



2022 MEMBER NEWSLETTER - 1ST QUARTER

*The BSC wishes you a happy, healthy
and successful 2022!*

CALENDAR



January 19th 2022: ESO educational webinar: ICH
<https://eso-stroke.org/events/eso-educational-webinar-episode-4-ich/>

February 09-11, 2022: International Stroke Conference
New Orleans, Louisiana, USA + virtual
<https://professional.heart.org/en/meetings/international-stroke-conference/programming>

May 4-7, 2022: 8th European Stroke Conference
(ESOC)
Lyon, France
<https://2022.eso-conference.org/>

November 26th, 2022: 21st BSC Scientific Symposium

AWARDS

The BSC is proud to award **Sarah Vandelanotte** (KULAK) with the **2021 Helaers Research Prize** for her excellent work in the field of thrombus composition and improvement of thrombolysis in ischemic stroke.

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BSC SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM

On December 4th 2021, the 20th (fully virtual) edition of the BSC Scientific Symposium was held. Despite some minor technical issues, it was a very successful event which was attended by 186 people. During the morning session, 6 international experts gave their insights into modern stroke care from prehospital phase to rehabilitation and secondary prevention.

In the afternoon, several national research projects were presented and outstanding national researchers were awarded. Hanne Christensen, president of the stroke action plan for Europe, and Syvlie De Raedt shared the view of the European Stroke Organisation and BSC on improving stroke care in Europe and Belgium. We are delighted to share that many of you attended the afternoon session, illustrating a great interest for stroke care quality and research.

Video presentations of the morning and afternoon sessions will soon be made available on demand for every BSC member. You will receive more information via email soon.

If you missed the 2021 symposium and wish to view it on demand, we encourage you to register via <https://belgianstrokecouncil.be/nl/congress-en/>

SCIENTIFIC COMMUNICATIONS

BELGIAN NETWORK FOR CLINICAL STROKE TRIALS (BeNET)



The year 2022 looks promising regarding stroke trial activities. There is more clinical research than we can summarize in this paragraph, but we would like to highlight just a few. The CONVINCe trial, funded by a TBM-grant, will likely finish recruitment by the end of summer with follow-up for 1,5 years thereafter. We are seeing a stable recruitment in Belgian centers for ELAN which is anticipated to continue for the rest of the duration of the trial. TENCRAOS, a trial exploring the role of tenecteplase in patients presenting with central retinal artery occlusion, is expected to have the first patients in by this year.

The Dutch-Belgian project proposal on a trial in patients with carotid stenosis who are planned to undergo a thrombectomy, and who will be randomized to direct stenting or delayed carotid intervention has made it to the final round in the BENEFIT call. If indeed the project will be granted, we plan to have the first patient randomized early 2023. This will be a great opportunity to again underscore the potential of Belgian sites to actively collaborate in clinical trials that are aimed to answer relevant questions for patients.

The BSC would like to thank all investigators at the various centers for their continuous efforts to try and find new therapeutic opportunities for patients to ultimately improve outcome.

Best wishes for the New Year from BeNET

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS



European Stroke Conference

Abstract submission deadline: January 11th 2021

<https://2022.eso-conference.org/abstract-submission-guidelines/>

CALL FOR COLLABORATION

Effect of virtual reality on gait pattern after chronic stroke (VUB)

Population: chronic (> 3 mo) stroke patients with persistent walking difficulties

Intervention: 2 treadmill walking sessions of 4x8 minutes

<https://rere.research.vub.be/deelnemers-gezocht>

Contact: rere-neuro@vub.be

Intensive Stroke Rehabilitation - HABIT-ILE (UCL Namur)

Population: chronic (> 6 mo) stroke patients with hemiparesis affecting the hand / arm

Intervention: 50 hours of intensive therapy spread over 2 weeks

<https://uclouvain.be/en/research-institutes/ions/cosy/motor-skill-learning-and-intensive-neurorehabilitation-lab-msl-in.html>

Contact: camp.habit.ile@gmail.com

GUIDELINE UPDATE

European Stroke Organization interim expert opinion on cerebral venous thrombosis occurring after SARS-CoV-2 vaccination

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/23969873211030842>

MEET THE STROKE TEAM

Cliniques Saint-Pierre, Ottignies

Contact:
jean-marc.raymackers@belgianstrokecouncil.be



Dr Jean-Marc Raymackers, head of stroke care.

What motivates you?

I remember our first thrombectomy case in 2014 very well. The patient had just returned home after aortic surgery and presented with a right large vessel occlusion due to acute atrial fibrillation. IVT was contra-indicated, but fortunately Dr Andre Peeters' team at St-Luc Hospital Brussels performed a thrombectomy and his NIHSS score improved from 22 to 3. Seven years later, the patient remains asymptomatic. Today, we send around 2 patients a month for EVT, usually to St-Luc Hospital. Importantly, stroke does not occur only in the elderly. Approximately twice a month, we deal with patients younger than 50! Small improvements in our treatment of stroke patients may have dramatic consequences on the patient's independence. Luckily, treatment options have increased and are becoming more inclusive. I am motivated to maintain good clinical practice in stroke care, and to broaden the interaction with other specialties within and outside the hospitals.

What could be improved?

Neurological nurse care is very demanding, especially care for stroke patients. As in most part of the country, nursing staff and should be increased and their working conditions should be improved (including their salary). Also, the costs to patients remain high. Funds should be given by the social security to better finance transportation, rehabilitation, psychological, social care, patient organizations... And the list is not exhaustive.

Stroke team metrics

Yearly stroke admissions: > 400
IVT: > 12% of ischemic stroke
4 cardiac monitored beds, 28 conventional beds

Neurologists:

Dr Maxime Algoet
Dr Thomas Coppens
Dr Marie-Céline Duray
Dr Frédéric Evrard
Dr Philippe Jacquerye
Dr Gaëtane Picard
Dr Philippe Pierre
Dr Jean-Marc Raymackers

Interventional neuroradiologists

Dr Benjamin Mine

Rehabilitation physician

Dr Catherine Opsomer

Neurosurgeons

Dr Oliver Lermen
Dr Vincent Marneffe
Dr Pauline Michel

Head nurse

Mrs Virginie Desablin

Physiotherapists

Mrs Céline Manise
Mrs Emeline Michaux

Occupational therapist

Mr Antoine Jourdain

Speech pathologists

Mrs Laurence Dumont
Mrs Françoise Gelis

Neuropsychologists

Mrs Amandine George
Mrs Julie Nootens
Mrs Eléonore Seron

Dietician

Mrs Claire Demarcin

Social worker

Mrs Corinne Ypersier