

# Belgium & Norway Life Sciences day: Exploring the future of health and biotech

## Speakers' Presentations

### Introduction of the program by conference host Ruth Astrid L. Sæter



#### **Conferecier Ruth Astrid Sæter**

Ruth Astrid L. Sæter is a former journalist who, through her business Sæter Media, offers services as a conference moderator, debate leader, and writer. She has been doing this full-time since 2012, interrupted only by two one-year engagements as a communication advisor at the Research Council of Norway, at the Department for Climate and Polar Research.

Ruth Astrid holds a degree in journalism (with a master's degree in film and TV theory as well), and she has many years of experience as a field reporter, editor and managing editor from the Norwegian daily and monthly press. As a moderator, debate leader, and writer, Ruth Astrid utilizes her journalistic experience to familiarize herself with a wide range of topics, enabling her to contribute to conveying content and messages in an engaging and understandable manner.

### **Life Sciences Day : Opening Welcome by Norwegian and Belgian ministers**

Svein STØLEN & Christine WERGELAND SØRBYE, UiO & Oslo Science City

Willy BORSUS, Vice-President of the Walloon Government

Line VOLD, Dir. General, Department of Public Health, Ministry of Health & Care Services

Leif Rune SKYMOEN, CEO, LMI (Pharmaceutical industry association)



#### **Prof. Dr. Svein Stølen, Rector UiO**

Svein Stølen is Rector of the University of Oslo for the period 2017-2025. He is a professor of chemistry, with research interest in inorganic materials, especially relationships between structure and properties. Stølen has been elected the first president of the European University Alliance Circle U. In addition, he chairs the board of Norway's first innovation district, Oslo Science City and since June 2022 he chairs the board of The Guild of European Research-Intensive Universities. He leads the Olav Thon Foundation's

two professional councils, and the Anders Jahres Foundation for the Promotion of Science.

Prof. Stølen has been vice dean for research at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (2013-2016) and head of the Department of Chemistry (2009-2012). He headed the Center for Materials Science and Nanotechnology, and was the first chairman of the board, both for UiO: Life Sciences and for Digital Life Norway. He has been a member of the board of the Department of Energy Technology (2012-2017) and the Research Council's division board for science (2015-2017). He is member of the Royal Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters and the Norwegian Academy of Engineering Sciences.



#### **Christine Wergeland Sørbye, CEO Oslo Science City**

Christine Wergeland Sørbye oversees the development of the innovation district Oslo Science City. Sørbye holds extensive project management experience from the City of Oslo, including writing the city's official campus strategy for developing Oslo into a knowledge capital and business friendly city.

Sørbye holds an advanced MA in Education from the University of Oslo, where she specialized in leadership, organizational theory and didactics.



**Willy BORSUS, Vice-President of the Walloon Government**

Vice-President of Wallonia, Minister of the Economy, Foreign Trade, Research and Innovation, Digital Affairs, Agriculture, Urban Planning and Regional Planning. Since September 2019, Willy BORSUS has been at the Vice-Presidency of Wallonia with ministerial responsibilities: Economy, Foreign Trade, Research and Innovation, Digital, Agriculture, Urban Planning and Regional Planning. With his colleagues, he is determined to bring essential reforms, to support the socio-economic development of the Region and to meet the legitimate expectations of their fellow citizens.

**Line VOLD, Dir. General, Department of Public Health, Ministry of Health & Care Services**



**Leif Rune SKYMOEN, CEO, LMI (Association of the Pharmaceutical Industry in Norway)**

Leif Rune Skymoen holds a Cand.pharm degree from the University of Oslo, with a final year of study at the University of Oxford, as well as an Executive Master of Management from BI Norwegian Business School. He joined Eli Lilly in 2002 and climbed the ranks in the Norwegian and European organization – eventually becoming Country Director of Norway.

From the pharmaceutical industry, he moved to the world of organizations in 2013, becoming CEO of Nansen Neuroscience Network. In 2015, he returned to the pharmaceutical industry, this time as an industry builder at Curida. Skymoen was among the founders of Curida, a pharmaceutical contract manufacturing organization based in Norway.

He has served on the board of several companies and organizations.

Skymoen took the position as CEO of LMI in 2023.

**SESSION 1 - Plenary session**

**Insights in Belgian and Norwegian Life Sciences Ecosystems**

**-Introduction of the Belgian Biotech and Life Sciences Ecosystem**

Tineke VAN HOOLAND, Deputy Secretary General, Essenscia



**Tineke VAN HOOLAND, Deputy Secretary General, Essenscia**

Tineke Van hooland is deputy Secretary General at bio.be/essenscia, the federation representing companies active in the biotech and life sciences industry. She is also board member at Europabio, the European Association for Bioindustries in which she chairs the National Associations Council (NAC). She also holds various other positions like member of the Joint Industrial Cooperation Forum (JICF) at HERA (Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority), and board member at ViTalent, the Flemish Life Sciences Training center.

Prior to joining bio.be/essenscia, Tineke has held several leadership positions in biopharmaceutical companies at corporate level. She has an in-depth expertise in the domains of Governmental Affairs, Communications and Patient Advocacy. Tineke graduated with High Distinction as Industrial Pharmacist from Ghent University in 2003. She is known for her dynamic and no-nonsense approach. Tineke is also founder and CEO of epic 10.

She is a female leadership advocate and has authored a number of opinion pieces on sustainable health policy and empowering women.

