

PrIOMiC-OncoPoint symposium 2026 – prefinal program

30 & 31 March 2026 – De Bijloke (Gent)

<https://www.crig.ugent.be/en/events/priomic-oncopoint-symposium-2026>

Monday 30 March

(8:30 – 10:30 *restricted satellite symposium, only for PrIOMiC promoters & international partners*)

10:30 – 11:00 registration & welcome coffee

11:00 – 11:10 **introduction of the joint PrIOMiC network and OncoPoint symposium**
Prof. Katleen De Preter (promotor of the PrIOMiC network, former chair CRIG)

11:10 – 12:35 **plenary session**

- **11:10 international PrIOMiC partner**
Prof. Rita Fior (Champalimaud Foundation, Lisbon) -
 ‘Zebrafish Avatars for personalized medicine
 and to study tumor-innate immune interactions’
- **11:35 international PrIOMiC partner**
Prof. Hedwig Deubzer (Charité, Berlin) -
title to be confirmed
- **12:00 company pitch presentation**
- **12:05 storm session A - short pitches of selected abstracts**

12:35 – 13:10 **poster session**

13:10 – 13:50 **lunch, booths & poster session (continued)**

13:50 – 15:20 **plenary session**

- **13:50 PrIOMiC partnership (duo-presentation by international + local PrIOMiC partner)**
Prof. Henrik Grönberg (Karolinska Institute, Stockholm) –
 ‘5 years of ProBio (a biomarker driven clinical study in prostate cancer):
 what have we learned?’
Dr. Jarne Pauwels (VIB-UGent, CRIG) –
 ‘Characterizing the ctDNA state by urinary EV proteomic signatures in metastatic
 prostate cancer: an auxiliary research objective of the ProBio trial’

Organized by: 
 CANCER RESEARCH INSTITUTE GHENT

with support from ‘PrIOMiC’, CRIG’s
 International Thematic Network on cancer
 funded by Ghent University


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- **14:30 selected abstract presentation**
Dr. Deyna Keppens (U(Z)Gent, CRIG) –
'Hitting the menin switch to enable drug repurposing in pediatric sarcoma'
- **14:45 international PrIOMiC partner**
Prof. Phuoc T. Tran (MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston) –
'Biologic pathways underlying an unsupervised digital-pathology artificial intelligence biomarker in metastatic prostate cancer'
- **15:10 meet an ERC Consolidator grant laureate**
Prof. Ine Lentacker (UGent, CRIG) –
'MY-NANO: Making cancer treatment more effective by reprogramming cells at the nano level'

15:20 – 16:00 **coffee break, booths & poster viewing
& 'meet-the-international partners' tables**

- *meet-the-expert session per international institute/partner that presents today – at separate round tables to allow face-to-face interaction and discussions in small groups (informal)*
- *participants can join the tables spontaneously, and visit several tables during the session to actively interact with the partners or to follow the ongoing discussions.*

16:00 – 17:35 **plenary session 3**

- **16:00 PrIOMiC partnership (duo-presentation by international + local PrIOMiC partner)**
Prof. Arnon Lavie (University of Illinois, Chicago) –
'Starving Cancer Again: Asparaginase Beyond Leukemia'
Kenneth Hofkens (UGent, CRIG) –
'Asparagine synthetase as a predictive biomarker for L-asparaginase response in ovarian cancer'
- **16:40 selected abstract presentation**
Karo Van Lil (VIB-UGent, CRIG) –
'Decoding tumor antigens: dendritic cell maturation within the tumor environment'
- **16:55 international PrIOMiC partner**
Prof. Hector Peinado (Centro Nacional de Biotecnología, Madrid) –
'From premetastatic niches to immune control:
Extracellular Vesicle–inspired approaches to enhance immunotherapy'
- **17:20 selected abstract presentation**
Dr. Robin Demuyne (UGent, CRIG) –
'Redefining Immunity: Endothelial Cells in the Initiation of Anti-Tumour Response'

