



# INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE GI TRACT

October 29, 2026

Workshop  
BRUSSELS, BELGIUM



APPLICATION  
FOR **CME**  
CREDITS  
SUBMITTED



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An application has been made to the UEMS EACCME® for CME accreditation of this event. The number of credits awarded will be printed in the final program.

# PREFACE

Dear Colleagues,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to Brussels for this year's international workshop devoted to *Infectious Diseases in the Gastrointestinal Tract*.

Infectious diseases of the gastrointestinal (GI) tract remain a dynamic and rapidly evolving field at the intersection of gastroenterology and infectiology. From acute diarrhoeal illness in returning travellers to complex opportunistic infections in immunocompromised hosts, clinicians are increasingly confronted with evolving epidemiology, diagnostic and therapeutic complexity and antimicrobial resistance. At the same time, they must balance infection control with the immunomodulatory therapies that have not only transformed patient care, but also profoundly altered the infectious risk landscape.

This workshop brings together gastroenterologists and infectious disease specialists in a clinically focused and interactive format. Across today's sessions, we explore the broad spectrum of infectious disorders affecting the GI tract - from acute conditions encountered in routine practice, to chronic and opportunistic infections in the context of immunosuppression and transplantation. Real-world clinical scenarios form the backbone of the program, reflecting the complexity of modern patient management. Combined with state-of-the-art lectures, the interactive case discussions will focus on translating current evidence into practical approaches for prevention, diagnosis, and management.

We are privileged to welcome an exceptional faculty whose clinical and scientific work shape the field. Their perspectives, rooted in diverse areas spanning gastroenterology, hepatology, infectious diseases, intensive care medicine, microbiology, and immunology, reflect the interdisciplinary nature of contemporary medicine.

Your active participation will enrich the discussions and strengthen the shared goal of improving patient outcomes. Whether you are a senior clinician, a researcher, or a trainee at the beginning of your career, we trust that this meeting will provide practical insights, stimulate new ideas, and reinforce the interdisciplinary cooperation essential to advancing care in GI infectious diseases.

With warm regards,

The Scientific Organizers

# INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE GI TRACT

**October 29, 2026**

**Scientific Organization:**

Raja N. Atreya, Erlangen (Germany)  
Liesbet Henckaerts, Leuven (Belgium)  
Joost Wauters, Leuven (Belgium)

**Congress Venue:**

Square Brussels Convention Center  
Rue Ravensteinstraat 2  
1000 Brussels  
Belgium

For admission to scientific events your name badge should be clearly visible.

Accompanying persons are not permitted during the conference at any time.

**Call for Posters:**

An ePoster session will be held.  
For details see page 10.

**Start of Registration:**

Wednesday, October 28, 2026  
16:00-20:00 h  
at the congress office

**Publication Date of the Final Program:**

October 2026

The final program will be available on the website [www.falkfoundation.org](http://www.falkfoundation.org) one week before the start of the symposium.

# THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2026

**9:00** Welcome  
*Raja. N. Atreya, Erlangen; Liesbet Henckaerts, Leuven; Joost Wauters, Leuven*

## SESSION I

### Acute infections: Care & management

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**Chairs** *Paul De Munter, Leuven; Joost Wauters, Leuven*

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**09:10 Case-based presentation and interaction**  
Back with a splash! Managing diarrhea in returning travelers:  
A practical approach  
*Cléa Melenotte, Paris*

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**09:55 State-of-the-Art**  
FMT in *C. difficile* infection: The good, the bad, and the difficult  
*João P. G. Sabino, Leuven*

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**10:25 Panel discussion**  
*Cléa Melenotte, Paris; Joao P.G. Sabino, Leuven*

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**10:35 Coffee break with ePoster session**

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**11:35 Case-based presentation and interaction**  
SOA proctitis: A GI infection dilemma  
*Christopher Kenyon, Antwerp*

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**12:20 State-of-the-Art**  
Acute pancreatitis: Walking the tightrope between inflammation and  
infection  
*Alexander Wilmer, Leuven*

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**12:50 Panel discussion**  
*Christopher Kenyon, Antwerp; Alexander Wilmer, Leuven*

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**13:00 Lunch break with ePoster session**

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**14:30 Presentation of poster awards**  
*Raja N. Atreya, Erlangen*

## SESSION II

### Chronic infections: Care & management

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**Chairs** *Raja N. Atreya, Erlangen; Liesbet Henckaerts, Leuven*

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**14:50 Case-based presentation and interaction**  
Safety first: Preparing IBD patients for immunosuppression  
(screening, vaccination, etc.)  
*Bram Verstockt, Leuven*