## **-Introduction of the Norwegian Biotech and Life Sciences Ecosystem**

*Idar KREUTZER*, Director International affairs & Digitalization, NHO

*Hanne Mette DYRLIE KRISTENSEN*, CEO, The Life Science cluster

*Lena NYMO HELLI*, CEO, Norway Health Tech

*Charlotte WU HOMME*, Head of Membership and Events, Oslo Cancer Cluster

*Arild KRISTENSEN*, CEO, Norwegian Smart Care Cluster

*Tone VARSLOT STAVE*, Health export, Innovation Norway



### **Idar KREUTZER, Director International affairs & Digitalization, NHO (Confederation of Norwegian Enterprise)**

Idar Kreutzer is a director at NHO. He oversees processes related to international affairs, digitalization through the DSOP-project and sustainable development. Kreutzer was the CEO of Finance Norway from 2012-2023 and CEO of Storebrand from 2000 to 2012. Kreutzer holds several board positions, and he is chairman of the board of Aschehoug Forlag, and a member of the NHH's Advisory Board. He was a member of the board of the University of Oslo for eight years. In June of 2018 he submitted the Roadmap for Green Competitiveness in the financial sector on behalf of the Norwegian financial sector. In October 2018, Kreutzer submitted his report on access to risk capital in the Nordic region on behalf of the Nordic Council of Ministers. From

June 2015 to October 2016, he co-chaired the Government's expert committee on green competitiveness. He is a member of the Climate and Environment Minister's Climate Council. In 2013 he was appointed member of the Strategy Council for the Norwegian Government Pension Fund Global. He has been a member of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) and has Co-Chaired their Vision 2050. Mr. Kreutzer holds a MSc-degree in Economics and Business Administration from the NHH (Norwegian School of Economics). Kreutzer is Fellow of Digital Innovation for Growth at NHH.



### **Hanne Mette DYRLIE KRISTENSEN, CEO, The Life Science cluster**

Hanne Mette D. Kristensen is managing director of The Life Science Cluster. She has a solid background both as an entrepreneur and director within biotech; she also has broad experience from clusters, both as an active member and as a board member in Oslo Cancer Cluster and Norway Health Tech. She has also worked on the incubator/investor side of the industry and has a broad international network.

Hanne Mette came to The Life Science Cluster from Innovation Norway, where she was a special advisor life science/health in the Oslo region and Invest in Norway. Over the years in Innovation Norway, she has worked with financing, companies and clusters, in addition to national and international branding of the industry for partners and investors. She has e.g. been responsible for a common Nordic pavilion and collaboration at the BIO International Convention, international Global Growth networks and industry network within health, and for the coordination of strategic positioning of the Norwegian health industry which was launched in 2019. She has a master's in biochemistry from the University of Oslo, and a Master of Technology Management (MTM) from MIT/NHH/NTNU



**Lena NYMO HELLI, CEO, Norway Health Tech**

*Lena Nymo Helli is CEO of the health cluster Norway Health Tech. She has more than 25 years' experience from international pharmaceutical industry, and has been a venture partner at Hadean Venture. Lena is currently chair of the board at regional health authority Finnmarkssykehuset HF.*

**Charlotte WU HOMME, Head of Membership and Events, Oslo Cancer Cluster**



**Arild KRISTENSEN, CEO, Norwegian Smart Care Cluster**

Arild is the CEO of the Norwegian Smart Care Cluster - an NCE cluster for health and care technology in the Norwegian cluster program, and a gold labelled cluster in the European ESCA program. He has held this position since its beginning in 2014.

Arild is also the manager for the health vertical in the regional innovation company Validé AS and holds several board positions. He was recently appointed new member in the council for HelseOmsorg21 by the Ministry of

Health and Care Services. He has a Bachelor of Arts with Honors degree from Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, and extensive experience as a manager, salesman, entrepreneur, and consultant in a variety of companies like companies IBM, iSolutions, Metier and Eskaler.



**Tone VARSLOT STAVE, Health export, Innovation Norway**

Head of department for growth and the internationalization team, Innovation Norway Oslo Viken. Tone has worked in Innovation Norway from 2016, as an EU advisor and responsible for the EU. She previously worked for several years as a consultant, finance manager and project manager at DNV, and also has experience from the Ministry of Trade and Industry. Tone has a degree in civil economics and a Master of Science in Management.



**Line KJELSTRUP, CEO, Biotech North**

Line Kjelstrup is the Cluster Manager for Biotech North, a knowledge-based industry cluster within marine biotechnology and marine health products. Biotech North is located in Tromsø, Norway, and serves the biotechnology and biomarine sectors in the northern part of the country. The goal of the cluster is to increase the members innovation and competitiveness and consolidate the position of Tromsø as "The Hot Spot for Blue Biotech".

Kjelstrup is from Tromsø and has a Master of Science in Fisheries and Aquaculture from UiT-The Arctic University of Norway. She has previously worked in the Ministry of Fisheries, Norway Seafoods and NCE Aquaculture. For 7 years she was the fisheries envoy for Norwegian Seafood Council to Sweden. And for two years she worked as Program Manager for Arctic Frontiers, before she started the job as Cluster Manager for Biotech North early 2020.

