BSPN 50TH ANNIVERSARY SYMPOSIUM

27 NOVEMBER 2026

“Half a Century of Minds in Motion”

Dear Colleagues,

It is with great pleasure and excitement that we invite you to join us to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Belgian Society of Paediatric Neurology.

From its founding to today, the BSPN has grown into a community of excellence united by a commitment to the children and families we serve. We are honoured to welcome pioneers, colleagues, and the next generation of leaders to this celebration.

To mark the occasion in style, we will end the day with a celebratory dinner - partners are most welcome. Overnight accommodation can be booked for those who wish to join us for a walk in the Sonian Forest on Saturday 28 November.

We very much hope to welcome you there!

Prof. Dr. A. Jansen, *BSPN President*

Venue
'Dolce La Hulpe' - Chau. de Bruxelles 135, 1310 La Hulpe.
https://www.dolcelahulpe.com/nl



Registration: https://app.webhero-bookings.com/belgian-society-of-pediatric-neurology/registration-bspn-50th-anniversary-symposium

Meeting language: *English*

Participation fee:

- BSPN member: free of charge
- Non-BSPN member: 50 €
- Students and residents: 25 €

Accreditation requested

“BSPN 50th Anniversary Symposium”

Dolce La Hulpe, Brussels

08:30 Registration & Welcome Coffee

09:00 Official Opening

Welcome address – ***Anna Jansen**, BSPN President*

Historical overview: “From founding to today” – ***Jean-Paul Misson** (Uliège)*

09:30 SESSION 1 — “Where Did We Come From?”

The Pioneers Meet the Next Generation

Format: intergenerational dialogue - 5 seniors give a 15-min lecture followed by 5 min of questions by a junior with expertise on the same topic.

“Back to the future: 50 years Neuromuscular Disorders”
***Nathalie Goemans** (UZ Leuven) — **Pauline Dontaine** (HUDERF)*

“The road to precision medicine in neurogenetic disorders”
***Roberta Cilio** (St Luc) — **Serpil Alkan** (CHU Liège)*

“How we started mitochondrial research in Belgium”
***Rudy Van Coster** (Gent) — **Stéphanie Paquay** (St Luc)*

“Professional Recognition & Nomenclature Reform”
***Marc D’Hooghe** (AZ Sint-Jan, Brugge)— **Ine Hoogwijs** (UZ Brussel)*

“Transforming the management of rare epilepsies in pediatrics: from early diagnosis to personalized treatment strategies”
***Alec Aeby** (HUDERF) — **Matthias De Wachter** (UZA)*

11:15 Coffee Break

11:45 SESSION 2a — Research Highlights per Centre

Format: 15 min per centre, strictly moderated.

“Let’s talk about Congenital Myasthenic Syndromes”
***Nathalie Smeets** (UZ Brussel)*

“Tell me how you walk: gait as a window into treatment response in neuromuscular disorders”
***Nicolas Deconinck** (HUDERF)*

"From Duchenne to Multiple sclerosis and stroke through knee osteoarthritis: the broad spectrum of application of a holder of movement"
Tamara Dangouloff *(CHU Liège)*

"From EEG and MRI to surgery: advances in epileptogenic zone localization"
Roberto Santalucia *(St-Luc)*

12:45 Anniversary Lunch & Exhibition

14:00 SESSION 2b — Research Highlights per Centre

Format: 15 min (12 + 3) per centre, strictly moderated.

"Research projects to improve clinical care for children with complex neurological disorders"
Sam Geuens *(UZ Leuven)*

"Mitochondrial diseases: from disease modelling to therapeutic opportunities"
Arnaud Van Lander *(UZ Gent)*

"Long-term cognitive, neurological, and visual benefits of high-dose Hydroxocobalamin in early-onset cblC deficiency"
Emmanuel Scalais *(CHU Luxembourg)*

"The genetic landscape of cerebral palsy"
Liene Thys *(UZA)*

15:00 SESSION 3 — "Agenda-Setting by the Next Generation"

Pre-symposium survey circulated to all BSPN members under 35 (June 2026): "What are the 5 biggest challenges and opportunities for our specialty in Belgium?"
3 junior speakers present the top survey themes (10 min each).
Panel discussion: mixed junior/senior panel.

15:45 SESSION 4 — Special Anniversary Keynote Lectures

"Belgian paediatric neurology on the European stage – EPNS, ERN EpiCARE and the power of networks"
Lieven Lagae *(UZ Leuven)*

The future of paediatric neurology – What will matter most?"
Bernard Dan *(ULB)*

16:45 **Awards Ceremony**

Tribute to honorary members
Announcement clinical fellowship 2027
Group picture of all members

17:30 **Anniversary Reception**

19:00 **Dinner**

This Scientific Meeting is made possible with the support of actually confirmed sponsors: