



Belgian Society for Cell and Developmental Biology  
Société Belge de Biologie Cellulaire et du Développement  
Belgische Vereniging voor Cel- en Ontwikkelingsbiologie

## NEWSLETTER 2019

### General announcement from the BSCDB Board

Via this newsletter, the BSCDB Board wishes to thank our present and new members for their continuous support and participation in BSCDB activities in 2018. By the beginning of each new year, you receive this short activity overview for the past year and an outlook to events in 2019, including the **BSCDB Spring meeting**, the **BSCDB Autumn meeting** and the **BSCDB Travel Grant Awards**. Additionally, we will continue giving the stage to young scientists, including PhD-students, for presenting their results in selected oral presentations or poster sessions, and to compete for our **BSCDB poster prizes**.

### 2018 Activity Report

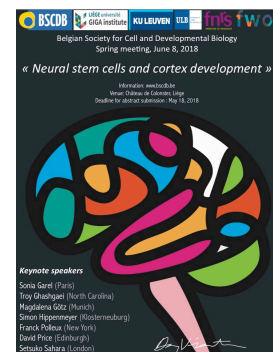
#### In 2018, the following BSCDB meetings were organized:

The **2018 BSCDB Spring meeting** on “**Neural Stem Cells and Cortex Development**”, organized on June 8th, 2018, in Liège.

Two poster prizes of €250 were awarded to:

**Anaïs Mounier** (ULg) for her poster presentation entitled: “Role of the centrosomal protein CDK5RAP2 in human cochlear development.”

**André Claude Mbouombouo Mfossa** (SCK-CEN) for his poster presentation entitled: “Embryonic DNA damage results in premature neuronal differentiation via an EMT-like mechanism.”

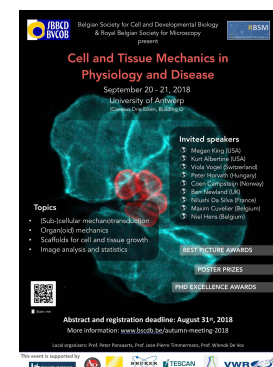


The **2018 Joint BSCDB-RBSM Autumn meeting** on “**Cell and Tissue Mechanics in Physiology and Disease**”, organized on September 20-21, 2018, in Antwerp.

Two poster prizes of €250 were awarded to:

**Abdel Rahman Abdel Fatta** (KUL) for his poster presentation entitled: “Mechanotransduction in human pluripotent stem-cells – cell and matrix mechanics at the macroscale.”

**Louis Van der Meeren** (UGent) for his poster presentation entitled: “Nanostructured biointerfaces on titanium with an active enzyme for cell growth stimulation.”



In addition, during the Autumn meeting, **dr. Sylvain Delaunay** (ULg) was awarded the **2018 BSCDB PhD Excellence Award** of €5.000 for his work on “Analysing the versatile roles of RNA modifications in cancer.”

**In 2018, the following BSCDB travel grants were awarded:**

**Michael Starring** (KUL): €400 for attending the attending the “Gordon Research Conference on Lymphatics” (Luca, Italy) in March 2018, with the following abstract: “Mouse lymphatic valve leaflet development depends on BMP-SMAD mediated signalling.”

**Alessandra Quarta** (UA): €400 for attending for attending the “WGC Advanced Course on Genetic Engineering of Mammalian Stem Cells” (Cambridge, UK) in March 2018, with the following abstract: “Distinct in vivo properties of brain trauma-associated microglia and macrophages are recapitulated by in vitro cultured iPSC-derived microglia and macrophages.”

**Nathan Criem** (KUL): €400 for attending the “Gordon Research Conference: Endothelial Cell Phenotypes in Health and Disease” (Lucca, Italy) in July 2018, with the following abstract: “The epicardium obscures interpretations on endothelial-to-mesenchymal transition in the mouse atrioventricular canal explant assay.”

**Melissa Schepers** (UHasselt): €500 for attending the “Gordon Research Seminar - Cyclic Nucleotide Phosphodiesterases: “Novel Approaches, Technology and Therapeutic Targets in Cyclic Nucleotide Phosphodiesterase Signaling” (Newry, USA) in June 2018, with the following abstract: “The Phosphodiesterase 4 (PDE4) inhibitor roflumilast improves remyelination in a mouse model for multiple sclerosis.”

**Thomas Naert** (UGent): €500 for attending the “17th International Xenopus Conference” (Seattle, USA) in August 2018, with the following abstract: “CRISPR/Cas9-based in vivo identification of therapeutic targets in Xenopus tropicalis cancer models reveals EZH2 as novel drug target in desmoid tumor-type fibromatosis.”

**Gauhar Masgutova** (UCL): €500 for attending the “SfN Neuroscience 2018” meeting (San Diego, USA) in November 2018, with the following abstract: “Onecut transcription factors control the development of sensory neurons in the dorsal root ganglia.”