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**15:35 State-of-the-Art**  
Silent threats: Fungal infections in liver cirrhosis and transplantation  
*Shahid Husain, Toronto*

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**16:05 Panel discussion**  
*Bram Verstockt, Leuven; Shahid Husain, Toronto*

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**16:15 Coffee break**

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**16:45 Case-based presentation and interaction**  
Managing GI CMV infection in immunocompromised patients:  
A practical approach  
*Torsten Kucharzik, Lüneburg*

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**17:30 State-of-the-Art**  
Gut microbiome in GI infections: Friend, foe, or both?  
*Harry Sokol, Paris*

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**18:00 Panel discussion**  
*Torsten Kucharzik, Lüneburg; Harry Sokol, Paris;*

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**18:10 Closing remarks**  
*Raja. N. Atreya, Erlangen; Liesbet Henckaerts, Leuven; Joost Wauters, Leuven*

# LIST OF SPEAKERS, MODERATORS AND SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZERS

## **Prof. Dr. Raja N. Atreya**

Medizinische Klinik I  
Universitätsklinikum Erlangen  
Ulmenweg 18  
91054 Erlangen  
Germany

## **Prof. Dr. Paul De Munter**

General Internal Medicine  
UZ Leuven  
Herestraat 49  
3000 Leuven  
Belgium

## **Prof. Dr. Liesbet Henckaerts**

General Internal Medicine  
UZ Leuven  
Herestraat 49  
3000 Leuven  
Belgium

## **Dr. Shahid Husain**

Toronto General Hospital  
585 University Avenue, 9-MaRS-9080  
Toronto, Ontario M5G 2C4  
Canada

## **Prof. Dr. Christopher Kenyon**

Unit of Sexually Transmitted Infections  
Institute of Tropical Medicine  
Nationalestraat 155  
2000 Antwerp  
Belgium

## **Prof. Dr. Torsten Kucharzik**

Klinik für Allgemeine Innere Medizin,  
Gastroenterologie und Pneumologie  
Städtisches Klinikum Lüneburg  
gemeinnützige GmbH  
Bögelstr. 1  
21339 Lüneburg  
Germany

## **Dr. Cléa Melenotte**

Centre d'infectiologie Necker-Pasteur  
Centre Médical de l'Institut Pasteur  
209-211 Rue de Vaugirard  
Service de Maladies Infectieuses et  
Tropicales  
149 rue de sèvre  
75015 Paris  
France

## **Prof. Dr. João Pedro Guedelha Sabino**

Gastrointestinal and liver diseases  
UZ Leuven  
Herestraat 49  
3000 Leuven  
Belgium

## **Prof. Dr. Harry Sokol**

Hôpital Saint-Antoine 184  
rue du Faubourg St. Antoine  
75571 Paris  
France

**Prof. Dr. Bram Verstockt**

Dept. of Gastroenterology and  
Hepatology  
University Hospitals Leuven  
Dept. of Chronic Diseases and Metabolism  
KU Leuven  
Herestraat 49  
3000 Leuven  
Belgium

**Prof. Dr. Joost Wauters**

General Internal Medicine  
UZ Leuven  
Herestraat 49  
3000 Leuven  
Belgium

**Prof. Dr. Alexander Wilmer**

General Internal Medicine  
UZ Leuven  
Herestraat 49  
3000 Leuven  
Belgium

## POSTER SESSION

ePosters will be displayed on our screens on October 29, 2026. We kindly ask the authors to be present during coffee and lunch breaks on both days to discuss their work.

## CALL FOR POSTERS

Please submit your abstract by July 24, 2026, using our online submission system (<https://poster.falkfoundation.org>). The system will guide you through the submission process and provide further information on formatting requirements.

The abstracts will be reviewed by the scientific organizers, with preference given to those that align thematically with one of the final meeting sessions.

Accepted abstracts will be published in the final program.

Abstract submitters will be informed about acceptance and receive further instructions in September 2026.

For the first author of an accepted abstract, registration fee and accommodation (October 28 - November 1, 2026) will be covered during Workshop and Symposium 245. Travel expenses will not be covered.

## POSTER AWARDS

Prizes of up to EUR 3.000, along with coverage of travel expenses, will be awarded for the best posters.

Winners will be invited to give a short presentation (2-5 minutes) of their poster during the award ceremony.

# REGISTRATION



You can register for the event via our homepage:

[www.falkfoundation.org](http://www.falkfoundation.org)

**Registration is only possible online.**

You will receive an automatic confirmation of registration by e-mail.

