



PROGRAM

3:30-3:45 pm

Opening & personal badge collection

4:00-6:15 pm

Program with honored speakers

prof. Jo Vandesompele (Chairman, CRIG)
prof. Anne De Paepe (Rector, Ghent University)
prof. Eric Mortier (CEO, Ghent University Hospital)
dr. Jo Bury (Managing Director, VIB)
prof. René Bernards (Netherlands Cancer Institute)
dr. Yvan de Launoit (Pasteur Institute of Lille)
dr. Bert Vanhaesebrouck - personal testimony
dr. Kurt Hertogs (J & J Innovation Center London)
dr. Bernard Majoie (Fournier-Majoie Foundation)
prof. em. Yves Benoit (Kinderkankerfonds)

6:15-7:45 pm

Reception

CRIG STEERING COMMITTEE

UGent • Medicine &
Health Sciences

prof. Jo Vandesompele
prof. Tessa Kerre
prof. Olivier De Wever

UGent • Sciences

prof. Geert Berx

UGent • Pharmac. Sc.

prof. Bruno De Geest

UGent • Veterinary Med.

prof. Niek Sanders

UZ delegate

prof. Lieve Brochez

VIB delegate

prof. Peter Vandenabeele

GENERAL CONTACT

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CRIG stimulates and accelerates
cancer research in Ghent

50+ research groups **300+** researchers
from Ghent University, Ghent University Hospital and VIB-UGent

CRIG networks with research institutes,
foundations, and industrial partners



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SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

PROF. JO VANDESOMPELE (CHAIRMAN, CRIG)

Jo Vandesompele obtained a Master of Science in Bioscience Engineering (1997) and a PhD in Medical Genetics (2002). Since 2007, he is professor in Functional Cancer Genomics and Applied Bioinformatics at Ghent University and co-founder and Chief Scientific Officer at Biogazelle. He is author of more than 200 scientific articles in international journals, including some pioneering publications in the domain of nucleic acid quantification. His H-index is 64, with over 31,000 citations (Google Scholar). Jo Vandesompele is member of the cancer expert panel (Research Fund Flanders - FWO) and frequently invited speaker at international conferences and workshops. Jo Vandesompele is co-founder of CRIG and currently chairman of the Steering Committee.

PROF. ANNE DE PAEPE (RECTOR, GHENT UNIVERSITY)

Anne De Paepe, Medical Doctor with specialization in internal medicine and PhD in Biomedical Sciences, has been elected as the first female Rector of Ghent University and holds this position since October 2013. She is a professor of Human and Medical Genetics at the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences and former Director of the Center for Medical Genetics at Ghent University Hospital. In the position of Rector, prof. De Paepe is a member of various boards and councils at Ghent University as well as on interuniversity level. Besides her work for Ghent University she is also an active governor in the world of hospital management. She is a member of the Scientific Research Council of the King Baudouin Foundation, of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Princess Lilian Foundation and is a member of the jury of the Inbev-Baillet-Latour prize for clinical research.

PROF. ERIC MORTIER (CEO, GHENT UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL)

Eric Mortier, Medical Doctor and anesthesiologist, is currently CEO of Ghent University Hospital. Prof. Mortier was former Head of the Department of Anesthesiology of Ghent University Hospital, former Head of the Medical Board of Ghent University Hospital, and former Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences of Ghent University.

DR. JO BURY (MANAGING DIRECTOR, VIB)

Jo Bury has a Master's degree in Pharmacy and is PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences (Ghent University). He obtained an MBA degree at the Vlerick School for Management in Ghent. After performing scientific research in the field of atherosclerosis, he has made a career in science policy. He previously held the post of Operational Director of VLAB (Flanders' Action Programme on Biotechnology) and science advisor at federal and regional granting bodies.

Dr. Jo Bury is managing director of VIB (the Flanders Institute for Biotechnology), a life science research institute with 1.500 scientists and technicians. The focus is strategic basic research with potential applications in molecular medicine and molecular farming. VIB is a multisite institution, integrated within the campuses of the universities of Ghent, Leuven, Brussels, Antwerp and Hasselt. Outside VIB Jo Bury has been a board member of different life science-related companies and research endeavours.

PROF. RENÉ BERNARDS (NETHERLANDS CANCER INSTITUTE)

René Bernards is senior staff scientist at the Netherlands Cancer Institute and professor of Molecular Carcinogenesis at Utrecht University. During his postdoctoral training at the lab of Robert Weinberg (Cambridge), he worked on the isolation of the retinoblastoma tumor suppressor gene. His scientific accomplishments include the development of MammaPrint, the first clinically-used gene expression profile for breast cancer. To bring this discovery to the clinic he co-founded "Agendia", a genomics-based diagnostic company that started offering the first microarray-based diagnostic test for the clinical management of breast cancer in 2004. René Bernards received several awards for his outstanding research and is also a member of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences. René Bernards' laboratory uses functional genomic approaches to find vulnerabilities of cancers that can be exploited therapeutically, based on the concept of synthetic lethality. As one example, his work identified the combination of a BRAF inhibitor and an EGFR inhibitor as effective for the treatment of BRAF mutant colon cancer. There are currently eleven clinical trials ongoing that test the efficacy of the combination therapies suggested by genetic screens from his laboratory.

