

# FUNDS FOR BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH 2023-2024

From discovery to care, bridging science and life.



Belgium ranks very highly when it comes to the quality of healthcare. However, the funding of biomedical research remains insufficient. This was also noticed by philanthropists who are increasingly starting up Funds for medical research within the King Baudouin Foundation. In many cases, a personal story is tied to such an initiative. Confronted with a serious illness in their own or loved one's lives, people realise how important it is to invest in more knowledge, faster diagnosis and better treatments. This is not only about improving survival rates, but also about quality of life and respect for individual life goals. Through a Fund, this personal motivation can be transformed into an initiative that goes beyond the individual sphere and strengthens society as a whole.

Today, the Foundation manages 355 Funds dedicated to health. Of these, 179 Funds focus specifically on biomedical research, and this number continues to grow. The Funds cover a wide range of disease domains and reflect the concerns present in society: we see how the rapid increase in conditions such as cancer and Alzheimer's disease generates fear, while


attention also grows for the many unmet needs related to lesser-known and rare diseases.

But whether dealing with very common or rather rare conditions, within the Health Programme we always strive to translate the philanthropist's wishes into a mission that turns the Fund into a lever for change and improvement, for the benefit of all. We provide a safe space to initiate change trajectories based on real needs and unmet demands in society.



**Sofie Bekaert,**

Head of the Health Programme,  
King Baudouin Foundation



**"THROUGH ITS FUNDS FOR BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, THE KING BAUDOIN FOUNDATION HAS BEEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR 50 YEARS BY ACTING AS A CATALYST FOR PROJECTS THAT CAN BRING ABOUT MEANINGFUL CHANGE AND ULTIMATELY BENEFIT PATIENTS."**

– Sofie Bekaert

# KBF'S HEALTH PROGRAMME

## WHY A HEALTH PROGRAMME?

Health care and support in Belgium are generally accessible and effectively organized. Yet the care system is under pressure and does not always contribute to a good quality of life. We are convinced that innovative perspectives and a new approach to this area will benefit both people who use the health care system and the system itself. The Health Programme is ready to take on that challenge.

## WHAT DO WE DO?

Working from a position of independence, the King Baudouin Foundation can provide space, resources and expertise in areas where other actors can find this more difficult. We offer a range of philanthropic tools, including financial support for projects, education, networking, knowledge sharing, advocacy and more.

We seek out unmet needs, inspire people and bring them together, and give a voice to those who are often unheard. We work with all stakeholders to build a system of health care and support that has the strongest possible commitment to quality of life.

### **Key areas of the Health Programme**

- Research and innovation start from unmet health needs and concerns.
- Health care and support start from the life goals people set for themselves.
- Health care and support are accessible to all, especially to people in vulnerable situations.
- Health care and support go hand in hand at every stage in a person's life.
- Formal and informal caregivers receive the care and support they need.

# BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH

The King Baudouin Foundation supports biomedical research in all its forms, from the lab to application in clinical practice. The focus is on niches that remain underexposed, such as rare diseases and pediatric cancer, and research into more common diseases with a significant social impact, such as mental health and neurodegenerative disorders.

## **RARE DISEASES: MORE RESEARCH FOR BETTER CARE**

Several Funds managed by the King Baudouin Foundation finance biomedical research in the field of rare diseases. The Fund Generet annually awards a prestigious Prize for top Belgian research in the field of rare diseases. Additionally, support is provided to initiatives that contribute to better care for people with rare diseases and their families, such as early detection and diagnosis, access to therapy, and an integrated care pathway.

## **NEURODEGENERATIVE DISORDERS: COLLABORATIONS AND INNOVATIVE APPROACHES**

More than 40 Funds regularly organize project calls for research in neurology, neuropsychiatry, and neurodegenerative disorders, such as MS, Parkinson's disease, and dementia. Special attention is given to projects that help improve the quality of life of patients through a non-pharmacological approach. For support for biomedical and psychosocial research into Alzheimer's disease and related disorders, close collaboration is maintained with the organization Stop Alzheimer.

## **MENTAL HEALTH RESEARCH: FROM UNMET NEEDS TO PRIORITIES**

The Fund for mental health research supports high-quality biomedical research with a focus on areas that have not yet been sufficiently addressed or where new insights are needed to provide better care.

## **RESEARCH IN CANCER: A PATIENT-ORIENTED PERSPECTIVE**

Over 100 Funds support research in the field of oncology, with childhood cancer as a major focus. Building strong partnerships between Funds and with other cancer research funders in Belgium has proven essential for driving progress. Under the motto "The Symphony of Us," the King Baudouin Foundation has launched an ambitious transdisciplinary project to strengthen Belgium's cancer research ecosystem, placing patient value at its core.

We wish to acknowledge with gratitude  
the invaluable contributions of our donors,  
advisors, and scientific partners.

Your support is essential to fostering  
excellence in biomedical research and  
achieving meaningful impact.

