

# ENCALS

*European Network for the Cure of ALS*

# ENCALS

Dear ENCALS participant,

We are looking forward to welcoming you in Leuven for the annual conference on ALS research "Encals 2014". About 230 participants have registered from all over the world.

The conference will start on Thursday May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 14:00 with a welcome in the Promotiezaal. The registration desk will be open as from 12:00 in the Museumzaal.

We hereby provide you with some practical and travel information.

We wish you an enjoyable trip to Belgium.

Kind regards,

Wim Robberecht  
Ludo Van Den Bosch  
Philip Van Damme  
Lien Houbrechts

# General Information

## Contact information

Information/Registration

Lien Houbrechts:

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## Registration

The registration desk for the conference is situated at the Museumzaal in the University Hall. Registration will be open from 12:00 on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> of March.

## Name badges

All registered participants receive a name badge upon registration at the registration desk.

The badge is your document to enter the Conference site and any of the social activities.

We kindly ask you to always wear your badge visible during all events.

## Official Language

English is the official language of the Conference.

## Internet

We offer free Wi-Fi. Your login name and password can be found on the back of your name badges.

## Abstract book

The abstract book is included in the registration fee and will be distributed upon arrival.

## Conference venue

Address: University Hall

Naamsestraat 22

3000 Leuven

This address includes the Promotiezaal, the Museumzaal and the Jubileumzaal

## Food and Beverages

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May there will be held a beer tasting event after the poster session.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May we will organize both a lunch during the day and a conference dinner after the activities which will take place in Salons Georges.

The coffee breaks (including some sweet indulgence) will be served in the Museumzaal.

12:00 to 14:00 Registration at University Hall – Museumzaal

**Opening Session**

14:00 to 14:10 Welcome by the Organizing Committee and Chair ENCALS

**Oral Session 1a: C9orf72**

- 14:10 to 15:00 Plenary speaker – Dr. Don W. Cleveland  
*'Modelling C9orf72-associated ALS'*
- 15:00 to 15:15 Douglas Andrew (University of Oxford, UK)  
*C9orf72 expression, methylation and expansion size and the effect of antisense transcript knockdown*
- 15:15 to 15:30 Cooper-Knock Jonathan (University of Sheffield, UK)  
*Sequestration of multiple RNA Recognition Motif-containing proteins by C9orf72 repeat expansions*
- 15:30 to 15:45 Isaacs Adrian (University College London, UK)  
*C9orf72 FTL D is characterized by frequent neuronal sense and antisense RNA foci*
- 15:45 to 16:00 Boeynaems Steven (University of Leuven, Belgium)  
*C9orf72 expansions are potentially pathogenic on three biological levels*

16:00 to 16:30 *Refreshment break*

**Oral Session 1b: Genetic testing – Imaging - Biomarkers**

- 16:30 to 16:45 Nordin Angelica (Umeå University, Sweden)  
*A comparative study on the reliability of genetic testing for the GGGGCC-repeat expansion in C9orf72*
- 16:45 to 17:00 Kassubek Jan (University of Ulm, Germany)  
*In vivo transfer of TDP-43 pathology patterns by DTI analysis in ALS*
- 17:00 to 17:15 Körner Sonja (Hannover Medical School, Germany)  
*Widespread grey matter pathology dominates the longitudinal cerebral MRI landscape of ALS*
- 17:15 to 17:30 Lu Ching-Hua (Queen Mary University of London, UK)  
*Plasma neurofilament heavy and light chains for disease monitoring in ALS*

**Poster Session & meeting event**

- 17:30 to 19:00 Poster & exhibitor stand viewing in the Museumzaal
- 19:00 to 20:30 Beer Tasting in Jubileumzaal
- 20:30 - ... Delegates free to have dinner  
*Plenary Speakers, Programme Committee and invited guests dinner at Restaurant 'Zwart Schaap' hosted by the organizing committee*

08:00 to 09:00 ENCALS Board meeting

**Oral Session 2a SOD1/FUS:**

- 09:00 to 10:00 Plenary speaker – Dr. Aaron D. Gitler  
*'From yeast to man in ALS research'*
- 10:00 to 10:15 Baker David (University of Sheffield, UK)  
*The altered behaviour of astrocytes in mouse and human SOD1-related Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis*
- 10:15 to 10:30 Steyaert Jolien (University of Leuven, Belgium)  
*Expression of human FUS leads to an immature fly phenotype caused by malfunctioning of CCAP neurons*
- 10:30 to 10:45 Buchman Vladimir (Cardiff University, UK)  
*RNA-dependent and RNA-independent aggregation of FUS: implication to the development of FUSopathies*
- 10:45 to 11:00 Scekcic-Zahirovic Jelena (INSERM Université de Strasbourg, France)  
*Abolishing nuclear import of FUS leads to motor neuron loss and axonal degeneration in a novel knock-in mouse model*

