



# CURRENT DISEASE MANAGEMENT OF IBD - BETWEEN GUIDELINES AND ART

October 30-31, 2026

Symposium 245  
BRUSSELS, BELGIUM





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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 and friends,

It is with great enthusiasm and genuine pleasure that we welcome you to the Symposium 245: **“Current Disease Management of IBD – Between Guidelines and Art”**.

In shaping this meeting, our vision was clear: To shine a spotlight on the most essential and dynamic aspects of inflammatory bowel disease care today. To achieve this, each session follows a deliberately structured and engaging format. We begin with a case-based introduction to ground the topic in real-world clinical practice, followed by a concise review of the applicable guideline to anchor our discussion in evidence-based medicine. From there, we will delve into two key questions for each thematic area - questions chosen to challenge, to inspire, and to encourage us to think beyond established boundaries. Finally, every session culminates in a dedicated panel discussion, offering the opportunity for vibrant, in-depth exchange between experts and participants alike.

Our program spans a broad and stimulating range of topics: diagnostics, first-line treatment in Crohn’s disease, refractory IBD, extraintestinal manifestations, IBD monitoring, perianal disease, nutrition in Crohn’s disease, and malignancy in IBD. Each has been selected with the goal of sparking meaningful dialogue, bridging clinical guidelines with the nuances of individualized patient care, and ultimately advancing the quality of IBD management.

We are privileged to be joined by an outstanding international faculty whose expertise and perspectives guarantee insightful discussions and enriching debate. Beyond the science, this symposium also offers a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with colleagues, forge new collaborations, and strengthen our community dedicated to improving the lives of people with IBD.

We very much look forward to welcoming you in Brussels and to sharing an inspiring and productive meeting together.

Raja Atreya

Geert D´Haens

Britta Siegmund

Bram Verstockt

# CURRENT DISEASE MANAGEMENT OF IBD - BETWEEN GUIDELINES AND ART

**October 30-31, 2026**

**Scientific Organization:**

Raja N. Atreya, Erlangen (Germany)  
Geert D´Haens, Amsterdam  
(The Netherlands)  
Britta Siegmund, Berlin (Germany)  
Bram Verstockt, 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 17.

**Start of Registration:**

Thursday, October 29, 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.

# FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2026

**9:00** Welcome

## SESSION I

### Evolving IBD diagnostics: From guideline to gut intelligence

**Chairs** *James Lindsay, London; Joanna Torres, Lisbon*

**09:10** Case-based introduction  
*Anna-Teresa D´Hooghe, Leuven*

**09:20** Guidelines in focus: What's new in IBD diagnostics?  
*Torsten Kucharzik, Lüneburg*

**09:35** Predictive tools: Combining biomarkers, imaging and risk models  
*Sophie Restellini, Geneva*

**09:50** Beyond the scope: Capsule endoscopy and the next diagnostic frontier  
*Uri Kopylov, Tel Aviv*

**10:05** Panel discussion

**10:30** **Coffee break with ePoster session**

## SESSION II

### Crohn's disease: First-line treatment

**Chair** *Geert D´Haens, Amsterdam; Iris Dotan, Petah Tikva*

**11:00** Case-based introduction  
*Lotte Oldenburg, Amsterdam*

**11:10** Guidelines in focus: Current recommendations  
*Tim Raine, Cambridge*

**11:20** First-line approach: Medical vs surgical strategies  
*Filip Baert, Roeselare*

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**11:35** First-line approach: Which drug first?  
*Nurulamin Noor, Cambridge*

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**11:50** Panel discussion

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**12:20** **Lunch break with ePoster session**

### SESSION III

#### Refractory IBD: A therapeutic challenge

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**Chairs** *Raja Atreya, Erlangen; Mette Julsgaard, Aarhus*

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**13:45** Case-based introduction  
*Anne Strik, Amsterdam*

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**13:55** Guidelines in focus: Current recommendations  
*Tommaso Parigi, Milan*

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**14:05** Acute severe ulcerative colitis: Optimal management  
*Millie D. Long, Chapel Hill*