TEAM BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH



**SOFIE BEKAERT**  
Head of Programme Health



**MARTINE CARDINAE**  
Project and Knowledge  
manager



**LAETITIA AERTS**  
Senior Project Coordinator



**NISRINE EL MESBAHI**  
Project Coordinator



**ESTER DE DONCKER**  
Project and Knowledge  
manager



**MICHÈLE DUESBERG**  
Project and Knowledge  
manager



**ANNEMIE T'SEYEN**  
Senior project coordinator



**CÉLINE HUBERTY**  
Project and Knowledge  
manager



**ISABELLE NGUYEN**  
Independent Expert

# BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH IN NUMBERS

## NUMBER OF SUPPORTING FUNDS

2023 81

2024 75

## NUMBER OF LAUREATES

### LAUREATES 2023

### LAUREATES 2024

2023 92

M 43

M 35

2024 69

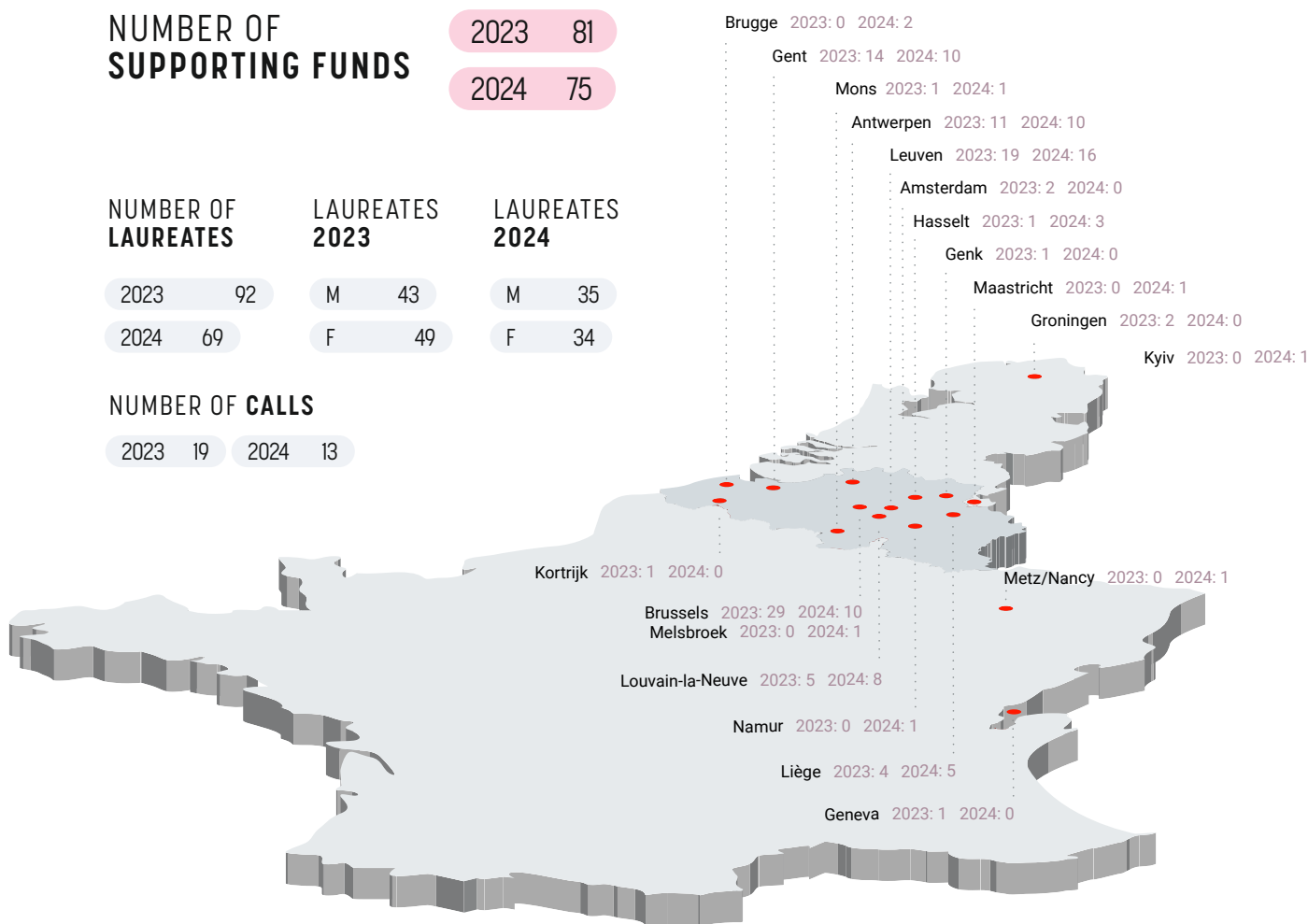
F 49

F 34

## NUMBER OF CALLS

2023 19

2024 13



## GRANTS

2023 8.389.079 €

2024 8.345.023 €

## TYPE OF GRANTS

2023 2024

Project 73 60

Prize/award 11 5

Fellowship/scholarship 8 4

To be eligible for support, projects must undergo a robust selection procedure in which we can rely on the knowledge and commitment of more than 400 experts in Belgium and abroad.

# LIST OF LAUREATES 2023 – 2024

## FUND ALPHONSE AND JEAN FORTON (2023)

**Cedric Govaerts - ULB**

Rescuing mutant CFTR by delivering stabilizing nanobodies.

**Eva Van Braeckel - UGent**

Modulation of host - microorganism interactions in cystic fibrosis: the CF Model study.

