



Joint Dutch Belgium Vascular Biology Conference

KU LEUVEN

ULB UNIVERSITÉ
LIBRE
DE BRUXELLES

Location: STUK Arts Center
Naamsestraat 96 3000 Leuven
Aula 02.C004
Date: September 10-12, 2025

September 10

11:00-12:30 Registration

First Session – Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension

- 12:30 Rozenn Quark, KU Leuven, BE
“Impairment of angiogenesis-driven clot resolution is a key event in the progression of chronic thromboembolic pulmonary hypertension”
- 12:50 Marie-José Goumans,
To be determined
- 13:10 Selected talk
- 13:25 Selected talk
- 13:40 Wolfgang Kübler, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, DE
“The role of the endothelium in lung vascular remodeling in pulmonary hypertension”

14:00-14:30 Coffee

- 14:30 Keynote lecture - Nabila Bouatia Naji, INSERM, FR
“Leveraging Genetics and Genomics to Understand Under-Studied Vascular Diseases Predominant in Women”

Second Session – Lymphatic Biology

- 15:15 Agnès Noël, U Liège, BE
To be determined
- 15:35 Selected talk
- 15:50 Selected talk
- 16:05 Selected talk
- 16:20 Tajia Makinnen, Uppsala University, SE
“Single-cell insights into lymphatic vessel heterogeneity and function”

16:40-18:10 Poster session

Third Session – Atherosclerosis

- 09:00 Mandy Grootaert, UC Louvain, BE
“Cellular senescence at the root of metabolic rewiring in atherosclerosis”
- 09:20 Judith Sluimer, University Maastricht, NL
“Fibroblasts in health, ageing and atherosclerosis”
- 09:40 Selected talk
- 09:55 Selected talk
- 10:10 Skiander Hayat, RWTH Aachen University, DE
“Cellular senescence at the root of metabolic rewiring in atherosclerosis”
- 10:30-11:00 Coffee

Fourth Session – Organotypic vasculature

- 11:00 Aernout Luttun, KU Leuven, BE
“Transcriptional regulation of endothelial diversity in health and disease”
- 11:20 Reiner Boon, Amsterdam UMC, NL
“Non-coding RNAs in endothelial ageing”
- 11:40 Selected talk
- 11:55 Selected talk
- 12:10 Ylva Hellsten, University of Copenhagen, DK
“Human microvascular dysfunction, role of sexhormones and physical activity”
- 12:30-13:15 Lunch
- 13:15-14:00 Poster

- 14:00 Keynote lecture - Max Mazzone, KU Leuven, BE
“Macrophage control of the tumor microenvironment”

Fifth Session – Mechanobiology

- 14:45 Stephan Huvener, Amsterdam UMC, NL
“When tensions rise: force-dependent regulation of endothelial adhesions in development and disease”
- 15:05 Hans van Oosterwyck, KU Leuven, BE
“Quantifying cell-matrix forces during angiogenic invasion and their role for cerebral cavernous malformations”
- 15:25 Selected talk
- 15:40 Selected talk
- 15:55 Maud Martin, Université Libre de Bruxelles, BE
“The role of microtubules during sprouting angiogenesis: with or without a Y ?”
- 16:15-16:45 Coffee

Sixth Session – Engineered Vascular Structures

- 14:45 Andries van der Meer, Universiteit Twente, NL
To be determined
- 15:05 Kristina Haase, European Molecular Biology Laboratory, ES
“Engineered Vasculature – bridging human biology with translation”
- 15:25 Selected talk
- 15:40 Selected talk

- 15:55 Valeria Orlova, Lieden University Medical Center, NL
“Next-Generation Vascular Disease Models Using Patient-Derived Human Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells (hiPSCs)”
- 19:30 Conference dinner

September 12

Seventh Session – Cerebrovascular

- 09:00 Benoit Vanhollebeke, Université Libre de Bruxelles, BE
“Single-cell control mechanism of brain angiogenesis and blood-brain barrier formation”
- 09:20 Inge Mulder, Amsterdam UMC, NL
“Imaging of Stroke – New insights in impaired (micro-)vascular perfusion in mice”
- 09:40 Selected talk
- 09:55 Selected talk
- 10:10 Sebastien Foulquier, Maastrich University, NL
To be determined
- 10:30-11:00 Coffee
- 11:00 Keynote lecture – Mikka Vikkula, de Duve Institute, BE
“Vascular malformations: from genetic causes, to preclinical models and clinical trials”

Eighth Session – Vascular Inflammation

- 11:45 Katrien de Bock, ETH Zurich, CH
To be determined
- 12:05 Kakkhee Yeung, Amsterdam UMC, NL
To be determined
- 12:25 Patrick Sips, U Gent, BE
“Studying the role of inflammation in the development of thoracic aortic disease associated with Marfan syndrome”
- 12:45 Selected talk
- 13:00 Selected talk
- 13:15 Awards and closing