## Insights in Belgian excellence in Biomanufacturing - Panel

*Jean-Christophe TELLIER*, CEO, UCB

*Thibault JONCKHEERE*, CEO, Exothera

*Dominique DEMONTÉ*, PhD CEO, Brussels South Charleroi Biopark

Moderator:

*Tineke VAN HOOLAND*, Deputy Secretary General, Essenscia



### **Jean-Christophe TELLIER, CEO, UCB**

Jean-Christophe Tellier joined UCB in 2011. He became UCB's Chief Executive Officer on January 1, 2015 after having successfully led UCB's BioBrands and Solutions division as Executive Vice President. Jean-Christophe Tellier is an experienced global leader. He was trained as a Medical Doctor and specialized in rheumatology. He has built a distinguished 30+ year career in the

biopharmaceutical industry, taking on different global leadership responsibilities in different parts of the world. His patient-centric approach, his passion for science, combined with his strategic and operational skills, have allowed him to significantly contribute to UCB's success in recent years. Jean-Christophe believes that the best way to have a positive impact on society and continue to thrive is to deliver on our commitments to patients and our stakeholders. To this end he has led the integration of our sustainability approach into our strategy to help UCB improve its societal impact while ensuring that we continue to perform well as a company.

He has also been instrumental in humanizing UCB's approach towards patients, developing the company's Patient Value Strategy. For Jean-Christophe "engaging the patient in our vision is the best way for our company to be successful in the long term. Having a holistic view of a patient, of his/her life in his/her environment is essential to ensure effective treatment". Jean-Christophe also believes that "all healthcare players - physicians, payors, carers, industry and academia - should cooperate even more effectively and become stronger partners sharing a same goal: improving patient care".

As a leader, Jean-Christophe has always had a passion for developing people, which he sees as "a key force to drive company success". His ambition is to continue to further engage UCB teams behind the company's vision and fully leverage UCB's strong culture and talents.



### **Thibault JONCKHEERE, CEO, Exothera**

As CEO, Thibault leads the business and project management functions to set up meaningful partnerships with cell & gene therapy innovators. He is also in charge of structuring the company's overall processes to make sure the organization is focused on delivering qualitative and innovative services.

Thibault started his career in the energy sector, holding several financial and consultancy positions. In 2013 he joined MaSTherCell (cell therapy CDMO), where he helped grow the company as head of business development. In 2016 he joined ImmunXperts (immunology CRO), leading the company's development as CEO. In addition, he acquired international experience by working in Boston, the Netherlands, Paris, and Houston. Mr. Jonckheere holds a Master of Business

Engineering from the Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management.



**Dominique DEMONTÉ, PhD CEO, Brussels South Charleroi Biopark**

Dominique, a biologist holding a PhD in molecular genetics, has navigated a multifaceted career that spans from research to management and the promotion of knowledge-based regional development.

After his role as the head of the life sciences unit at the Technology Transfer Office of the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB), Dominique was entrusted with the position of Deputy Director at the ULB Institute of Medical Immunology. This institute stands as a remarkable public-private partnership, uniting the collaborative efforts of Wallonia, ULB and GSK Biologicals.

Graduated from the MIT Sloan School of Management through the MIT REAP program, Dominique has developed a deep expertise in cluster development, which he has refined through diverse positions in Science Parks, competitiveness clusters, professional associations and boards of both public and private enterprises.

Currently, Dominique serves as the Director of Biopark Charleroi, a thriving Biotech Cluster comprising 3,300 individuals. Within this dynamic ecosystem, the Biopark is home to three research institutes, hosts 105 innovative companies, fosters a dedicated training center and nurtures entrepreneurs through its state-of-the-art incubator.

**SESSION 2**

**Panel 1: Europe at the forefront of clinical trials**

*Eric HALIOUA, CEO, PDC\*line Pharma*

*Cécile JACOBY, CEO, Q1 Scientific*

*Signe ØIEN FRET LAND, Head of NorTrials Coordinating Unit, Oslo University Hospital*

*Aslaug HELLAND, Professor, group leader, Connect Norway, Oslo University Hospital*

Moderator:

*Ina Kathrine DAHLSVEEN, Senior advisor - research, development and innovation, LMI*



**Eric HALIOUA, CEO, PDC\*line Pharma**

Serial entrepreneur that combines strong strategic, technological and managerial experience with proven track record of deal-making and fund-raising. During his career he achieved together with his different teams to bring four drug candidates from research to the clinics (up to phase IIb).

Overall, Eric has raised as of now a total of more than €170 million from VCs and strategic partners in Europe, USA, Japan and Korea and have had numerous successes in the sale and initial public offering of biotechnology

companies. He is CEO of the biotechnology company PDC\*line Pharma and board member of Essenscia (Bio.be). Eric is co-founder of four biotechnology companies called Myosix (bought by Genzyme mid-2002), Murigenetics, HairClone and Digital Orthopaedics. He is co-Inventor of the first GMP approved mobile manufacturing unit for cell therapy. Eric worked for 12 years in the Healthcare and Life Sciences Practice of Arthur D. Little. Eric holds two master's degrees in pharmacology and Molecular Biology and a MBA from ESSEC business school (Paris, France), with an advanced degree from the Health Care ESSEC chair.



**Cécile JACOBY, CEO, Q1 Scientific**

Cécile Jacoby joined Q1 Scientific Belgium as CEO in 2023, overseeing the management of a 20,000 sq. ft. stability storage facility in Belgium. With more than 25 years of experience in senior strategic and operations roles across pharmaceutical, vaccine, healthcare and cell therapy companies, Cécile excels in developing and managing business operations. After working at the Director level in GSK for over 10 years, Cécile became a Senior Executive Consultant delivering several worldwide assignments to pharmaceutical, R&D and biotechnology companies. Cécile also took over the general management of a Belgian Biotech group's subsidiary and an

industrial group's holding company. Cécile's wealth of experience positions her as a key player in Q1

Scientific's mission to provide secure, reliable and cost-effective outsourced stability storage services to the pharmaceutical, medical device, and life sciences industries.