**Aurélie Crabbé - UGent**

BEAT Pseudomonas: Beneficial bactEria AgainsT Pseudomonas.

**Piet Cools - UGent**

The cystic fibrosis lung in the era of modulator therapy: a longitudinal study of the lung bacterial and fungal microbiome and improving personalized phage therapy to treat multi-drug resistant infections.

**Hugo Vankelecom - KU Leuven**

Fertility deficiency in female cystic fibrosis patients: deciphering the role of the endometrium as prime player into pregnancy.

**Marianne Carlon - KU Leuven**

Airway in a dish: advancing translational testing of cystic fibrosis rescue strategies.

**Mieke Boon - KU Leuven**

In depth characterization of the site and nature of airway obstruction and associated vascular remodeling in cystic fibrosis.

**Céline Kempeneers - CHU de Liège**

Study of the effects of inhaled bronchodilators, inhaled corticosteroids, and CFTR modulators on ciliary beating and mucociliary clearance in cystic fibrosis.

**Françoise Van Bambeke - UCLouvain**

Innovative strategies against multispecies biofilms infections of the lung: combinations of antibiotics with phages and/or mucolytic agents.

## FUND AZ GROENINGE (2023)

**Philip Debruyne - AZ Groeninge**

Prospective study on renal cancer.

## FUND BELGIAN HEART (2023)

Wilfried Mullens - ZOL

Renal-based optimization of Quadruple therapy in patients with Heart Failure with reduced ejection fraction (ReQUAD-HF): a prospective, multicentre, international randomised-controlled trial.

Ines Joye - GZA

Cardiac stereotactic radiation treatment for the ablation of ventricular tachycardia.

## FUND BELGIAN HEART & FERNAND LÉONARD (2023)

Constantijn Franssen - UZA

The incidence of cardiovascular events and revascularizations in patients treated with Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors in Belgium.

Caroline Van De Heyning - UZA

The value of 7-day rhythm surveillance as a novel tool for risk prediction in acute myocarditis.

## FUND BELGIAN HEART & WALCKIERS VAN DESSEL (2023)

Didier Communi - ULB - IRIBHM

Role of adiponectin and PD-L1 in the release of cardioprotective exosomes.

Patrick Sips - UGent

Exploring the cell-specific mechanisms of aortic disease using fibrillin-1 mutant mouse models.

Laurent Bultot - UCLouvain

Study of the molecular mechanisms linking protein acetylation and diabetic cardiomyopathy development.

Alice Marino - UCLouvain

Myo-inositol/SMIT1 axis: a novel pathway to prevent of treat heart failure.

## FUND BENEVERMEDEX (2023)

Liesbeth Wellens

Support for medical insurance advisor in inspecting and supervising the return to work for patients with a detached retina.

Katrien Vermeulen - UGent

Evaluation of work (in)capacity of persons with acquired brain injury following vocational rehabilitation: A vignette study on the added value of ICF.

Steven Ronsmans - KU Leuven

Investigating Long-Term Health Effects of Inhalation Accidents to Improve Follow-up Care of Victims.

## FUND BRIGITTE HUIJTS-HEIDUG (2023)

Hans Wildiers - KU Leuven

Extending the unique breast-cancer blood bank for continued scientific research.

## FUND CANCER RESEARCH FOR MORE PATIENT VALUE SUPPORTED, A.O., BY THE FUND CAMILLE CLAES (2023)

Silke Leonard - Artesis Plantijn Hogeschool Antwerpen

Symphony of Us: transformation of the cancer research ecosystem that puts value for patients first.

Florence Horickx - ULB

Symphony of Us: transformation of the cancer research ecosystem that puts value for patients first.

Teodora Lalova-Spinks - UGent

Symphony of Us: transformation of the cancer research ecosystem that puts value for patients first.

## FUND CREMERS-OPDEBEECK (2023)

Pedro Ervilha Pereira - UGent

Expanding the TDP-43 proteinopathy spectrum from the neuron to the muscle: a clinical, genetic, pathological and multi-omics study paving the way for new therapeutic strategies.

## FUND DOCTOR AND MRS CHARLES TOURNAY-DUBUISSON (2023)

Bram De Wilde - UGent

Individualized Therapy For Relapsed Malignancies in Childhood (INFORM).

Heidi Seghers - UZ Leuven

Childhood Renal Tumors: UMBRELLA SIOP-RTSG 2016 & SIOP RANDOMET 201.

Sandra Jacobs - UZ Leuven

SACHA (Secured Access to innovative Medicines for Children, adolescents and young adults with cancer).

## FUND DOCTOR J.P. NAETS (2023)

Ludivine Godefroid - ULB

Defining the role of Dicer1 in thyroid cancer progression.

Nicolas Henry - ULB

Functional role of miR-1179 and miR-873-5p in thyroid tumorigenesis.

Maria Rojo Pardillo - ULB

Role of Dicer1 in thyroid tumor progression.

Alain Boom - ULB

Study of organization (size & metabolism) of 3D culture of mammalian thyroid follicles. Role of NBCe1 and VRAC channels in maintenance of normo-follicular thyroid structure.

Alain Boom - ULB

The critical role of the electrogenic Na<sup>+</sup>/HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> co-transporter (NBCe1-B) in thyroid pathophysiology, with emphasis on its ubiquitination by the E3 ligase Nedd4-2.

