



4th

Scientific International Congress on
Spinal Muscular Atrophy

GHENT

14th — 16th March 2024

Programme

Organised by

**SMA
EUR
OPE**

Kindly hosted by



Scientific Congress Organisation

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

**Chair: Thomas Gillingwater**

Professor of Anatomy at the University of Edinburgh and Editor in Chief of the Journal of Anatomy

**Vice-Chair: Stefania Corti**

Neurologist, Associate Professor of Neurology and Principal Investigator of Neural Stem Cell Lab at the University of Milan in Italy

**Local host: Liesbeth De Waele**

Paediatric Neurologist and Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Medicine, UZ Leuven NMRC for Children, Belgium

**Melissa Bowerman**

Senior Lecturer in Neuromuscular & Skeletal Disorders, School of Medicine, Keele University, UK

**Claudio Bruno**

Head, Center of Translational and Experimental Myology, IRCCS Istituto Giannina Gaslini, Genova, and Contract Professor in Paediatrics at the School of Medicine, University of Genova, Italy

**Peter Claus**

Scientific Director, CEO and Co-Founder of SMATHERIA, a non-profit biomedical research institute dedicated to spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) and other neuromuscular diseases preclinical and translational research, Hannover, Germany

**Richard Finkel**

Paediatric Neurologist and Director of the Center for Experimental Neurotherapeutics at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, USA

**Ewout Groen**

Senior Researcher, SMA Center of Expertise, UMC Utrecht Brain Center, Department of Neurology and Neurosurgery, University Medical Center Utrecht, The Netherlands

**Ulrika Kreicberg**

Ulrika Kreicbergs, Professor of Palliative Care for Children and Young People at the Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health, University College London, UK

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**Cécile Martinat**

Head of INSERM/UEVE UMR 861 in I-STEM, French institute dedicated to the use of human pluripotent stem cells to study and treat monogenic diseases, Paris, France

**Christian Simon**

Group Leader, Carl Ludwig Institute for Physiology, Leipzig University, Germany

**Charlotte Sumner**

Professor of neurology at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, USA

**Ludo van der Pol**

Neurologist and Professor of Neurology, head of the Netherlands SMA center at the University Medical Center Utrecht (UMCU) in The Netherlands

SCIENTIFIC CONTENT

The conference programme consists of seven sessions, workshops and poster sessions which will showcase the latest developments in the field, provide a forum for discussions and networking and highlight the challenges and future trends in SMA-related scientific disciplines and applied technologies.

For each session, researchers selected via abstract submission will have the opportunity to give a 15-minute presentation in the plenary programme.

Programme

WEDNESDAY 13th MARCH 2024 • Pre-Congress Day

08:30 - 09:30	Event 1: Young Researchers meet the community
	Event 2: Vernissage “Living with SMA”
	Event 3: Global Patient Advocacy Meeting (linked to SMAcademy)

THURSDAY 14th MARCH 2024

Oral presentation and flash poster presentation will be selected from abstracts deposit

08:20 - 09:30	Registration
09:30 - 09:45	Welcome SMA Europe Nicole Gusset -SMA Europe President
09:45 - 10:00	Opening talk TBD
10:00 - 10.45	The patient perspective Yasemin Erbas - SMA Europe Vice President
10.45 - 10:55	Opening of scientific & clinical programme Thomas Gillingwater, Chair of Scientific Committee
11.00 - 11:30	COFFEE BREAK
11:30 - 13:00	Session 1 - Rehabilitation and regeneration in SMA - Motor neuron, NMJ & spinal cord parthology Chair: Marco Carpogrosso TBD
13:00 - 14:15	LUNCH BREAK
13.10 - 14.10	SYMPOSIUM 1
14:15 - 14:30	Flash poster presentations (Clinical) TBD
14:30 - 16:00	Session 2 - Optimising gene directed therapy Chair: Rafael Yanes Munoz TBD
16.00 - 16.30	COFFEE BREAK
16.00 - 17.30	CLINICAL POSTER SESSION (PC)
17:30 - 18:30	Parallel workshops (room 1 & 2) Insights from other diseases Stems model
19:30	WELCOME RECEPTION

FRIDAY 15th MARCH 2024

08:20 - 09:20	SYMPOSIUM 2
09:30 - 11:00	Session 3 - SMN beyond the motor neuron Chair: Melissa Bowerman TBD
11.00 - 11:30	COFFEE BREAK
11.30 - 13:00	Session 4 - Developmental aspect of SMA Chair: Charlotte Summer TBD
13:00 - 14:15	LUNCH BREAK
13:10 - 14:10	SYMPOSIUM 3
14.15 - 14.30	Flash poster presentations (scientific) TBD
14.30 - 16.00	Session 5 - Immune system contribution to SMA Chair: Séverine Boillée TBD
16.00 - 16.30	COFFEE BREAK
16.00 - 17.30	Scientific poster session (PC)
17:30 - 18:30	Parallel workshops (room 1 & 2) TBD
19:30	GALA DINNER

SATURDAY 16th MARCH 2024

08:20 - 09:20	SYMPOSIUM 4
09:30 - 11:00	Session 6 - Muscle in SMA Chair: Frédéric Relaix TBD
11.00 - 11:30	COFFEE BREAK
11.30 - 13:00	Session 7 - Monitoring disease outcomes Chair: Michelle Farrar TBD
13:00 - 13:30	GRAP A LUNCH BOX
13:30 - 14:30	Award Ceremony and closing talks Chair: Tom Gillingwater Award ceremony: Best oral presentation, best three posters Nicole Gusset and Tom Gillingwater Wrap-up and highlights of the meeting - Where do we go next? Nicole Gusset
14:30	CLOSE

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conference & association management

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