**Signe ØIEN FRETLAND, Head of NorTrials Coordinating Unit, Oslo University Hospital**

Signe Øien Fretland holds a master's degree in pharmacy from the University of Oslo. She has worked within the field of clinical trials for almost 20 years, both with the pharmaceutical industry and the specialist healthcare service. Since 2022 she has been head of NorTrials coordinating unit, the operational hub of the NorTrials organisation. NorTrials is a governmental initiative to increase the number of clinical trials and access to investigational treatment for Norwegian patients.

The coordinating unit is located at Oslo university hospital, but has a national responsibility.



**Åslaug HELLAND, Professor, group leader, Connect Norway, Oslo University Hospital**

Åslaug Helland, MD, PhD, is Research Director at the OECl-accredited Oslo Comprehensive Cancer Centre. She is an oncologist by training, with expertise in thoracic oncology. She is also Professor at the University of Oslo, Institute of Clinical Medicine. She is director of the national research centre for clinical cancer research – MATRIX (<https://www.matrix-fkb.no/en/home>), recently funded with 13 million Euro from the Norwegian Research Council and the Norwegian Cancer Society, and she leads the national centre for lung cancer research funded by the Norwegian Cancer Society. Åslaug Helland

obtained her MD degree in 1995, and later her PhD in Medicine in 2000, from the University of Oslo. She pursued her postdoctoral studies during 2003/2004 at Stanford University, and in 2008/2009 as a visiting scientist at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Melbourne Australia, adding to her international experience.

She leads the research group “Translational research on solid tumours” at the Institute for Cancer Research, Norwegian Radium Hospital (NRH), Oslo, focusing on translational studies on solid tumours, with a special interest in lung cancers and pancreatic cancers. She furthermore leads several clinical and translational studies. Currently, she leads the investigator-initiated DART-trial, a translational study for patients with stage III NSCLC supported by ASTRA-Zeneca, the NIPU trial – a study evaluating ipi-nivo and ipi-nivo + UV1 vaccine in patients with malignant mesothelioma supported by BMS and Ultimovacs. She also leads the IMPRESS-Norway study, supported by several different companies providing drugs (<https://impress-norway.no/>) is a national precision cancer medicine trial for patients with advanced malignancies.

The public-private partnership NORTRIALS aims at attracting more clinical studies to Norwegian patients, and the NORTRIALS-cancer is led by Åslaug Helland



**Ina Kathrine DAHLSVEEN, Senior advisor - research, development and innovation, LMI**

Ina Dahlsveen has a PhD in Biochemistry from University College London and a BSc in Biotechnology from Imperial College, London. She also completed a Post Doc at The Maximilian Universität in Munich, Germany before starting as a Technical sales specialist at Exiqon, a Danish medium sized biotech acquired by Qiagen in 2016. Ina has experience as Product manager and Director of marketing and communications from Exiqon. After having returned to Norway after many years abroad, Ina started working at the Norwegian Research Council in 2014. There she worked with innovation

projects, developed funding schemes and strategic initiatives for the health industry in Norway as well as

being part of the secretariat for The HealthCare21 Advisory Board. Ina started working as senior advisor at the Association of the Pharmaceutical Industry in Norway (LMI) last year and here she focuses on creating the best framework conditions for clinical studies and health data research in Norway.

**Panel 2: ATMP (Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products)**

*Else Marit INDERBERG*, Translational Research Unit Leader, Oslo University Hospital

*Sylvie PONCHAUT*, CEO, Biowin

*Thibault JONCKHEERE*, CEO, Exothera

Moderator:

*Sigrid BRATLIE*, Strategic advisor, The Norwegian Cancer Society



**Else Marit INDERBERG, Translational Research Unit Leader, Oslo University Hospital**

Else Marit Inderberg leads the Translational Research Unit performing immunomonitoring in clinical trials and development of cellular therapy at the Dept. of Cellular therapy, Oslo University Hospital. Her main research focus is on T-cell function and therapy development, including identification of predictive biomarkers of therapy response. She has broad oncology-related clinical trial experience and holds an MSc equivalent degree in Immunology from France and a PhD in tumour immunology from the University of Oslo, Norway. She has co-authored numerous peer-reviewed publications, holds several patents, and is co-founder of two spin-off companies within cancer vaccination and cell therapy.



**Sylvie PONCHAUT, CEO, Biowin**

Sylvie Ponchaut is a distinguished figure in pharmaceuticals and biomedical sciences, known for her academic background and leadership. She holds a pharmacist qualification and a Biomedical Sciences degree from Université Catholique de Louvain, along with a doctoral thesis from the Christian de Duve Institute. At Sopartec SA, she managed life sciences patents and was a key member of the Vives Fund. Sylvie also founded and manages IPinnova sprl. Since 2015, she has been the Managing Director of BioWin, driving collaboration and innovation. She sits on several boards, influencing industry trends and policies.



**Sigrid BRATLIE, Strategic advisor, The Norwegian Cancer Society**

Sigrid Bratlie works as a Strategic advisor to the Norwegian Cancer Society with a particular interest in cell and gene therapy. She is also a member of the Steering Group for the Centre for Advanced Cell Therapy (ACT centre) at Oslo University Hospital. Sigrid also works as a Senior Advisor on synthetic biology and biosecurity at Langsikt Policy Center and as project leader for biotechnology in the bioeconomy at NCE Heidner Biocluster. Sigrid is also an active science communicator to the public. Her main goal is to build public awareness about how biotechnology can contribute to sustainable development, better health and reducing social inequalities – and to promote science as a tool for better policymaking. She holds a degree in Molecular Biology from the University of Glasgow and Imperial College London, UK, and a Phd from the Institute for Cancer Research at the Norwegian Radium Hospital for which she was awarded the Kings gold medal.