Carine Maenhaut - ULB

Defining the role of DICER1 in thyroid tumor progression.

Carine Maenhaut - ULB

Functional role of miR-1179 and miR-873-5p in thyroid tumorigenesis (part 2).

Carine Maenhaut - ULB

Role of Dicer1 in thyroid tumor progression.

Antonina Khoruzhenko - ULB

The critical role of the electrogenic Na<sup>+</sup> /HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> cotransporter (NBCe1-B) in thyroid pathophysiology, with emphasis on its ubiquitination by the E3 ligase Nedd4-2.

Antonina Khoruzhenko - ULB

The critical role of the electrogenic Na<sup>+</sup> /HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> cotransporter (NBCe1-B) in thyroid pathophysiology, with emphasis on its ubiquitination by the E3 ligase Nedd4-2.

Vincent Detours - ULB - IRIBHM

Painting the genomics and evolutionary landscape of anaplastic thyroid cancers.

## FUND DOKTER GUSTAVE DELPORT (2023)

Artemis Koumoundourou - KU Leuven

Synaptic signatures: Understanding thalamocortical circuit specification and disease vulnerability.

## FUND FOR BIOCHEMICAL RESEARCH ON CANCER WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE FUNDS ANDRÉ VANDER STRICHT, BLONDINE, DAISY JACOBS, EMILE CARPENTIER, JOSÉ PLÉ - ALBERT DECLERCQ, YVONNE & JACQUES FRANÇOIS - DE MEURS, VAN DAMME, VAN DER POORTEN – VERMEIREN AND YVONNE & JACQUES (2023)

Evelyne Collignon - ULB

An innovative epitranscriptomic approach to target cancer persister cells.

Marlies Vanden Bempt - KU Leuven

Characterization of non-canonical EZH2 transcriptional complexes to identify new therapeutic targets in peripheral T cell lymphoma.

## **FUND FOR KOM OP TEGEN KANKER WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE FUNDS ALBERT & ANNIJ, CARLOS DANNEELS, DIONYSIA VERMOTE, JOANNA DAMMAN, HERMAN AND PAULA MEURISSE AND MONIQUE DE CLERCK (2023)**

Manon Vounckx - VUB

Unravelling the anti-tumor effect of autologous myeloid dendritic cells plus the synthetic adjuvant AS01B in solid tumors.

Eleni Staessens - UGent

The study of novel bivalent ligands targeting glucocorticoid and mineralocorticoid receptor heterodimers: towards an improved glucocorticoid-based multiple myeloma therapy.

## **FUND FOR RESEARCH IN CARDIO-ONCOLOGY WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE FUNDS ALPHONSE & MARIE WALCKIERS, FERNAND LÉONARD, JULIEN RONGVAUX, MARIE-JOSÉ CRUSNAIRE, PIERRE MASURE, RUTS-RUYS (2023)**

Constantijn Franssen - UZA

Serpina3 in anthracycline related cardiovascular dysfunction - SPHERICON.

## **FUND FOR RESEARCH IN NEURODEGENERATIVE BRAIN DISORDERS (2023)**

Moran Gilat - KU Leuven

PD-CLASS: The effects of Closed-Loop Auditory Stimulation during Sleep on sleep quality and motor learning in Parkinson's disease.

Jan Van den Stock - KU Leuven

Stimulating empathy in dementia via a digital tool.

Philippe De Vloo - KU Leuven

Spinal Cord Stimulation for Freezing of Gait in Parkinson's Disease.

## **FUND FOR RESEARCH IN PEDIATRIC HEMATOLOGY-ONCOLOGY WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE FUNDS SIMON BAUVIN, ROBERT BRANCART, CHRISTIAN LISPET, ROSA MEYNEN AND DENISE RAES (2023)**

Gregory Fettweis - ULiège

Targeting 3D chromatin architecture as a new therapeutic avenue/opportunity for in Ewing sarcoma.

## **FUND FOR RESEARCH ON DEMENTIA WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE FUNDS ALINE, CAMILLE CLAES, LUCETTE DESCAMPS, PIERRE MASURE, JOSEPH & MARIE-JEANNE PHILIPPART-HOFFELT, RUTS RUYS, M. WAYENBORGH AND STELDUST (2023)**

Disha Shah - KU Leuven

Elucidating the mechanisms of astrocyte calcium signalling deficits in early Alzheimer's Disease.

Christine Bastin - ULiège

Parallel networks for coarse and detailed memory representations within the medial temporal lobe in early Alzheimer's disease.

Fabian Lecron - UMons

EEGAL : Machine learning applied to EEG signals for the development of a screening tool for Alzheimer's disease.

Renzo Mancuso - UAntwerpen

Soluble transducers of human microglial toxicity in Alzheimer's disease.

## **FUND FRANS JANSSEN (2023)**

Philippe Van Grieken - U Maastricht

Methylglyoxal as a mediator of insulin resistance: novel mechanism and unique target.

**FUND GENERET (2023)**

Ludo Van Den Bosch – KU Leuven

Investigating the therapeutic potential of HDAC6 inhibition in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) using human induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs)

Sabine Costagliola - ULB - IRIBHM

Use of human thyroid organoids to reproduce rare thyroid diseases in the laboratory.

