



# 4th

Scientific International Congress on  
**Spinal Muscular Atrophy**

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## **GHENT**

14th — 16th March 2024

**Sponsorship Opportunities**

Organised by

**SMA  
EUR  
OPE**

Kindly hosted by



# Welcome

SMA Europe takes great pride in inviting you to the 4th International Scientific Congress on Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA), from 14th to 16th March 2024 in Ghent, Belgium. Our Congress is the largest scientific congress dedicated to SMA and brings together scientists and young researchers as well as clinicians and other health-care professionals from all over the world.

SMA Europe is a non-profit umbrella organisation of SMA patient organisations from across Europe. We work together to create a better world for all those living with SMA. One of our core activities is to foster patient-relevant research in the field of SMA, to communicate the value generated from research, and, consequently, to ensure future support for research within our community.

The goal of our scientific congress is to bring together an international and multidisciplinary group of scientists and health-care professionals. We provide a venue to present and exchange breakthrough ideas relating to SMA, especially also in light of the patient-relevance of their findings, and to cement existing and stimulate new collaborations.

Equally, our congress is a platform for talented young researchers. Together with experienced scientists, health-care professionals, and patient experts, they will discuss, debate and dissect significant new developments and advancements related to SMA. Moreover, they will share their visions for the future of SMA research by providing an opportunity to exchange scientific evidence and clinical experiences. Therefore, we trust that the conference will lead to ever-improved treatment and care for patients living with SMA.

The International Scientific Congress on Spinal Muscular Atrophy is a unique occasion to meet face-to-face with colleagues who are as passionate about advancing the field of SMA as you are.

All together. One Goal.

SMA Europe very much looks forward to welcoming you in Ghent!



*Nicole Gusset*  
*SMA Europe President*

## SMA Europe

**SMA Europe** is a non-profit umbrella organisation which consists of 26 SMA patient and organisations from 24 countries across Europe.

Our members differ in terms of how long they have been established, in size and also in scope.

### OUR AIMS ARE:

- To improve the quality of life of people who live with SMA.
- To accelerate translational research pathways in SMA.
- To bring effective therapies to patients in a timely and sustainable way.
- To encourage optimal patient care.

Co-operation between these European organisations is meant to enhance and support the existing efforts of each association by identifying areas for collaboration that are mutually advantageous:

- To improve the quality of life of individuals with Spinal Muscular Atrophy.
- To promote the interests of SMA patients in European health policy.
- To raise awareness of SMA with the general public, healthcare practitioners, scientists and industry.
- To identify, develop, promote and implement the best practice for SMA.
- To promote and sustain scientific and medical research in all fields of spinal muscular atrophy.
- To increase collaboration between member countries.

More information on SMA Europe website: [SMA Europe \(sma-europe.eu\)](https://sma-europe.eu)

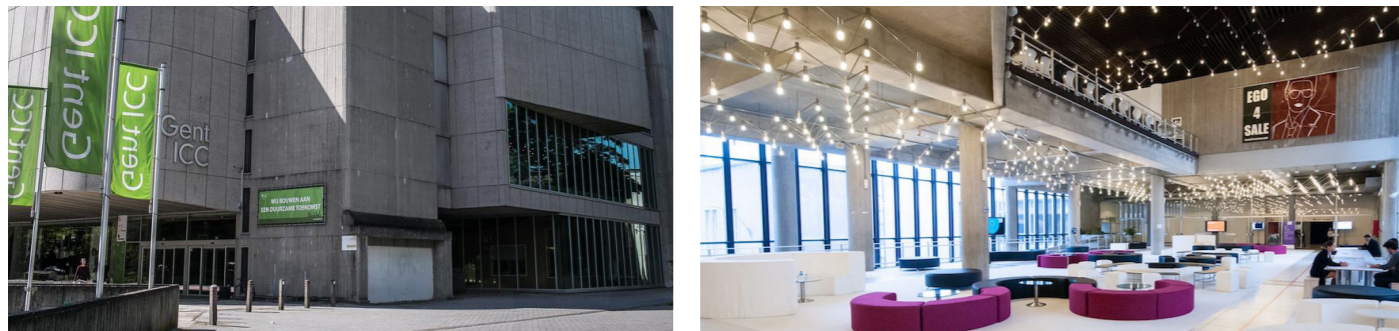
## Congress Venue

### VENUE

Ghent International Convention Center  
Familie van Rysselberghedreef 2, 9000 Ghent, Belgium  
[www.iccghent.com](http://www.iccghent.com)

### CONVENTION CENTRE

Gent ICC wants to bring together ideas, people, knowledge, culture, and entertainment efficiently and sustainably within the Citadel Park by developing MICE activities in an environment where heritage, service, knowledge, sustainability, and comfort are key. Gent ICC will turn the Citadel Park in a MICE venue with international appeal that functions as a hub in the city where everyone feels at home.