17:35 – 17:40 **closing remarks**

Tuesday 31 March

- 8:30 – 9:00 registration & welcome coffee
- 9:00 – 9:05 **introduction**
- 9:05 – 10:30 **plenary session**
- **9:05 PrIOMiC partnership (duo-presentation by international + local PrIOMiC partner)**
Prof. Maria Oliveira (i3S Institute, Porto) –
 ‘Overcoming tumor radioresistance: from models to therapeutics’
Prof. Olivier De Wever (UGent, CRIG) –
 ‘Architecture-preserving tumor fragments as a scalable 3D platform for drug and cancer biology evaluation’
 - **9:45 international PrIOMiC partner**
Prof. Alejandra Bruna (Institute of Cancer Research, London) –
 ‘Phenotypic plasticity is a key evolutionary strategy enabling early treatment adaptation that primes paediatric tumours for relapse’
 - **10:10 storm session B - short pitches of selected abstracts**
- 10:30 – 11:00 **coffee break, booths & poster viewing**
- 11:00 – 12:25 **plenary session**
- **11:00 international PrIOMiC partner**
Prof. Godelieve Tytgat (Princess Maxima Center, Utrecht) –
 ‘Liquid biopsies for pediatric solid tumors’
 - **11:25 selected abstract presentation**
Sofie Hoogstoel (UGent, CRIG) –
 ‘Whole-body donors as a resource for large-scale genomic analysis of metastatic cancer’
 - **11:40 international PrIOMiC partner**
Prof. Olivier Gevaert (Stanford University, Palo Alto) –
 ‘Multi-modal modeling in precision medicine: from data imputation to digital twins’
 - **12:05 storm session C - short pitches of selected abstracts**
- 12:25 – 13:00 **poster session**
- 13:00 – 13:40 **lunch, booths & poster session (continued)**

13:40 – 15:15 **parallel sessions 1 on (A) fundamental & translational cancer research and (B) clinical & psychosocial/nursing cancer research**

session 1A: fundamental & translational research (plenary room 'Concertzaal')

- **13:40 international PrIOMiC partner**
Prof. Roderick Beijersbergen (The Netherlands Cancer Institute, Amsterdam)
'Beyond the Target: What CRISPR Screens Teach Us About Cancer Drug Action'
- **14:05 selected abstract presentation**
Laura Wyckaert (UGent, CRIG) –
'Lipid droplet formation in ferroptotic cancer cells impair anti-tumor response'
- **14:20 international PrIOMiC partner**
Prof. Frédéric Saltel (Bordeaux Institute of Oncology)–
'Tissue proteomics reveals specific biological pathways associated with response treatments in advanced hepatocellular carcinoma'
- **14:45 selected abstract presentation**
Annagiada Toniolo (VIB-UGent, CRIG) –
'FADD-mediated cell death as a driver of squamous carcinogenesis'
- **15:00 selected abstract presentation**
Arne Christiaens (UGent, CRIG) –
'Prime editing in *Xenopus* to drive autochthonous tumor formation through introduction of missense mutations'

session 1B: clinical & psychosocial/nursing research (breakout room 'Anatomisch Theater')

(co-organized & chaired by Kankercentrum UZ Gent)

- **13:40 invited speaker presentation**
Dr. Yaël Slaghmuylder (UGent) & **Lore Van Oudenhove** (myNEO Therapeutics)
'AI as guide after cancer'
- **13:55 selected abstract presentation**
Femke Van Landschoot (VUB, UGent) –
'IT Barriers and Enablers for Implementing Electronic Patient Reported Outcome Measures: A Multi-site Qualitative Study in Nine European Oncology Settings'
- **14:10 selected abstract presentation**
Dr. Anne van Driessche (VUB, UGent) –
'Multicenter randomized controlled trial and process evaluation of an advance care planning intervention for adolescents with cancer and their parents'
- **14:25 selected abstract presentation**
Isabel Vlerick (U(Z)Gent, CRIG) –
'Development and evaluation of a mentoring programme for oncology nurse navigators and advanced practice nurses: educational design research with mixed-method evaluation'