**FUND GIRN (2023)**

Lonneke Bos - Amsterdam UMC

Brain age as a new robust measure of neurodegeneration in MS.

Eva Krijnen - Amsterdam UMC

Microstructural substrates of gray matter atrophy in people with multiple sclerosis.

Mirjam Koster - UMC Groningen

Demonstrating cellular heterogeneity and interactions in MS lesion progression in situ using RNAscope.

Kotah Janssen - UMC Groningen

Measuring changes in microglia in lesions of patients with MS using imaging mass cytometry.

Jarne Beliën - KU Leuven

Unraveling the spatial heterogeneity and role of natural killer cells in multiple sclerosis.

**FUND HENRI BENEDICTUS (2023)**

Thomas Simon - Belgian American Educational Foundation Inc

Fellowship Fonds Henri Benedictus

Charles Stockman - UGent

Physics-based modeling of living systems.

Lene Devos - KU Leuven

Working on the effectiveness of a ferroptosis inhibitor on organ function in ischemiareperfusion injury.

**FUND ISALA VAN DIEST (2023)**

Raphael Beaumont - Ecopoeisis SRL

Trainings in psychedelic-assisted therapy for research teams led by international experts.

Laetitia Vanderijst - ULB

Psilocybin-Assisted Therapy for Severe Alcohol Use Disorder: Feasibility, Clinical Efficacy & (Neuro)cognitive Mechanisms.

**FUND JEAN AND MARIE HENKENS-LECLOUX (2023)**

Niels Hellings & Jana Van Broeckhoven - UHasselt

TIMP-1 peptide therapy for promoting remyelination in multiple sclerosis.

An Goris, Bénédicte Dubois & Dhries De Wit - KU Leuven

Epstein-Barr virus reactivity in a well-characterized longitudinal cohort of MS patients.

Pietro Maggi - UCLouvain

Characterizing the effect of disease modifying treatments on chronic active MRI lesions.

**FUND JEANNE VANHAUTE (2023)**

Epilepsie Liga

Support for Epi-Cup 2023: Prize for best Master Thesis on Epilepsy.

**FUND LES AMIS DE BORDET WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE FUNDS THIERRY MARICQ AND VÉRONIQUE DETOURNAY (2023)**

Salomé Lamal - ULB

Efficacy of a parental support intervention to improve communication of advanced cancer patients with adolescents and young adults.

## **FUND MAAIKE LARS TREES (2023)**

Massimiliano Mazzone - KU Leuven

Targeting the CDA/P2Y6 axis to overcome immunosuppression and favor response to immune checkpoint inhibitors in pancreatic cancer.

## **FUND MAURANGE (2023)**

Saleh Aljadeeah - ITM

Study on access to essential medicines in conflict zones (northern Syria).

## **FUND MOÏSE AND PAUL BLAIMONT (2023)**

Alessia Putzolu - ULB

Analysis of posture, spinal stiffness, and gait in patients with lumbar spinal fusion.

Arnaud Delafontaine - ULB

Are there differences in gait biomechanics after total ankle replacement in patients suffering from post-fracture versus post-sprain endstage ankle osteoarthritis ?

Matteo Luisetto - ULB

Biomechanical study of stress distribution between sacroiliac screw fixation and bilateral iliac fixation in posterior pelvic ring injuries.

## **FUND ONCOLOGIE AUGUSTINUS (2023)**

Peter Vermeulen - GZA

Funding for a flow cytometer with acoustic focusing, enabling accurate and artifact-free analysis of the peripheral immune system in smaller blood volumes.

## **FUND POELMANS-VAN MEULDER (2023)**

Myrthe Pareyn - ITM

Improving access to diagnostics and treatment for skin diseases to vulnerable populations in Ethiopia.

## **FUND RESEARCH ON PARKINSON'S DISEASE WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE FUNDS FRANÇOIS, GABRIELLE & CHRISTIAN DE MESMAEKER AND JEAN & ANNE TRAP-BRUYNSEELS (2023)**

Roosmarijn Vandenbroucke - UGent

Investigating the biomarker potential of extracellular vesicles in Parkinson's disease.

## **FUND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ON RHEUMATOLOGY (2023)**

Nisha Limaye - De Duve Institute

CD8+ T lymphocytes as mediators and markers of kidney disease progression in lupus nephritis (LN).

Gaelle Varkas - UZ Gent

Risk stratification for spondyloarthritis development in inflammatory bowel disease: the REUvolution concept.

Jonas De Leeuw - KU Leuven

Closing the seronegative gap in rheumatoid arthritis diagnosis using B-cell receptor sequencing combined with mass spectrometric analysis of complementarity determining regions.

Sabine Verschueren - KU Leuven

Comparative Impact of Reconstruction Surgery versus Conservative Treatment on early Cartilage Degeneration Following Anterior Cruciate Ligament Injury: Profiling Knee Joint Loading and Biomarkers.

## **FUND STICHTING TEGEN KANKER/FONDATION CONTRE LE CANCER WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE FUNDS D.V, JOZEF VAN AMMEL, LOUIS BOURDON, NICOLAS DEHU, JAQUELINE FOSSE AND YVETTE STASSIN (2023)**

Christos Sotiriou - ULB

Decoding metastatic breast cancer heterogeneity using spatial transcriptomics and AI in the AURORA study.