## SESSION 3

### Panel 3: Vaccines

#### Part 1 . Collaboration on Research - Pandemic preparedness –

##### Coorganized with ULB, EPIV, University of Antwerp

*Arnaud MARCHANT*, Research Director, European Plotkin Institute for Vaccinology, ULB

*Pierre VAN DAMME*, Director Centre for the Evaluation of Vaccination (CEV), UAntwerp

*Nina LANGELAND*, Professor Infectious Diseases, Faculty of Medicine, UBergen

*Ranveig BRAATHEN*, Group leader, Institute of Immunology, Rikshospitalet, OUS, UiO

*Rebecca Jane COX BROKSTAD*, Professor, Head of the Influenza Centre, UBergen

*Stig TOLLEFSEN*, Technology Office Lead, CEPI

Moderator:

*Marius GILBERT*, Vice-Rector for Research and Valorization, ULB



##### **Arnaud MARCHANT, Research Director, European Plotkin Institute for Vaccinology, ULB**

Prof. Dr. Arnaud Marchant obtained his MD from the Université libre de Bruxelles in 1990 and has 25 years' experience in vaccine and infectious disease immunology research. He teaches medical immunology at the Université libre de Bruxelles and teaches vaccinology in several courses in Belgium and abroad. Arnaud Marchant is Research Director at the Fund for Scientific Research, Belgium, since 2015, and is the director of the Institute for Medical Immunology since 2016.



##### **Pierre VAN DAMME, Director Centre for the Evaluation of Vaccination (CEV), UAntwerp**

Prof. Pierre Van Damme is chairman of the recently established Vaccine & Infectious Disease Institute (VAXINFECTIO, University of Antwerp) (2008), a close collaboration of three research units of the faculty of Medicine, University of Antwerp: the Laboratory of Medical Microbiology (LMM), the Laboratory of Experimental Hematology (LEH), and the Centre for the Evaluation of Vaccination (CEV). It is formally recognized as 'Centre of Excellence' of the University of Antwerp with Methusalem funding.

CEV was founded in 1994 by its present director Prof. Pierre Van Damme. The centre conducts research in five main areas: (1) (sero-)epidemiology of infectious diseases; (2) economic evaluation of public health interventions; (3) protective vaccine efficacy and effectiveness of vaccine studies; and (4) kinetics of vaccine-induced antibodies, including passive transfer of maternal antibodies; and (5) immunosenescence. Professor Pierre Van Damme gained his MD from the University of Antwerp in 1984. He subsequently obtained post-graduate degrees in health and economics, the evaluation of human corporal damage, and occupational medicine. He obtained his PhD in epidemiology and social medicine in 1994 from the University of Antwerp, Belgium.

In 2000, he was appointed Professor at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Antwerp. Prof. Van Damme has authored more than 350 peer-reviewed articles and is on the editorial boards of several scientific journals that focus on the study of vaccines and vaccine-preventable infectious diseases. He has been for more than 10 years a regular advisor for national and international organisations, including the Flemish Vaccination platform, the National Health Council, the World Health Organization (European office and Headquarters), and the ECDC. He has been appointed as chairman of the European WHO Experts group on communicable diseases and vaccines (ETAGE).

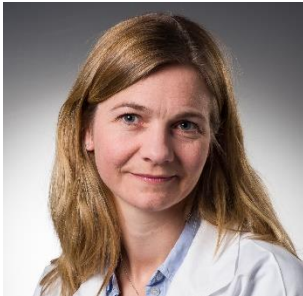


**Nina LANGELAND, Professor Infectious Diseases, Faculty of Medicine, UBergen**

Nina Langeland is a specialist in infectious diseases and professor of infectious disease medicine.

Research on clinical infectious diseases and outbreak investigations. Long-term follow-up after community Giardia outbreak in Bergen. Several projects on importance of antimicrobial resistance and ESBLs in child morbidity and mortality in Tanzanian hospitals. Placebo-controlled RCT on hepatitis C treatment. RCT on cotrimoxazole prophylaxis in HIV infected patients in Tanzania. Placebo-controlled RCT on the use of probiotics to prevent infant sepsis in Tanzania. Clinical studies on COVID-19 including attack rates, vaccination and post-infectious complications.

Experience in phase 1 studies, cohort studies, case control studies and randomized controlled trials.



**Ranveig BRAATHEN, Group leader, Institute of Immunology, Rikshospitalet, OUS, UiO**

PhD Ranveig Braathen, Senior researcher and group leader of the “Molecular immunology and vaccine development” at Department of Immunology, Rikshospitalet, Oslo University Hospital, University of Oslo. Braathen has published several papers in high impact international journals of the development of a novel vaccine platform. A recent paper in Nat Com, suggest a strategy for making broad protecting vaccines against influenza. This can be of great importance to protect against new pandemics. Universal vaccines can

prevent the immune escape of the pathogens and possible also protect against novel pandemics.

