

## CONFERENCE PROGRAM

09:00 – 09:15 **WELCOME** by Jean-Christophe Renauld (Pro-Rector, UCLouvain, Belgium)

**SESSION 1 PLURIPOTENCY – EMBRYONIC STEM CELLS** Session chairs: Claudia Spits (VUB), Vincent Pasque (KULeuven)

09:15 – 09:50 **Michelle PERCHARDE** (MRC London Institute of Medical Sciences/ Imperial College London, UK)  
*Novel players in the control of pluripotency and totipotency*

09:50 – 10:05 **Benjamin SWEDLUND** (Université libre de Bruxelles, Belgium) – Selected talk  
*Defining the enhancer landscape of early cardiac progenitors*

10:05 – 10:20 **Katrien NEYRINCK** (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium) – Selected talk  
*Fast generation of iAstrocytes from pluripotent stem cells via SOX9 overexpression*

10:20 – 10:50 **COFFEE BREAK**

**SESSION 2 STEM CELLS & ORGAN DEVELOPMENT-1** Session chairs: Sabine Costagliola (ULB), Frédéric Lemaigre (UCLouvain)

10:50 – 11:25 **Matthias LUTOLF** (Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland)  
*Engineering organoid development*

11:25 – 11:40 **Céline DEMAREZ** (Université libre de Bruxelles, Belgium) – Selected talk  
*Patients' iPSC-derived pancreatic  $\beta$ -cells to study a novel form of neonatal diabetes due to mutations in YIPF5*

11:40 – 12:15 **Henrik SEMB** (University of Copenhagen, Denmark)  
*Organ patterning provides insight into progenitor fate-determining environmental cues*

12:15 – 12:30 **Bilal MUGHAL** (University of Liège, Belgium) – Selected talk  
*Efficient generation of 3D inner ear organoids from human stem cells*

12:30 – 12:45 **POSTER TEASERS, selected from abstracts**

12:45 – 14:45 **LUNCH and POSTER SESSION**

**SESSION 3 STEM CELLS & ORGAN DEVELOPMENT-2** Session chairs: Brigitte Malgrange (ULiège), Björn Heindryckx (UGent)

14:45 – 15:20 **Pierre VANDERHAEGHEN** (VIB, KU Leuven & Université libre de Bruxelles, Belgium)  
*Human-specific mechanisms of brain development, from stem cells to neural circuits*

15:20 – 15:35 **Gaia CANGIOTTI** (Université catholique de Louvain, Belgium) – Selected talk  
*Characterizing the role of ROR2 in skin development*

15:35 – 16:10 **Cédric BLANPAIN** (Université libre de Bruxelles, Belgium)  
*Mechanisms regulating multipotency in glandular epithelial stem cells*

16:10 – 16:30 **COFFEE BREAK**

**SESSION 4 TRANSLATIONAL MEDICINE** Session chairs: Annelies Bronckaerts (UHasselt), Peter Ponsaerts (UAntwerpen)

16:30 – 17:05 **Peter COFFEY** (University College London, UK)  
*The London Project to Cure Blindness at 10 years; have we found a cure?*

17:05 – 17:20 **Katarina DITTLAU** (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium) – Selected talk  
*Modeling ALS – human neuromuscular junctions in a dish*

17:20 – 17:30 **BEST POSTER AND TALK AWARD**

17:30 – 17:40 **CONCLUDING REMARKS** by BeSSCR president Catherine Verfaillie (KULeuven, Belgium)

17:40 – 19:00 **RECEPTION**