11:00 to 11:30 *Refreshment break*

**Oral Session 2b TDP-43:**

- 11:30 to 11:45 Granado-Serrano Ana Belèn (Lleida University, Spain)  
*Mitochondria and TDP-43: A Dangerous Liaison in ALS Pathophysiology?*
- 11:45 to 12:00 Ratti Antonia (IRCCS Istituto Auxologica Italiano, Italy)  
*Mitochondrial dysfunction in fibroblasts from familial ALS patients*
- 12:00 to 12:15 Hirth Frank (King's College London, UK)  
*Drosophila TDP-43 dysfunction in glia and muscle cells cause ALS and FTL D phenotypes.*
- 12:15 to 12:30 Gordon David (University of Oxford, UK)  
*A BAC model of TDP-43-associated MND as a tool to explore pathogenesis.*
- 12:30 to 12:45 Fratta Pietro (University College London, UK)  
*Diverse molecular effects of different Tardbp missense mutations*
- 12:45 to 13:00 Feiler S.Marisa (University of Ulm, Germany)  
*Development of a cellular TDP-43 aggregation assay based on protein complementation*

13:00 to 14:30 *Lunch, poster & exhibitor stand viewing in the Museumzaal*

13:00 to 14:30 *SOPHIA Meeting - MTC building*

**Oral Session 3 Mechanistic insights from in vitro models:**

- 14:30 to 15:30 Plenary speaker – Dr. Michael Sendtner  
*'RNA: processing & transport in motor neurons'*
- 15:30 to 15:45 Haase Georg (CNRS University Aix Marseille, France)  
*Modeling ALS using FACS-isolated human iPSC-derived motor neurons*
- 15:45 to 16:00 Forsgren Elin (Umeå University, Sweden)  
*Investigating mechanisms underlying motor neuron death in ALS using patient-derived cells*
- 16:00 to 16:15 Mutihac Ruxandra (University of Oxford, UK)  
*C9orf72 mutations alter calcium signaling in patient iPSC-derived motor neurons.*
- 16:15 to 16:30 Comley Laura (Karolinska Institutet, Sweden)  
*Oculomotor protein expression identifies IGF-II as a protective factor in ALS and SMA*

16:30 to 17:00 *Refreshment break*

**Oral Session 4: Debate**

- 17:00 to 18:00 Debate Session: *When is a treatment for ALS ready to be tested in humans?*

**Meeting dinner**

- 19:00 to 00:00 Dinner at Salon Georges, Hogeschoolplein, City Centre

08:30 to 09:00 Young Investigator Award

**Oral Session 5a Therapeutic Strategies:**

- 09:00 to 09:50 Plenary speaker – Dr. Jonathan Glass (Thierry Latran invited speaker)  
'Stem Cell therapy for ALS: theory and practice'
- 09:50 to 10:05 Andrews Jinsy (Cytokinetics, USA)  
*The effect of tirasemtiv on functional status in patients with ALS*
- 10:05 to 10:20 Lunetta Christian (Centro Clinico NEMO, Italy)  
*A randomized controlled trial of physical activity in ALS patients: final results*
- 10:20 to 10:35 Burkhardt Christian (ALS Clinic Kantonsspital St. Gallen, Switzerland)  
*What do ALS patients die of? – An Autopsy study of 70 ALS patients*

10:35 to 11:00 *Refreshment break*

**Oral Session 5b Risk factors - Behavioral changes - Gene expression:**

- 11:00 to 11:15 Seelen Meinie (UMC Utrecht, The Netherlands)  
*The risk of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and prior medical conditions*
- 11:15 to 11:30 Polymenidou Magdalina (University of Zurich, Switzerland)  
*Misfolding of human wild type SOD1 in response to surgical injury*
- 11:30 to 11:45 Elamin Marwa (Trinity College Institute of Neuroscience, Ireland)  
*The role of behavioral change in ALS disease as a phenotypic marker for disease subtypes*
- 11:45 to 12:00 Jones Ashley (King's College London, UK)  
*Gene expression analysis of ALS spinal cord samples by clinical and pathological disease spread*
- 12:00 to 12:30 ***Closing of the meeting***

## Presentations

The oral presentations will be held in the Promotiezaal and the poster sessions will be held in the Museumzaal (on the ground floor).

Please upload your presentation at the information desk with Karin Beckers, Margo Abeloos or with the AV technician as early as possible or according to the following schedule:

<b>Timing for loading presentations for oral speakers</b>	
<b>Speakers on:</b> Thursday PM Friday AM Friday PM Saturday AM	<b>When:</b> Directly after registration Thursday before the end of the social event Friday before lunch Friday before 6PM

Oral platform presentation should be no more than 15 minutes in total, including time for questions. We therefore suggest that you speak for no more than 12 minutes maximum to allow for a few minutes of questions from the audience.

## Posters

Please note that the size of your poster can be no more than:

Oversize A0

900 x 1245 mm

35 7/16 x 49 inches

Portrait only!

