novartis
The patient journey in polymyalgia rheumatica
Alain Saraux, Centre hospitalier universitaire de Brest, Brest, France
- 17.35 Thieves' Market Best Clinical Case Contest - Young (future) Rheumatologists
- 18.15 **Voting & Thieves' Market Award Presentation**
- 18.30 Adjourn
- 19.30 Congress Dinner



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 AbbVie
Prescribing targeted synthetic and biologic DMARDs
Anja Strangfeld, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Germany

Workshop 2 – Organised with an educational grant from Alfasigma
The treatment of chronic pain in RA
Patrick Verschueren (KUL)

Workshop 3 – Organised with an educational grant from Lilly
Tools for rheumatologists for the assessment of skin and nails of patients with PsA
Dennis McGonagle, University of Leeds, Leeds, UK

Workshop 4 – Organised with an educational grant from Novartis
Connecting rheumatologists with their radiologists: Practical tips to get the best CT and MR imaging studies
Lennart Jans (UGent)

10.45 Coffee Break



Session VIII. Know thy enemy: Pathogenic mechanisms in SpA and PsA

11.15 Update in Therapeutics - Organised with an educational grant from UCB
Progress in our understanding of pathological mechanisms, and the impact this may have on the treatment of spondylarthropathies
Frank Behrens, Goethe-University & Fraunhofer ITMP Frankfurt am Main, Germany

11.45 Update in Therapeutics - Organised with an educational grant from Lilly
From fingertips to joints: Understanding the link between nails and joints in psoriatic arthritis
Dennis McGonagle, University of Leeds, Leeds, UK

12.15 Update in Therapeutics - Organised with an educational grant from Amgen
Comorbidities in psoriatic disease: what is next?
Kurt de Vlam (KUL)

12.45 Update in Therapeutics - Organised with an educational grant from Janssen-Cilag
Joining forces in conquering PsA and IBD side by side
Marc Ferrante (KUL) & Gaëlle Varkas (UGent)

13.15 Closing Remarks

13.30 Farewell Lunch