**FUND SUZANNE DUCHESNE (2023)**

Diana Campillo-Davo - UAntwerpen

START project: Searching for the next-generation RNA-engineered T cells for Anti-cancer Redirected Therapy.

Claudio Alexandre Pinheiro - UGent

Studying biomolecular corona-dependency of (sub)cellular interactions using patient-derived tumor models to guide ev-based therapeutic development.

**FUND SUZANNE DUCHESNE, SERGE ROUSSEAU AND DOCTOR JEAN GERARD (2023)**

Maurice Retout - ULB

Development of a theragnostic nanoplatform for cancer diagnostic and therapy with photoacoustic imaging, photothermia and selective delivery of anticancer peptides.

Johanne Grobois - ULB

Landscape of the chemotherapy-induced microenvironmental alterations in the human ovary

Lorena Martin Morales - ULiège

Cancer stem cells: a tRNA prospective

Méline Vaurs - UCLouvain

Oxidative stress in the Alternative Lengthening of Telomeres mechanism: friend or foe?

**FUND VICTORIA (2023)**

Denis Jabaudon - UGeneva

Cell-type specific molecular and functional pathways linking ASD and epilepsy.

**FUND YVETTE STASSIN AND RENÉE RIMBERT (2023)**

Oyebayo Ridwan Olaniran - EORTC

Unusual response patterns with immunotherapeutics: the international hyperprogression project (IHypP)

## FUND 101 GENOMES (2024)

Bart Loeys - UZA

Research GEMS, Genome-wide Epistasis for cardiovascular severity in Marfan Study.

## FUND ANDRÉ DANERS (2024)

Ingrid Struman - ULiège

Involvement of exosomes presenting immune checkpoint proteins in lung cancer.

Bénédicte Machiels - ULiège

The History of Viral Infections Influences the Development of Pulmonary Tumours

## FUND BELGIAN HEART (2024)

Emeline Van Craenenbroeck - UZA

Cardiac Contractility Modulation in Dilated Cardiomyopathy: an exploratory study on the changes in myocardial metabolic profile.

Andreas Gevaert - UZA

Exercise phenotypes to accelerate the personalized treatment of heart failure with preserved ejection fraction.

Guido Claessen - UHasselt

Assessment of polygenic background to explain the association between small heart size and low cardiac fitness (GEN@HEART).

Philip Moons - KU Leuven

Unraveling the role of retinal imaging as a clinical tool in evaluating accelerated aging in congenital heart disease.

Seyedehsamaneh Ekhteraei-tousi - KU Leuven

Deciphering Molecular Pathways of Hypoxia Sensitivity in Adult Cardiomyocytes: An Integrative Cross-Species Investigation.

## FUND BELGIAN HEART & FERNAND LÉONARD (2024)

Ilse Luyckx - UAntwerpen

Identification of cell-specific disease genes for bicuspid aortic valve-related aortopathy by transcriptome-wide spatial profiling of a representative Smad6 mutant mouse model.

Andreas Gevaert - UZA

ECSPAND: Exercise capacity improvement by Conduction System Pacing in heart failure patients without compelling CRT indication.

## FUND BELGIAN HEART & WALCKIERS VAN DESSEL (2024)

Bert Callewaert - UGent

Characterizing the spatiotemporal transcriptional landscape of neural crest cell lineages in a zebrafish model for Myhre syndrome.

## FUND BENEVERMEDEX (2024)

Stijn De Baets - UGent

FCE Quality+: Optimizing the Evaluation of Functional Capacity

## FUND BONMARIAGE DE BOUYALSKI (2024)

Wim Annaert - KU Leuven

Project related to novel PET brain imaging for studies of patients with Alzheimer's disease, Lewy body dementia.

Koen Van Laere - UZ Leuven

In vivo PET of synaptic density as potential diagnostic marker AD and DLB.

## FUND CANCER RESEARCH FOR MORE PATIENT VALUE (2024)

Brent Taelis - UGent

Symphony of Us

## **FUND CLAUDE & MARIE-HÉLÈNE LELIÈVRE-MEURÉE (2024)**

Felix Hever - CHU Brugmann  
Psilocybin Assisted Therapy for Cocaine Use Disorder.

Isabelle Massat - ULB-HUB  
Microbiota-Gut-Brain Axis and ADHD: innovative research exploring benefits of Pycnogenol®, a dietary supplement, on ADHD Symptoms and associated Cognitive Functions.

## **FUND CONSCIOUSNESS WITHOUT BORDERS (2024)**

Charlotte Martial - ULiège  
Unconscious No More: Probing Consciousness in Emergency Patients.

Maryne Mutis - Université de Lorraine  
Lucivaille

## **FUND DE LAVA & SCHNEIDER (2024)**

Christophe de Terwangne - UCLouvain  
Frailty in older people with heart failure with preserved ejection fraction.

## **FUND FOR KOM OP TEGEN KANKER WITH TH SUPPORT OF THE FUNDS ALBERT AND ANNIJ, CARLOS DANEELS, DIONYSIA VERMOTE, HERMAN AND PAULA MEURISSE AND MONIQUE DE CLECK (2024)**

Toon Van De Putte - KU Leuven  
Liquid biopsies and homologous recombination deficiency in endometrial and ovarian cancer.