### HOW TO GET THERE

The conference venue is easily accessible via public transportation:

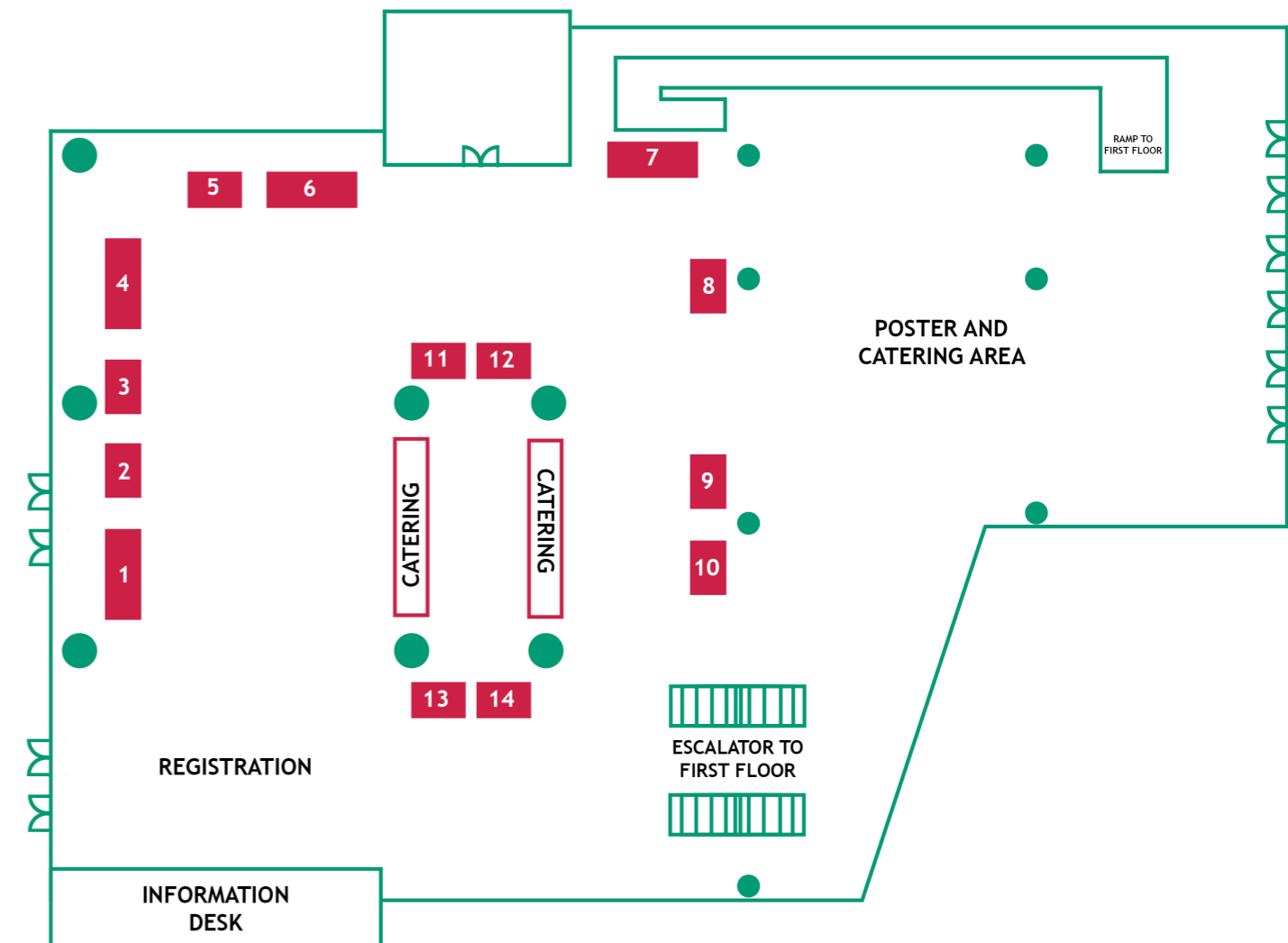
- TRAIN: 10-minute walk from Ghent St. Peter station
- BUS: following lines stop directly across from the main entrance: routes 9, 28, 34, 35, 36, 55, 57, 58, 70, 71, 72, 76, 77, 94, 95
- CAR: from Antwerp/ Kortrijk: E17 direction Ghent - Ghent Centrum  
from Brussels/ Oostende: E40 direction Ghent - Zwijnaarde - Ghent Centrum
- Bicycle: Underground bike shed available

A guide for making travel accessible to wheelchair users will be available on the website. Wheelchair users will automatically receive the guide when they have registered.