Posters can be mounted as from noon on Thursday 22nd of May.

The posters need to be taken down on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> of May at the latest during the last coffee break.

The posters will be attached with poster buddies, these will be provided.

# Social events

## Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May

### Beer Tasting

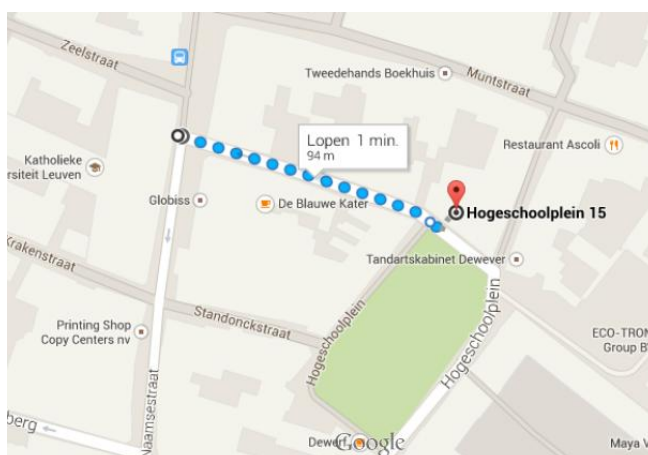
The Beer Tasting will start at 19:00, after the Poster & exhibitor stand viewing. It will take place in the Jubileumzaal (the same building but on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor) and will last until 20:30. You'll have the opportunity to try some of Belgium's finest beers, accompanied by snacks. Specialists will be present to provide you with all there is to know about our famous Belgian beers. To top things off, the Pajot Swing Jazzband will play their music in the background.



## Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May

### Dinner at Salons Georges

When the sessions have ended, the participants will have the opportunity to enjoy a delicious meal at Salons Georges. Located at the Hogeschoolplein in the center of Leuven and known for its tasty food. The dinner starts at 19:00.



The address of Salons Georges is  
Hogeschoolplein 15

3000 Leuven

The walk from the University Halls  
to Salons Georges takes about 1  
minute.



# Travel information: how to reach Leuven?

## Route description:

Train tickets are available at the ticket booth upon arrival in the airport but you can easily buy (and print) them online [www.nmbs.be](http://www.nmbs.be) several days in advance.

### BRUSSELS AIRPORT

Train connection from BRUSSELS AIRPORT to LEUVEN TRAIN STATION

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> and Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> of May:** the travel time is around 15 minutes

The earliest train leaves at 05:16, the last train leaves at 23:39

- Take the train at Brussels airport direction Leuven – the train runs every hour, 18 and 39 minutes past the hour (duration: 13 minutes)
- Get off the train at Leuven train station
- You can take a taxi to your hotels, which are all located in the center of the city

Train connection from LEUVEN TRAIN STATION to BRUSSELS AIRPORT

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> of May:** the travel time is around 15 minutes

The first train after the closing of the conference leaves at 13:07, the last train leaves at 23:07

- Take the train at Leuven train station direction Brussels National Airport – the train runs every hour, seven minutes past the hour (duration: 15 minutes)
- Get off the train at Brussels Airport

## CHARLEROI AIRPORT

Train and bus connection from CHARLEROI AIRPORT to Leuven:

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> and Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> of May:** the travel time is around 2 hours.

The earliest train leaves at 04:36, the last train leaves at 22:37

- Take the TEC bus A direction Charleroi Sud – the bus runs every hour, eleven minutes past the hour (duration: 10 minutes)
- Walk 10 minutes direction Charleroi train station
- Take the train direction Brussel-Zuid – the train runs every hour at 8 past, 37 past and 55 minutes past the hour. (duration: 50 minutes)
- Get off the train at Brussel-Zuid train station
- Take the train direction Leuven – the train runs every hour, 8, 31, 36 and 57 minutes after the hour. (duration: 25 minutes)
- Get off the train at Leuven train station

Train and bus connection from LEUVEN to CHARLEROI AIRPORT

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> of May:** the travel time is around two hours.

The earliest train leaves at 12:57 am, the last train leaves at 19:10 pm

- Take the train direction Brussel-Noord. – the train runs every hour, 28 and 57 minutes past the hour (duration: 25 minutes )
- Get off the train at Brussel-Noord train station
- Take the train direction Charleroi-Zuid – the train runs every hour, 21 minutes past the hour (duration: 45 minutes)
- Get off the train at Charleroi-Zuid train station
- Walk 10 minutes direction Charleroi Sud TEC bus station
- Take the bus A direction Gosselies Aérogare – the bus runs every hour, five minutes past the hour (duration: 10 minutes)
- Get off the bus at Charleroi Airport

**Important!** There is a **shuttle** available from Charleroi airport to the main railway station of Brussels and to return. Duration: 1 hour (€15). Tickets are available outside the airport terminal and on the website: <http://www.charleroi-airport.com/en/passengers/acces-and-parking/brussels-city-shuttle/index.html>