## **FUND FOR MENTAL HEALTH RESEARCH WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE FUNDS CAMBIER-SANDRA, FRANÇOIS VAN HEES, MEDICAL RESEARCH JOLAL, MEDICAL RESEARCH TITS AND WALDMANN-BERTEAU (2024)**

Kris Vandenbroeck - UAntwerpen  
Building Bridges for Recovery: A Study on the Impact of the Programme of Verlavingskoepel Kempen in Pursuit of implementing it to Noord-Limburg.

## **FUND FOR RESEARCH IN DEMENTIA WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE FUNDS BONMARIAGE DE BOUYALSKI AND MR. & MRS. MINÉ - DUBRULLE (2024)**

Wim Annaert - KU Leuven  
Neuronal and microglial specific roles of VPS13C in organellar homeostasis: relevance for Lewy Body Disease Pathogenesis.

## **FUND FOR RESEARCH IN MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE FUNDS CLAIRE FAUCONNIER, GINETTE KRYKSZTEIN, JOSEPH & MARIE-JEANNE PHILIPPART-HOFFELT, AND DENISE SERES DIT BATIST (2024)**

Vincent Van Pesch - UCLouvain - CU Saint-Luc  
Investigation into the efficacy of a mobile health application-based telerehabilitation program for enhancing physical activity in individuals with multiple sclerosis.

Daphne Kos - National MS Centre  
Home-Based Neuromodulation Suits for Reducing Spasticity and Ataxia in MS: A Multicenter RCT (HANDS-MS).

## **FUND FOR RESEARCH IN PEDIATRIC HEMATOLOGY-ONCOLOGY WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE FUNDS ALBERTE DELFERIERE, CISTICOLE, JEAN EN ANNA TRAP-BRUYNSEELS, JEAN-FRANÇOIS PUTTEMANS & ROBERT BRANCART (2024)**

Bram De Wilde - UGent  
Individualized Therapy FOr Relapsed Malignancies in Childhood (INFORM).

Heidi Segers - UZ Leuven

Childhood Renal Tumors: UMBRELLA SIOP-RTSG 2016 & SIOP RANDOMET 2017.

**Bénédicte Brichard - UCLouvain**

International Euro Ewing trial for treatment optimisation in patients with Ewing sarcoma (iEuwing).

## **FUND FOR RESEARCH ON DEMENTIA AND THE FUND ALINE (2024)**

**Laura De Blaere - Howest**

Caring for the caregivers: A qualitative action study on job satisfaction among dementia care professionals in participatory residential care centers

**Sarah Daniëls - Howest**

Caring for the caregivers: A qualitative action study on job satisfaction among dementia care professionals in participatory residential care centers

**Anja Huion - HOGENT**

Informal care and incontinence in people with dementia

## **FUND FOR RESEARCH ON DEMENTIA WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE FUNDS CAMILLE CLAES, LUCETTE DESCAMPS AND STELDUST (2024)**

**Laura Fumagalli - UAntwerpen**

Xenotransplantation of iPSC-derived microglia to elucidate the impact of C9orf72 hexanucleotide repeat expansion on neuroinflammation and neurodegeneration.

**Bernard Hanseeuw - UCLouvain**

How to detect who will decline next year? Deep cognitive phenotyping and plasma analyses to predict early tau aggregation in preclinical AD.

**Laurence Ris - UMONS**

Study of the relationship between brain metabolism and Alzheimer's disease development. An in vivo and in vitro approach to explore the role of reproductive hormones and APOE4.

## **FUND FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ON AIDS (2024)**

**Christopher Kenyon - ITM**

Effect of doxycycline post-exposure prophylaxis on the incidence of bacterial sexually transmitted infections, antimicrobial resistance and the microbiome.

## **FUND FOR RESEARCH ON HEMATOLOGICAL CANCERS WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE FUNDS CATHARINA WEEKERS, RAYMOND WUYTS, ARLETTE LEMAITRE, GEZUSTERS LOOSVELD, LUC WILLEMAERS AND YVETTE GEMBAUVE (2024)**

**Aysegül Erdem - De Duve Institute**

Unraveling Metabolic Crosstalk in Leukemic Bone Marrow: Characterizing the Importance and Microenvironmental Reprogramming of PFKFB-Driven Metabolism in Acute Myeloid Leukemia.

**Koen Debackere - KU Leuven**

Opening the door for immunotherapy in acute myeloid leukemia: targeting mutant NPM1 with T-cell receptor-like chimeric antigen receptors.

## **FUND GENERET (2024)**

**Patrik Verstreken - UZ Leuven**

Antisense oligonucleotides as therapeutics for Autosomal Dominant Alzheimer's Disease.

## **FUND JACQUELINE CIGRANG (2024)**

**Pierre Van Damme - UAntwerpen**

Creation of a Biobank at EU Plotkin Institute for vaccinology (EPIV)

**Alban de Kerchove d'Exaerde - ULB**

Maged1

**Wim Vandenberghe - UZ Leuven**

Disruption of vesicle transport as a pathogenic mechanism in Parkinson's disease.

Patrik Verstreken - UZ Leuven

Disruption of vesicle transport as a pathogenic mechanism in Parkinson's disease.