**BSCDB Website**

In 2019 we will continue to develop and update the BSCDB website. All information about our meetings, interesting other meetings, job announcements, as well as forms to apply for Travel awards or BSCDB membership, can be found at [www.bsddb.be](http://www.bsddb.be)

**2019 BSCDB Travel Awards - Application deadlines**

**Pre-doctoral researchers** and **junior post-doctoral researchers** (max 2 years after obtaining the PhD degree) can apply for travel grants of at maximum **400 €** (within Europe) or **500 €** (outside Europe) for the purpose of attending an international meeting or course in the broad field of cell and developmental biology. In 2019, the BSCDB will award 4-6 of these travel grants.

The following application deadlines will apply:


- **31/05/2019** for conferences/courses between 01/06/2019 and 31/08/2019.
- **31/08/2019** for conferences/courses between 01/09/2019 and 31/12/2019.

In the section Grants, Awards & Membership on our website, you find updated application forms.

## **BSCDB events in 2019**

The **BSCDB Spring meeting 2019** will be organized on June 13, 2019, in Château de Colonster (Liège) on the topic of “*Experimental Models for Human Diseases*”.


Abstract submission and registration will be opened in March 2019 via the BSCDB website ([www.bscdb.be](http://www.bscdb.be)).



Belgian Society for Cell and Developmental Biology  
Spring meeting, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019



fnrs  
FREEDOM TO RESEARCH



LIÈGE université  
GIGA institute

# *Experimental models for human diseases*

Deadline for abstract submission : May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
Venue: Château de Colonster, Liège  
Information: [www.bscdb.be](http://www.bscdb.be)



**Local organisers**  
Laurent Nguyen  
Pierre Close

**Keynote speakers**  
Mathias Heikenwälder (Heidelberg)  
Klaus-Armin Nave (Göttingen)  
Benoît Vanhollebeke (Bruxelles)  
Catherine Verfaillie (Leuven)  
Patrik Verstreken (Leuven)

The **BSCDB Autumn meeting 2019** will be organized together with the **Belgian Society for Extracellular Vesicles (BESEV)** on October 17-18, 2019, in Castle of Arenberg (Leuven) on the topic of “*Extracellular Vesicles: Messenger Organelles of Homeostasis & Disease*”.

Abstract submission and registration will be opened in March 2019 via the BSCDB website ([www.bscdb.be](http://www.bscdb.be)).



# EXTRACELLULAR VESICLES

## MESSENGER ORGANELLES OF HOMEOSTASIS & DISEASE

October 17-18, 2019 - University of Leuven - The Thermotechnical Institute – Castle of Arenberg

### Organizers

An Hendrix (UGent)  
Christophe Pierreux (UCL)  
Ingrid Struman (ULg)  
Pascale Zimmermann (KU Leuven)

### Confirmed speakers

Mattias Belting (Sweden)  
Crislyn D'Souza Schorey (USA)  
Bernd Giebel (Germany)  
An Hendrix (Belgium)  
Michiel Pegtel (the Netherlands)  
Ingrid Struman (Belgium)  
Clotilde Théry (France)  
Guillaume van Niel (France)  
Alissa Weaver (USA)  
Pascale Zimmermann (Belgium & France)

**BSCDB** Abstract and registration deadline: September 13th, 2019  
<https://www.bscdb.be/autumn-meeting-2019> or <https://www.besev.be/upcoming-events>  
A joint meeting of BSCDB and BESEV

**BESEV**

## **BSCDB Membership renewal 2019**

May we kindly remind you to become or to remain a **BSCDB MEMBER in 2019**, if you have not yet done so?

You can join us as a **new member or renew your membership** by

- send an e-mail with your full coordinates to [peter.ponsaerts@uantwerpen.be](mailto:peter.ponsaerts@uantwerpen.be) (BSCDB secretary) **and** to [christophe.pierreux@uclouvain.be](mailto:christophe.pierreux@uclouvain.be) (BSCDB treasurer)
- **and** transfer within two weeks your annual membership fee of 25 € to the BSCDB bank account **BE81 3630 4266 8724** (new number since December 2016) and include - obviously - your name and preferably also (in the message) your affiliation.

Note that membership in 2019 is obligatory  
for participation in BSCDB meetings and for applying for travel grants.

## **BSCDB Board and Executive Functions for 2018-2019**

The present composition of the BSCDB board is as follows:

Bellefroid Eric (ULB)  
Brone Bert (UHasselt)  
Close Pierre (ULiège)  
Costagliola Sabine (ULB)  
Jacquemin Patrick (UCL), **Co-Treasurer**  
Knoops Bernard (UCL)  
Leyns Luc (VUB)  
Nguyen Laurent (ULiège), **Vice-President**  
Pierreux Christophe (UCL), **Treasurer**  
Ponsaerts Peter (UA), **Secretary**  
Nicaise Charles (UNamur)  
Renard Patricia (UNamur)  
Timmermans Jean-Pierre (UA)  
van Hengel Jolanda (UGent), **President**  
Vleminckx Kris (UGent)  
Pascalle Zimmermann (KU Leuven)  
Zwijssen An (KU Leuven)