## Preliminary Exhibition Floor Plan

### ICC GHENT - GROUND FLOOR

[3D view location](#)



*Floorplan subject to change*

# Scientific Congress Organisation

## SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE



### Chair: Thomas Gillingwater

Professor of Anatomy at the University of Edinburgh and Editor in Chief of the Journal of Anatomy



### Vice-Chair: Stefania Corti

Neurologist, Associate Professor of Neurology and Principal Investigator of Neural Stem Cell Lab at the University of Milan in Italy



### Local host: Liesbeth De Waele

Paediatric Neurologist and Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Medicine, UZ Leuven NMRC for Children, Belgium



### Melissa Bowerman

Senior Lecturer in Neuromuscular & Skeletal Disorders, School of Medicine, Keele University, UK



### Claudio Bruno

Head, Center of Translational and Experimental Myology, IRCCS Istituto Giannina Gaslini, Genova, and Contract Professor in Paediatrics at the School of Medicine, University of Genova, Italy



### Peter Claus

Scientific Director, CEO and Co-Founder of SMATHERIA, a non-profit biomedical research institute dedicated to spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) and other neuromuscular diseases preclinical and translational research, Hannover, Germany



### Richard Finkel

Paediatric Neurologist and Director of the Center for Experimental Neurotherapeutics at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, USA



### Ewout Groen

Senior Researcher, SMA Center of Expertise, UMC Utrecht Brain Center, Department of Neurology and Neurosurgery, University Medical Center Utrecht, The Netherlands



### Ulrika Kreicberg

Ulrika Kreicbergs, Professor of Palliative Care for Children and Young People at the Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health, University College London, UK

# Scientific Congress Organisation

## SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE



### Cécile Martinat

Head of INSERM/UEVE UMR 861 in I-STEM, French institute dedicated to the use of human pluripotent stem cells to study and treat monogenic diseases, Paris, France



### Christian Simon

Group Leader, Carl Ludwig Institute for Physiology, Leipzig University, Germany



### Charlotte Sumner

Professor of neurology at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, USA



### Ludo van der Pol

Neurologist and Professor of Neurology, head of the Netherlands SMA center at the University Medical Center Utrecht (UMCU) in The Netherlands

## SCIENTIFIC CONTENT

The conference programme consists of seven sessions, workshops and poster sessions which will showcase the latest developments in the field, provide a forum for discussions and networking and highlight the challenges and future trends in SMA-related scientific disciplines and applied technologies.

For each session, researchers selected via abstract submission will have the opportunity to give a 15-minute presentation in the plenary programme.

# Programme

## WEDNESDAY 13th MARCH 2024 • Pre-Congress Day

- 08:30 - 09:30
- Event 1: Young Researchers meet the community
  - Event 2: Vernissage “Living with SMA”
  - Event 3: Global Patient Advocacy Meeting (linked to SMAcademy)

## THURSDAY 14th MARCH 2024

Oral presentation and flash poster presentation will be selected from abstracts deposit

- 08:20 - 09:30 **Registration**
- 09:30 - 09:45 **Welcome SMA Europe**  
Nicole Gusset -SMA Europe President
- 09:45 - 10:00 **Opening talk**  
TBD
- 10:00 - 10.45 **The patient perspective**  
Yasemin Erbas - SMA Europe Vice President
- 10.45 - 10:55 **Opening of scientific & clinical programme**  
Thomas Gillingwater, Chair of Scientific Committee
- 11.00 - 11:30 **COFFEE BREAK**
- 11:30 - 13:00 **Session 1 - Rehabilitation and regeneration in SMA - Motor neuron, NMJ & spinal cord pathology**  
Chair: Marco Carpogrosso  
TBD
- 13:00 - 14:15 **LUNCH BREAK**
- 13.10 - 14.10 **SYMPOSIUM 1**
- 14:15 - 14:30 **Flash poster presentations (Clinical)**  
TBD
- 14:30 - 16:00 **Session 2 - Optimising gene directed therapy**  
Chair: Rafael Yanes Munoz  
TBD
- 16.00 - 16.30 **COFFEE BREAK**
- 16.00 - 17.30 **CLINICAL POSTER SESSION (PC)**
- 17:30 - 18:30 **Parallel workshops (room 1 & 2)**  
Insights from other diseases  
Stems model
- 19:30 **WELCOME RECEPTION**