### **FUND JEAN AND MARIE HENKENS-LECLOUX (2024)**

Bieke Broux - UHasselt

Regional mapping of harmful MHC-TCR epitopes in MS brain.

Bénédicte Dubois - KU Leuven

Exosomal miRNAs and the Epstein-Barr virus: a remote control mechanism in MS?

Pietro Maggi - UCLouvain

Characterizing the effect of disease modifying treatments on chronic active MRI lesions.

### **FUND LÉA ROSE (2024)**

Nataliia Olkhovych - National Specialized Children's Hospital Okhmatdyt

The neonatal screening of SMA in Ukraine: the 18 months of experience.

### **FUND LUCIE AND MONIQUE LOUETTE (2024)**

Violaine Havelange - De Duve Institute

Key roles of four long non-coding RNAs in chemoresistance in acute myeloid leukemia

### **FUND MAURANGE (2024)**

Nicole Bettin - De Duve Institute

Unravelling the mechanisms of mtDNA-dependent regulation of telomere length and investigating their therapeutic potential.

Oona Janssens - UGent

Bridging disciplinary and institutional borders: The development of a screening tool to enhance the care for parents with an excessively crying baby.

### **FUND MICHAEL VAN WAEYENBERGE (2024)**

Johan Maertens - UZ Leuven

Improving the early diagnosis of invasive mold infections in hematology patients.

### **FUND MOÏSE AND PAUL BLAIMONT (2024)**

Amandine Ledoux - European Institute De La Main

Radio-ulnar reconstruction using a metatarso-phalangeal free flap transfer: a cadaveric and biomechanical study.

Hachem Chaitani - ULB

Mémoire de fin d'études en médecine intitulé : "Analyse mécanique par forage et tomodensitométrie de la corticale diaphysaire du fémur humain"

### **FUND ONCOLOGIE AUGUSTINUS (2024)**

Peter Vermeulen - GZA

Development of a immunohistochemical platform.

### **FUND PAUL & CLAIRE DAMEN-HUART, THE FUND JOS, MARIE-THÉRÈSE DE BRAUWERE-VAN LAEKEN AND THE FUND RENÉ (2024)**

Robbe Heestermans - VUB

Liquid biopsies as non-invasive, patient-friendly tools for comprehensive (epi)genetic tumor characterization and disease follow-up in multiple myeloma.

### **FUND PREMA PLUS (2024)**

Inge Tency - Odisee Hogeschool

Development of the platform: Te Vroeg.

## FUND PRINSES MAXIMA CENTRUM BELGIUM (2024)

Dries Ruttens - UZ Leuven

Clinical fellowship in paediatric haematology-oncology at the 'Prinses Maxima Centrum' in Utrecht.

## FUND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ON RHEUMATOLOGY (2024)

Tessa Du Four - UGent

Antiphospholipid antibodies in patients with systemic sclerosis: a cross-sectional study.

Koen Venken - VIB

Smoking gun project": How T cell autoreactivity develops in early rheumatoid arthritis.

Sukayna Fadlallah - UHasselt

The pathological effect of a novel antibody, anti-UH-RA.329 antibody, predicting failure to respond to first-line therapy in RA patients, in a mouse model of arthritis.

Silvia Monteagudo - KU Leuven

The epigenetic landscape in osteoarthritis: Exploring key histone modifications using EpiTOF technology.

## FUND STICHTING TEGEN KANKER/FONDATION CONTRE LE CANCER WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE FUNDS D.V., DE HEER EN MEVROUW VAN LOOCK - VAN POTTENBERGHE, GERMAINE THIBAUT, JAQUELINE FOSSE, JOSÉ PLÉ - ALBERT DECLERCQ, JOZEF VAN AMMEL, NELLY MOUREAU AND YVETTE STASSIN (2024)

Stein Aerts - KU Leuven

Modeling and synthetic design of transcriptional enhancers to target cell states in glioblastoma and its microenvironment.

## FUND SUZANNE DUCHESNE (2024)

Anneleen Decock - UGent

Using a rat xenograft model to detect tumour-derived extracellular RNA.

## FUND SUZANNE DUCHESNE, SERGE ROUSSEAU AND DOCTOR JEAN GERARD (2024)

Gilles Rademaker - ULiège

Deciphering the cellular basis of pancreatic cancer metastasis: unraveling tropic mechanisms, microenvironmental cross-talk, and targetable mediators.

Tham Nguyen - ULiège

Generating novel chimeric antigen receptor T cells for multiple myeloma.

Thibault Hirsch - UCLouvain

Deciphering the influence of neutrophils on anti-tumor response in non-small cell lung cancer: insights from neoadjuvant chemoimmunotherapy.

Saeid Moghassemi - UCLouvain

Shedding light on the cancer cell selectivity mechanisms in the process of purging ovarian tissue through photodynamic therapy.

Aysegül Erdem - UCLouvain

Understanding the importance and microenvironmental reprogramming of PFKFB-driven metabolism in acute myeloid leukemia.

Michele Russo - UCLouvain

Unravelling the role of protein O-GlcNAcylation in the development of cancer therapy-induced cardiotoxicity.

Louise Thines - UNamur

Identification of cellular regulators and pharmacological inhibitors of endophilin-A3 to manipulate unconventional endocytosis.