DR. YVAN DE LAUNOIT (PASTEUR INSTITUTE OF LILLE)

Yvan de Launoit (55) obtained his PhD at ULB on hormone-dependent breast cancers. After a post-doc in Canada, he developed his team at the Pasteur Institute in Lille on the role of transcription factors in breast and prostate cancer metastasis. In 2004, he took the direction of the "Institut de Biologie de Lille" and in 2007, he was appointed to co-head the Regional-State program on cancer in the Nord-Pas-de-Calais region, which was focused on the reinforcement of highly promising cancer research projects (chemists and biologists developing new-targeted therapies in cancer). Thanks to this support, two main themes emerged, targeted therapies in resistant cancers and dormant cells, which were then at the heart of the comprehensive cancer center, the SIRIC ONCOLille created in 2012. In 2014, he was appointed to co-head the new Regional-State project on cancer, to create a new cancer research institute, located on the hospital campus in order to gather the cancer research teams of Lille. This future interdisciplinary research center in the vicinity of the patients and clinicians will focus its research on the two main themes of ONCOLille. Moreover, one of the major originalities of this center will be to develop, in synergy with these two research themes, BioMEMS (new micro-materials at the interface between microsystems and biology) in order to overcome technological and scientific obstacles in the study of the molecular and cellular mechanisms and in the development of diagnostic and therapeutic applications in oncology. Yvan de Launoit is also President of the BOD of the Canceropôle Nord-Ouest, which is focused on the link between fundamental and translational cancer research in Caen, Rouen, Amiens and Lille

DR. BERT VANHAESBROUCK

Dr. Bert Vanhaesebrouck, Medical Doctor, was resident in plastic surgery at Ghent University (headed by prof. dr. G. Matton). Plastic surgery practice from 1980 to 2012 in Sint-Niklaas. Combination doctor-patient from 2010 to 2012. Stem cell transplantation in February 2013. From 2012: curriculum vitae is no longer important, only individual person remains.

DR. KURT HERTOQS (J&J)

Dr. Kurt Hertogs has been trained as a Pharmacist, and holds a PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences from the Catholic University of Leuven. He started his career at Tibotec – a Belgian start up that was acquired by J&J in 2002 and has held a variety of positions in research and early development. He was actively involved in the discovery and pharmacological profiling of Tibotec's anti-infectives portfolio (Prezista (TMC114), Intelence (TMC125), Edurant (TMC278), Sirturo (TMC207) and Simeprevir (TMC435). In 2013, Kurt took on the role of Platform Innovation & Incubator Strategy Leader at the Johnson & Johnson Innovation Centre. In this role he developed a strategy for creating early stage incubation initiatives across Europe, in concert with local research institutions, entrepreneurs and investors. Recently, Kurt was appointed Head JLINX – the newest J&J Innovation Company Investment and Incubation Model. In addition, Kurt will be the J&J Innovation Lead at the Beerse Campus.

DR. BERNARD MAJOIE (FOURNIER-MAJOIE FOUNDATION)

Dr. Bernard Majoie is a pharmacist, holds a PhD in Pharmacology and has built the Rx business of a medium-sized pharmaceutical company. He started the research and development activities of the company from scratch and kept modernizing for 35 years, which lead to a substantial business growth. The growth was mainly based on his innovative, collaborative and international way of thinking. When dr. Majoie left the company in 2000, it had more than 4000 employees and a turnover of 650 million euros worldwide. Now retired, Bernard Majoie actively helps young and small teams in the field of life sciences to avoid they make mistakes in their move from science to business. He does this either directly or through the Foundation Fournier-Majoie, which was created in Belgium in 2006 and which provides financial support and counselling to more than 10 different projects including three incorporated start-ups.

PROF. EM. YVES BENOIT (KINDERKANKERFONDS)

Prof. em. Yves Benoit is Medical Doctor, PhD in Biomedical Sciences, and specialist in Pediatrics with sub-specialization in Pediatric Hemato-Oncology (Ghent University). He was head of the department Pediatric Hemato-Oncology at Ghent University Hospital (1985-2014), and professor in Pediatric Hemato-Oncology at the faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences at Ghent University (1993-2014). Prof. em. Benoit was founder and first chairman (1996-2002) of the Belgian Society of Pediatric Haematology/Oncology (BSPHO), and chairman of the Children Leukemia Group of the European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC) (2009 – 2016). Prof. em. Benoit is also founder and chairman of vzw *Kinderkankerfonds* (non-profit organisation "Children's Cancer Fund") (1988 - present).