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**14:20** Refractory Crohn's disease: Current treatment options  
*James Lindsay, London*

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**14:35** Panel discussion

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**15:00** **Coffee break with ePoster session**

# FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2026

## SESSION IV

### Extra-intestinal manifestations in IBD: Challenges and risks

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|--------------|---|
| <b>Chair</b> | <i>Millie D. Long, Chapel Hill; Torsten Kucharzik, Lüneburg</i>                                   |
| <b>15:30</b> | Case-based introduction<br><i>Fotis Fousekis, Erlangen</i>  |
| <b>15:40</b> | Guidelines in focus: Current recommendations<br><i>Triana Lobatón Ortega, Ghent</i>               |
| <b>15:50</b> | Bridging gut and heart: Cardiovascular complications in IBD<br><i>Julien Kirchgesner, Paris</i>   |
| <b>16:05</b> | Medical therapies for joint, skin and eye: How effective are they?<br><i>Joana Torres, Lisbon</i> |
| <b>16:20</b> | Panel discussion  |

### FALK FOUNDATION RESEARCH GRANT

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|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>16:50</b> | Presentation of the Research Project |
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|--------------|------------------------|
| <b>17:05</b> | <b>Closing remarks</b> |
|--------------|------------------------|

# SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2026

## SESSION V

### IBD monitoring 2.0: From guidelines to real-time care

**Chairs** *Bram Verstockt, Leuven; Sophie Restellini, Geneva*

**09:00** Case-based introduction  
*Elisabeth Eggermont, Leuven*

**09:10** Guidelines in focus: What's new in IBD monitoring?  
*Henit Yanai, Petah Tikva*

**09:25** When the phone rings: Managing the suspected flare  
*Mette Julsgaard, Aarhus*

**09:40** Seeing without scoping: The rise of non-invasive and intelligent monitoring  
*Christian Maaser, Lüneburg*

**09:55** Panel discussion

**10:20** **Coffee break with ePoster session**

## SESSION VI

### Perianal disease in IBD

**Chair** *Christian Maaser, Lüneburg; Britta Siegmund, Berlin*

**10:50** Case-based introduction  
*Lea-Maxi Haag, Berlin*

**11:00** Guidelines in focus: Current recommendations  
*Janindra Warusavitarne, London*

**11:10** **Presentation of Poster Awards**

**11:30** Comprehensive fistula management: Classification and approach  
*Shajj Sebastian, Hull*

# SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2026

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**11:45** Comprehensive fistula management: The surgeon's view  
*E. Joline de Groof, the Hague*

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**12:00** Panel discussion

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**12:30** **Lunch break with ePoster session**

## SESSION VII

### Nutrition in Crohn's disease: Emerging therapeutic role

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**Chairs** *Iris Dotan, Petah Tikva; E. Joline. de Groof, the Hague*

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**14:00** Case-based introduction  
*Lihi Godny, Petah Tikva*

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**14:10** Guidelines in focus: Current recommendations  
*João Sabino, Leuven*

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**14:20** Nutrition in daily IBD care: Practical implementation  
*Aaron Bancil, London*

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**14:35** Panel discussion

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**15:00** **Coffee break with ePoster session**

## SESSION VIII

### Malignancy in IBD

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|--------------|--|
| <b>Chair</b> | <i>Torsten Kucharzik, Lübeck; Britta Siegmund, Berlin</i>                                  |
| <b>15:30</b> | Case-based introduction<br><i>Lulia Al-Hillawi, Oxford</i>                                 |
| <b>15:40</b> | Guidelines in focus: Current recommendations<br><i>Hannah Gordon, Oxford</i>               |
| <b>15:50</b> | Dysplasia in IBD: Detection and practical management<br><i>Marietta Iacucci, Cork</i>      |
| <b>16:05</b> | IBD patients with prior malignancy: Practical management<br><i>Iris Dotan, Petah Tikva</i> |
| <b>16:20</b> | Panel discussion   |
| <b>16:50</b> | <b>Closing remarks</b>   |

# FALK FOUNDATION RESEARCH GRANT



The international **Falk Foundation Research Grant** supports early-career scientists with an MD or PhD who are planning an innovative, translational two-year research project in gastroenterology or hepatology. The grant is awarded every two years.