Ranveig Braathen obtained her PhD in 2006 at Institute of Pathology, Rikshospitalet, under the supervision of Prof. Per Brandtzaeg and Prof. Finn-Eirik Johansen studying mucosal immunology. Then Braathen joined the group of Prof. Bjarne Bogen at IMM, UiO as a Postdoctoral Fellow. As a postdoc she developed a novel APC-targeting vaccine DNA platform. In 2021, she started her own research group at the Dep. of Immunology focusing on vaccine development research in preclinical models and the use of molecular immunology to improve the efficiency of the vaccines.



**Rebecca Jane COX BROKSTAD, Professor, Head of the Influenza Centre, UBergen**

Rebecca Cox is Professor of Medical Virology and Head of the Influenza Centre at the University of Bergen, Norway. Rebecca Cox completed her Ph.D. in 1995 at the London Hospital Medical College, University of London, UK with Professor John Oxford on the immune response to Influenza vaccines in man. She then had post doc. positions at Guys Hospital, UK and at the University of Bergen under Professor Lars Haaheim. In 2000 she was appointed lecturer in Medical Virology, University of Bergen continued from 2001 as a Research

Scientist. In 2008 she was appointed head of the Influenza Centre with a current staff of 7 and from 2009 Professor in Medical Virology. Her research has focused on preclinical and clinical research into seasonal and pandemic influenza vaccines and is currently funded by the European Union, Norwegian Research Council and the Department of Health. The main areas of research are preclinical research and development of novel adjuvants and influenza vaccines, clinical trials of new influenza vaccines from phase I to IV with focus on detailed characterisation of the immune response.

Rebecca has over 70 peer-reviewed publications in journals or book chapters Rebecca is a member of The Norwegian Influenza Pandemic committee, which provides advice to the Ministry of Health and Care Services. She has served as an expert reviewer for investigator-initiated trials for the European Union and for influenza vaccines to the vaccine industry. She has been invited to the World Health Organization meetings on pandemic vaccines and Broad Spectrum and Long-lasting Immune Responses and served as an advisor to the European Medicines Agency on Scientific Aspects of Serological assays.



**Stig TOLLEFSEN, Technology Office Lead, CEPI**

Immunologist with a PhD from the University of Oslo working with DNA vaccination with electroporation against M. Tuberculosis (2003). Started as post-doctor at Oslo University Hospital from 2002 working with focus on T cell responses in the autoimmune diseases type 1 diabetes and celiac disease, mapping gluten peptide binding to HLA DQ2 and DQ8 associated with the disease. Part of the work was also to make X-ray crystallography of DQ2 and DQ8 transdimers. In 2010 I started at the Norway veterinary institute working with adaptive immunity in ruminants, and with focus on developing peptide vaccines against Mycobacterium Avium, subsp paratuberculosis. From 2013 I was head of the section for immunology at the veterinary institute. February 2019 I moved to Coalition for Epidemics Preparedness Innovations CEPI, being head of Strategic Science, coordinating CEPI Scientific Advisory Committee, and developing and launching the call for proposals for multipurpose vaccine technology platforms against infectious viral diseases with potential for epidemics. Since 2020 I was assigned to be the Technology office lead in CEPI. Main tasks were to be the gate keeper for the 5 rounds of COVID-19 vaccine development calls. In addition I have established TechTalks in CEPI, as a meeting platform to discuss development and support for developers planning to apply to any of our calls. In 2022 I joined Office of Technology as Technology lead, as we are establishing an external research scout office. Current responsibility is looking for new technologies being developed in Europe and Australia that can help CEPI achieve the 100 days ambition for vaccine development, as well as further develop the CEPI TechTalks.



**Marius GILBERT, Vice-Rector for Research and Valorization, ULB**

Professor Marius Gilbert is vice-rector of research and valorization at the Université Libre de Bruxelles. He started his research career as a visiting researcher at the University of Oxford, obtained a PhD on the spatial epidemiology of a forest insect pest at ULB where he was awarded in 2006 a permanent FNRS-FRS academic position. In 2016, he founded the Spatial Epidemiology Lab (SpELL) and lead it until 2023. During the COVID pandemic, he joined the expert group assembled by the prime minister Sophie Wilmes to advise the government and was at the forefront of the expert communication in the media. In September 2020, he published “Juste un passage au JT“, which aimed to popularize the science behind the pandemic and to share the experience of a scientist's journey at the nexus of political decision and communication. His research interests include emerging infectious diseases and global changes.”

## Part 2 . The benefits of investing in adult vaccination - Coorganized with GSK

*Emmanuel AMORY*, Managing Director, GSK Belgium

*Pierre VAN DAMME*, Director Centre for the Evaluation of Vaccination (CEV), UAntwerp

*Guri RØRTVEIT*, Director General, Norwegian Institute of Public Health - FHI

*Rebecca Jane COX BROKSTAD*, Professor, Head of the Influenza Centre, UBergen

Moderator:

Marit *TEIGEN HAUGE*, Assistant Municipal Medical Officer, Municipality of Molde



### **Emmanuel AMORY, Managing Director, GSK Belgium**

Since June 2022, Emmanuel Amory has been Managing Director of Glaxosmithkline Biologicals Belgium.

He joined the company in 2005 as vice president of international operations for biologics.

Previously, he worked for 17 years at Baxter, where he held several management positions.

During his career in the biopharmaceutical industry, Emmanuel managed 20 sites in 13 countries on 4 continents. Its aim is to develop local capacity by

making the best use of technology and science to help save lives around the world.

Emmanuel is an industrial engineer from ECAM and holds a master's degree in business administration from IAG and INSEAD.



