



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 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

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

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

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

10:25 Coffee break with ePoster session

11:25 Case-based presentation and interaction
SOA proctitis: A GI infection dilemma
Christopher Kenyon, Antwerp

12:10 State-of-the-Art
Acute pancreatitis: Walking the tightrope between inflammation and
infection
Alexander Wilmer, Leuven

12:40 Panel discussion
Christopher Kenyon, Antwerp; Alexander Wilmer, Leuven; N.N.; N.N.

13:00 Lunch break with ePoster session

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

SESSION II

Chronic infections: Care & management

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

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

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

16:05 Coffee break with ePoster session

16:35 Case-based presentation and interaction
Managing GI CMV infection in immunocompromised patients:
A practical approach
Torsten Kucharzik, Lüneburg

17:20 State-of-the-Art
Gut microbiome in GI infections: Friend, foe, or both?
Harry Sokol, Paris

17:50 Panel discussion
Shahid Husain, Toronto; Torsten Kucharzik, Lüneburg; Harry Sokol, Paris; Bram Verstockt, Leuven

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
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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

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.

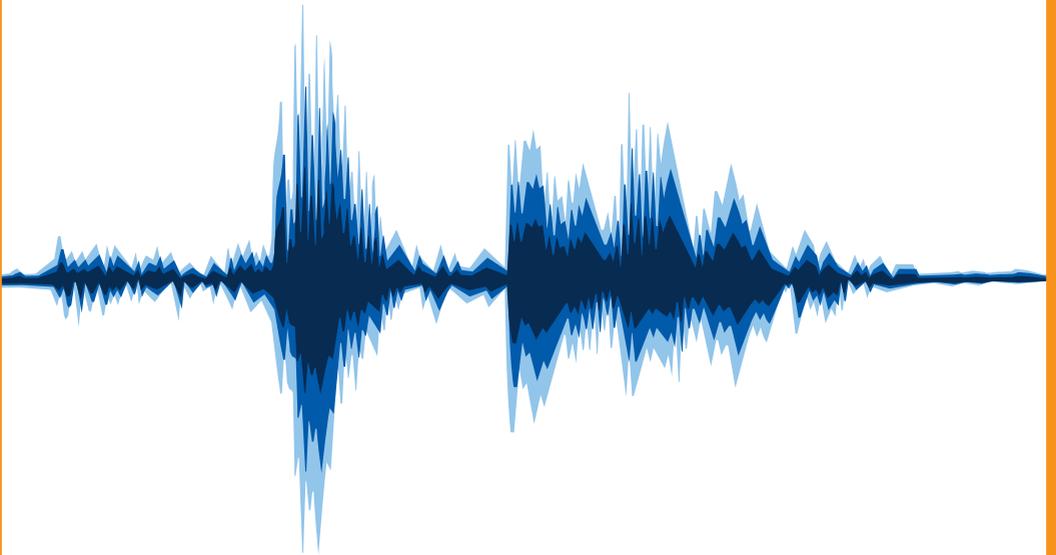
1. Parking Albertine #1 – Place de la Justice 16, 1000 Brussels
2. Parking Albertine #2 – Rue des Sols 3 Brussels

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
or simply scan and register**



Together we know more. Together we do more.

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