- **14:40 selected abstract presentation**
Dr. Andreas Denys (U(Z)Gent, CRIG) –
'Qualitative Research In Pelvic Exenteration Surgery: A Scoping Review'
- **14:55 selected abstract presentation**
Dr. Anne-Lore Scherrens (VUB, UGent) –
'Development of a health promotion intervention for people with cancer to start a palliative care conversation with their physician: an intervention mapping approach'

15:15 – 15:45 **coffee break, booths & poster viewing**

15:45 – 16:50 **parallel sessions 2 on (A) fundamental & translational research and (B) clinical & psychosocial/nursing research**

session 2A: fundamental & translational research (plenary room 'Concertzaal')

- **15:45 international PriOMiC partner**
Prof. Kyra Campbell (University of Sheffield) –
'Using Drosophila melanogaster to speed up cancer drug discovery and lower costs'
- **16:10 selected abstract presentation**
Dr. Bert Luyckx (VIB-UGent, CRIG) – 'Modeling of glucocorticoid resistance in multiple myeloma: mechanisms and markers of resistance'
- **16:25 international PriOMiC partner**
Prof. Joost Kluiver (University of Groningen & UMCG)
'Integrating non-coding RNAs into oncogenic networks in B-cell lymphoma'

session 2B: clinical & psychosocial/nursing research (breakout room 'Anatomisch Theater')

(co-organized & chaired by Kankercentrum UZ Gent)

- **15:45 session of selected abstract 5' presentations**
Marthe Van Overbeke (UAntwerp, UGent) – 'Effectiveness of an eHealth self-management support program for persistent pain after breast cancer treatment: protocol of the pecan-study'
Emma Tack (UAntwerp, UGent, CRIG) – 'Understanding what moves cancer survivors: determinants of physical activity from evidence and lived experience'
Francesca Van Hulle (UGent, CRIG): 'The relationship between fatigue and physical functioning after surgery in patients with non-small cell lung cancer'
Laura Coekelberghs (UGent, CRIG) – 'Motivational strategies for healthcare providers to refer cancer patients to oncological rehabilitation programs'
Mathilde Majchrzak & Emiel De Moerloose (UGent) – 'Assessing nutrition in sarcoma patients throughout their treatment: malnutrition risk and dietary shifts'

- **16:10 invited speaker presentation – clinically focused (*in Dutch!*)**
Renée Bultijnck (UGent, CRIG) –
'Implementatiegids: Stapsgewijs naar autonomie in bewegen bij kanker'
- **16:30 selected abstract presentation – clinically focused (*in Dutch!*)**
Barbara Casteels & Frauke De Ketelbutter (Kankercentrum UZ Gent) –
Boek 'Geraakt door kanker – stemmen uit de zijlijn'
- **16:40 selected abstract presentation – clinically focused (*in Dutch!*)**
Nathan Vermeulen (Kankercentrum UZ Gent) –
Bordspel 'Ganami: al spelend spreken over kanker'

16:55 – 17:15 **plenary session in memory of Prof. Pieter Van Vlierberghe & award for best paper in 2025 for a young CRIG researcher**

17:15 – 17:40 **plenary session on the 10th anniversary of CRIG**
Prof. Karim Vermaelen (chairman of CRIG)
accomplishments & future perspectives

17:40 – 17:45 **closing remarks & awards for best presentations**

17:45 – 18:15 **reception & session 'meet the international partners'**

format:

- *meet-the-expert session per international institute/partner that presented today – at separate round tables to allow face-to-face interaction and discussions in small groups (in the reception area, with opportunity to have a drink)*
- *participants can join the tables spontaneously, and visit several tables during the session to actively interact with the partners or to follow the ongoing discussions.*

18:15 – 18:45 **reception (continued)**