### **Guri RØRTVEIT, Director General, Norwegian Institute of Public Health - FHI**

Guri Rørtveit was appointed as the new director of the Public Health Institute and started in her position on 18 March 2024. Prior to that, Guri Rørtveit was professor of general medicine at the University of Bergen and head of the Department of Global Health and Community Medicine at the University of Bergen.

Rørtveit graduated as a doctor from the University of Trondheim in 1991, and is a specialist in general medicine. She has a doctorate from the University of Bergen from 2004. Rørtveit has worked as a general practitioner for over 15 years in Øksnes and Bergen municipality. She has been a research leader at the General Medicine Research Unit in Bergen at UNI Research Health. She

became a professor in 2009 and from 2016 she has headed the Department of Global Health and Community Medicine at the University of Bergen. Rørtveit also has experience from various boards, including as chairman of the Chr. Michelsens Institute and as a board member of the National Knowledge Center on Violence and Traumatic Stress. She has also been a member of the HelseOmsorg-21 council.



### **Marit TEIGEN HAUGE, Assistant Municipal Medical Officer, Municipality of Molde**

Marit Teigen Hauge has 6 years of experience as an internal medicine doctor in the infectious diseases department and 1 year in the microbiology department at Hospital Trust in Vestre Viken and Møre and Romsdag. She also has experience from neurology and psychiatry. During the pandemic, an experienced community physician told her she could do much more for her patients by working preventively as an infection control physician and municipal chief physician. For 3 years, she has been working on setting up vaccination offers and

increasing vaccination coverage in all age groups in her region. She has given lectures on recommended vaccines at the Norwegian Medical Association's course in infectious medicine. She is passionate about quality work and dissemination of knowledge.

## SESSION 4 - Parallel panels

### Panel 4: Revolutionising healthcare and drug development with AI

*Benoit MACQ*, Professor, TRAIL – Medresyst

*Vincent UYTENDAELE*, Researcher, GIGA - University of Liège

*Christophe DEBEN*, Professor UAntwerp, co-founder DrugVision.AI - Orbits Oncology

*Wesley CAPLE*, Clinic director in medical diagnostics, Vestre Viken HF

*Jon Espen INGVALDSEN*, Associate Professor, NTNU - NorwAi

Moderator:

*Nis JOHANNSEN*, Head of Digital Innovation, Helse Sør-Øst



#### **Benoit MACQ, Professor, TRAIL – Medresyst**

A civil electrical engineer and doctor of applied sciences, Benoît Macq is not only a full professor (Telecommunications Laboratory) and former pro-rector of 'service to society' at the Catholic University of Louvain but also a member of the Technology and Society of the Royal Academy of Belgium since 2009 and lecturer at Collège Belgique. Author of scientific articles and conferences which all attempt to develop the potential of the image, of its pixels, both in terms of its coding, its security, and its numerous applications in multimedia, medicine, cinema and digital television. All this does not prevent, on the contrary, our doctor of the image, true 'Doctor House' of pixels as he likes to say when his children ask him what he is doing, from taking responsibilities in the digital plans initiated by a Walloon Region undergoing complete industrial redeployment.



#### **Vincent UYTENDAELE, Researcher, GIGA - University of Liège**

Vincent Uyttendaele is a specialized in the field of biomedical engineering and healthcare technology. He graduated as a biomedical engineer from the University of Liège, Belgium, in 2015, commencing a journey marked by innovation and commitment to improving healthcare outcomes. Driven by a passion for research and innovation, Vincent pursued a PhD program at the University of Canterbury, New Zealand, focusing on patient-specific metabolic variability and precision glycemic control in critical care. His research contributions have significantly advanced precision medicine for glucose control in critical care settings. After completing his PhD in 2020, Vincent returned to the University of Liège for a post-doctoral position. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he led the early development of an intelligent facemask for real-time lung condition assessment, demonstrating adaptability and addressing pressing healthcare needs. In parallel, Vincent founded Insilicare, a spinoff company of the University of Liège, aimed at translating research findings into practical solutions for real-world clinical settings. Through Insilicare, Vincent has developed clinical decision support systems based on AI-powered digital twin technology, contributing to improved healthcare efficiency and patient outcomes. Vincent is also involved in European projects focused on roadmapping the future of digital twin technology in healthcare, shaping innovation in the field. Vincent Uyttendaele's dedication to advancing healthcare through research and entrepreneurship exemplifies his commitment to making a positive impact in the industry.



#### **Christophe DEBEN, Professor UAntwerp, co-founder DrugVision.AI - Orbits Oncology**

Prof. Dr. Christophe Deben is the head of the Tumouroid Screening lab at the University of Antwerp and played a key role in establishing and leading the UZA/UAntwerp tumor organoid biobank. He co-founded Orbits Oncology, developing an automated image and data analysis platform for organoid drug screening using live-cell imaging. Additionally, he is the co-head of DrugVision.AI, a university screening facility that facilitates high-throughput organoid drug screening for both academic and industry partners. This unique

ecosystem fosters the production of high-quality training data for AI models aimed at drug development and discovering predictive omics signatures. His efforts mark a significant leap towards blending biological insights with AI to foster innovations in precision medicine.



**Wesley CAPLE, Clinic director in medical diagnostics, Vestre Viken HF**

Director of Clinic Medical Diagnostics, Vestre Viken Health Trust

A background varying from biotech startups as well as leadership positions within global healthcare industry leaders such as Siemens Healthcare and Unilabs, and currently a member of the leadership team at Vestre Viken Health Trust, a network of hospitals run by the Norwegian government.