Please transfer the congress fee to the bank account listed in the e-mail within two weeks.

# CONGRESS FEES

**Scientific Program of International Workshop** EUR 150

**Students** (copy of student ID required) EUR 75

**The congress fees include:**

- Pre-Opening and Welcome on Wednesday, October 28, 2026
- Refreshments during coffee breaks
- Lunch on Thursday, October 29, 2026
- A copy of the final program

# CONGRESS OFFICE AND REGISTRATION

**Opening Hours:**

Wednesday, October 28, 2026 16:00 – 20:00 h

Thursday, October 29, 2026 08:00 – 20:00 h

The Falk Foundation will take pictures during the meeting. Additionally, parts of the meeting might be recorded. By participating all attendees consent and agree with the recording and the photo shoots.

# ARRIVAL

## **Square Brussels Convention Center**

Rue Ravensteinstraat 2  
1000 Brussels  
Belgium

### **Public Transport**

The Central Station of Brussels is a short walk across the Mont-des-Arts public gardens. All main tram, bus, metro and train lines converge here, as well as the fast train from Brussels International Airport. Train routes to every part of Belgium run from the same station which includes the cities of Antwerp, Brugge, Charleroi, Gent, Mons and Liège.

1. Metro lines 1 and 5, tram lines 38, 63, 65, 86
2. Bus lines 29, 48, 66, 71, 86, N06, N08, N09, N10, N11
3. Bus lines 48 and 95
4. Bus lines 38, 71, N06, N08, N09, N10, N11, N12
5. Trams 92 and 93

### **Car**

There are two public car parks with over 1700 parking spaces. Both car parks are accessible 24h and both have recharging facilities for electric cars.

Parking Albertine is the closest car park and is situated underneath SQUARE with direct access to the venue from the inside. For direct access from the car park, please go to level -3 and follow the directions to SQUARE. This route provides direct elevator access. A short walk away is the Grand Place car park which is conveniently placed midway between SQUARE and the UNESCO world Heritage site of the Grand Place.

1. Parking Albertine #1 – Place de la Justice 16, 1000 Brussels
2. Parking Albertine #2 – Rue des Sols 3 Brussels

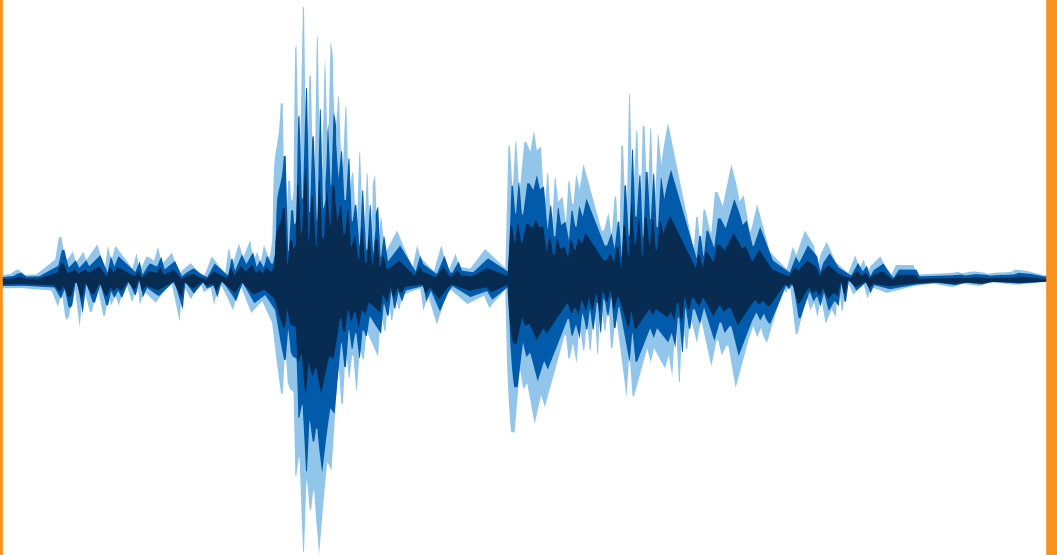
### **Plane**

Brussels Airport is a speedy 17 minutes by train to the Central Station. At peak times, 6 trains run every hour and from/to the Central Station, which is only three minutes walk to SQUARE. A taxi will take you to the venue in about 30 minutes.  
Brussels Airport : Leopoldlaan, 1930 Zaventem





**Registration via [www.falkfoundation.org](http://www.falkfoundation.org)  
or simply scan and register**



**Together we know more. Together we do more.**

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