## Your benefits as a grant awardee:

- Receive funding of **EUR 50,000** for your awarded project
- Advance your research
- Gain recognition and visibility in the scientific community

**Apply and become part of our vision:** Improving patients' lives by advancing digestive and metabolic medicine!

**The next application round will open at the end of 2027**, with eligibility expanded to additional countries compared to the first call in 2026.

Details regarding application requirements and eligibility can be found here:



# **FALK FOUNDATION RESEARCH GRANT 2026**

The international Falk Foundation Research Grant will be awarded for the 1st time by the Falk Foundation e.V. on the occasion of Symposium 245 in Brussels in October 2026. The Falk Foundation Research Grant supports innovative, translational research projects led by early-career scientists in the fields of gastroenterology and hepatology. In the first call for applications in 2026, applicants based in the following countries are included: Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, the United Kingdom, and Ireland. The grant provides EUR 50,000 in funding for the winning research project.

## **RESEARCH GRANT EVALUATION COMMITTEE:**

The evaluation committee for the Falk Foundation Research Grant consists of members of the Falk Foundation Faculties – specialists in the fields of gastroenterology and hepatology.

# LIST OF SPEAKERS, MODERATORS AND SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZERS

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## POSTER SESSION

ePosters will be displayed on our screens from October 30-31, 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

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| <b>Scientific Program of Symposium 245</b>    | EUR 300 |
| <b>Students</b> (copy of student ID required) | EUR 150 |

### The congress fees include:

- Pre-Opening and Welcome on Thursday, October 29, 2026
- Refreshments during coffee breaks
- Lunch on Friday, October 30 and Saturday 31, 2026
- A copy of the final program

## CONGRESS OFFICE AND REGISTRATION

### Opening Hours:

|                            |                 |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Thursday, October 29, 2026 | 16:00 - 20:00 h |
| Friday, October 30, 2026   | 08:00 - 17:00 h |
| Saturday, October 31, 2026 | 08:30 - 17:00 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

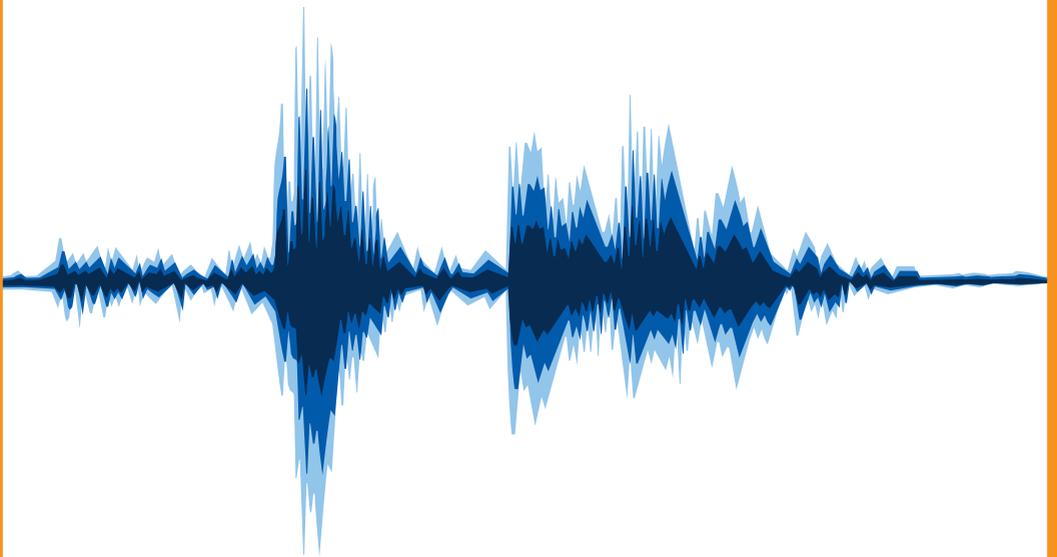
### **Plane**

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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