Driven by how innovation can help enable sustainable healthcare, where for example currently the Clinic for Medical Diagnostics in Vestre Viken has been amongst the first in Europe to widely use AI within radiology



**Jon Espen INGVALDSEN, Associate Professor, NTNU – NorwAi**

Jon Espen has extensive experience with innovation and technology management, data-driven insights and machine learning. Throughout his career, he has worked as a researcher in academia, been a consultant in a number of development projects and helped build up several start-up companies from Trondheim.

Research work has been aimed at various branches of data science; everything from large language models, analysis of continuous data streams, semantic structures and knowledge graphs, to pattern recognition in large transaction

logs. The research has been aimed at practical applications and real data. Current research is related to transformers and large language models.



**Nis JOHANNSEN, Head of Digital Innovation, Helse Sør-Øst**

Nis Johannsen is manager for digital innovation at South-Eastern Norway Regional Health Authority .

He works strategically with the facilitation of digital innovation in the region's health enterprises and with the continuation of relevant local projects to the entire enterprise group.

Among the focus areas are AI, digital home monitoring, health logistics and digital citizen services. Nis Johannsen has, among other things, background as a consultant for a number of Danish hospitals and national health authorities

with strategy and implementation of e-health solutions. He also has a doctorate in technology and science studies within the digitization of maternity care from IT University in Copenhagen.

## **Panel 5: Sustainability in biotech production**

*Geoffrey POT*, General Manager GMS, Takeda Lessines

*Xavier HORMAECHEA*, Managing Director UCB Belgium, Head of EU Corporate Affairs

*Cathrine THOMASSEN*, CEO, GE HealthCare AS

*Hilde HOLDHUS*, Partner technology, energy and sustainability, Sarsia Fond

Moderator:

*Hanne Mette DYRLIE KRISTENSEN*, CEO, The Life Science cluster



### **Geoffrey POT, General Manager GMS, Takeda Lessines**

Geoffrey is a motivated, innovative, agile, and collaborative executive leader at Takeda, a top 10 Biotech / Pharmaceutical company. With over 20 years of experience, he has managed large manufacturing plants and multi-faceted global teams across manufacturing facilities in Asia, Europe, and the United States. He is passionate about digitalization/digitization and innovation, firmly believing in the power of "we" over "I". Building strong internal and external networks is a priority for him.

Before joining Takeda, he held major leadership positions across Manufacturing and Quality Operations, with a solid track record in digital and lean/six sigma. He is considered a leader in operations, focusing on short- and long-term strategies to improve manufacturing capabilities and ensure on-time product release. He is currently the President of the Belgium Biotech Industry, serving on scientific advisory boards, and has chaired and spoken at multiple international conferences and universities. His commitment to staying ahead of the curve allows him to bring innovative solutions to the table and drive operational success.



### **Xavier HORMAECHEA, Managing Director UCB Belgium, Head of EU Corporate Affairs**

Xavier Hormaechea joined UCB in 2001.

UCB, Brussels, Belgium ([www.ucb.com](http://www.ucb.com)) is a global biopharmaceutical company focused on the discovery and development of innovative medicines and solutions to transform the lives of people living with severe diseases of the immune system or of the central nervous system. With approximately 9,000 people in approximately 40 countries, the company generated revenue of €5.3 billion in 2023. UCB is listed on Euronext.

He is also Board member of Essenscia and Pharma be and has been elected President of Biowin (Regional Life Sciences Competitiveness Cluster) in 2023.



### **Cathrine THOMASSEN, CEO, GE HealthCare AS**

Cathrine has more than 30 years of experience from the pharmaceutical industry, where she has spent majority of her career at GE Healthcare. Through the years in the company, she has been holding several senior manager positions, working in the interface between R&D and Manufacturing, with a particular focus on global manufacturing and strategic projects. Since October 2021, she has been holding the position as General Manager for GE Healthcare, being Norway's largest pharmaceutical company with ~1100

employees located at the manufacturing sites in Oslo and Lindesnes. In addition to the responsibility as General Manger, she is also heading a larger global project organisation within Supply Chain, where part of the team's remit is to work closely with the R&D-organisation and thus enable a successful commercial entry to the market with new products.



**Hilde HOLDHUS, Partner technology, energy and sustainability, Sarsia Fond**

Hilde Holdhus boasts a diverse career spanning technology innovation, energy transition, strategic development, and environmental sustainability. With beginnings in weather forecasting and climate education, she advanced into leadership in startups and scaleups, blending science, innovation, and business skills. She serves on several of Sarsia portfolio company boards, applying financial and sustainable development expertise. Her academic qualifications include ocean physics, business development, and financial analysis (AFA/CEFA).

**CONCLUDING SESSION**



**Mehdy OOZEER, Senior Industry Specialist Life Sciences, Wallonia Export & Investment Agency**

Mehdy Oozeer is a Biomedical Engineer holding a Ph.D. in Neurosciences from UCLouvain, Belgium. With over 20 years of experience, he worked both in academic research and corporate R&D, contributing to diverse domains including medical imaging, adaptive radiotherapy, neuroimplants, and the application of artificial intelligence in clinical healthcare. He joined AWEX in 2021 where he is in charge of supporting the Walloon life sciences and health industry, working closely with key industrial, financing and innovation stakeholders in the Region



**Maria C. LUNDSTAD AULIE, Investment Manager Health and Life Sciences Oslo, Innovation Norway**

Experienced Senior Advisor with a demonstrated history of working in the international trade and development industry. Skilled in International Business, International Relations, European Union, Organizational Development, and Strategy. Strong community and social services professional graduated from Colorado State University.