## FRIDAY 15th MARCH 2024

08:20 - 09:20	<b>SYMPOSIUM 2</b>
09:30 - 11:00	<b>Session 3 - SMN beyond the motor neuron</b> Chair: Melissa Bowerman TBD
11.00 - 11:30	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>
11.30 - 13:00	<b>Session 4 - Developmental aspect of SMA</b> Chair: Charlotte Summer TBD
13:00 - 14:15	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>
13:10 - 14:10	<b>SYMPOSIUM 3</b>
14.15 - 14.30	<b>Flash poster presentations (scientific)</b> TBD
14.30 - 16.00	<b>Session 5 - Immune system contribution to SMA</b> Chair: Séverine Boillée TBD
16.00 - 16.30	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>
16.00 - 17.30	<b>Scientific poster session (PC)</b>
17:30 - 18:30	<b>Parallel workshops (room 1 &amp; 2)</b> TBD
19:30	<b>GALA DINNER</b>

## SATURDAY 16th MARCH 2024

08:20 - 09:20	<b>SYMPOSIUM 4</b>
09:30 - 11:00	<b>Session 6 - Muscle in SMA</b> Chair: Frédéric Relaix TBD
11.00 - 11:30	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>
11.30 - 13:00	<b>Session 7 - Monitoring disease outcomes</b> Chair: Michelle Farrar TBD
13:00 - 13:30	<b>GRAP A LUNCH BOX</b>
13:30 - 14:30	<b>Award Ceremony and closing talks</b> Chair: Tom Gillingwater  <b>Award ceremony: Best oral presentation, best three posters</b> Nicole Gusset and Tom Gillingwater  <b>Wrap-up and highlights of the meeting - Where do we go next?</b> Nicole Gusset
14:30	<b>CLOSE</b>

# Sponsoring Packages

## PLATINUM

- Fee: € 70.000 (VAT not included)**
- 1 hour: symposium (sequence defined by lottery)
  - 4 free entrances
  - Stands 12 sqm with electricity access + 2 tables & 4 seats
  - First position on all communication documents

## GOLD

- Fee: € 50.000 (VAT not included)**
- 4 free entrances
  - Stand 12 sqm with electricity access + 2 tables & 4 seats
  - Logos on all communication documents

## SILVER

- Fee: € 20.000 (VAT not included)**
- 2 free entrances
  - Stand 6 sqm with electricity access + 2 tables & 4 seats
  - Logos on all communication documents

## BRONZE

- Fee: € 7.000 (VAT not included)**
- 1 free entrance
  - Stand 3 sqm with electricity access + 1 table & 2 seats
  - Logos on website and abstract book

## STANDARD

- Fee: € 2.000 (VAT not included)**
- 1 free entrance
  - Logos on all communication documents

Key sponsors are major contributors and will be acknowledged as such throughout the meeting.

The level of sponsorship is based on the total contribution, as described above. Main Sponsors are given priority for sponsorship level and booth reservation.

\* Number of sponsor symposia is limited at 4

## Sponsorship Application

We would like to sponsor the event with the following package:

- .....
- .....
- .....

Company .....

Address .....

Zip Code .....

Phone .....

VAT number .....

E-mail .....

Contact Person ..... Position .....

- On behalf of the Company, I consent and undertake to comply with the sponsorship rules and my obligations to sponsor from the moment I sign this contract.
- I enclose the copy of the bank transfer made to:

**MediCongress Services**  
IBAN: BE20 7360 3387 1656  
SWIFT/ BIC: KREDBEBB  
CONCEPT: SMA EUROPE 2024 + NAME OF COMPANY OR INVOICE NUMBER

Covering payment on the amount agreed

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ of 202\_\_\_\_  
(Stamp and signature)

This form should be completed and returned as soon as possible to:

**MediCongress Services NV**  
Noorwegenstraat 49, 9940 Evergem (Ghent)  
Tel. +32 9 218 85 84  
[SMA2024@medicongress.com](mailto:SMA2024@medicongress.com)  
A VAT invoice will be issued on receipt of this Sponsorship Application.

## General Conditions

### 1. Preamble

The 4<sup>th</sup> International Scientific Congress SMA will be held in Ghent International Convention Center.

[www.iccghent.com](http://www.iccghent.com)

### 2. Basic prerequisites

Any sponsor of 4<sup>th</sup> International Scientific Congress on SMA, by signing the contract, agrees to respect the general conditions presented hereafter.

### 3. Participation

To become a sponsor, all sponsors must complete and sign the sponsoring form and send it by email or post:

MEDICONGRESS SERVICES NV  
Noorwegenstraat 49  
9940 Evergem (BELGIUM)  
Tel. +32 9 218 85 84  
[SMA2024@medicongress.com](mailto:SMA2024@medicongress.com)

All applications will be submitted to the Organising Committee, which will decide on the applications. The Organiser reserves the right to refuse any request for sponsorship to any company or organisation whose activities are not related to the general theme of the event.

### 4. Payment terms

- The total amount of sponsorship is payable upon booking.
- All payments must be made in Euro, net of all bank charges.
- The payment will be made to MediCongress Services NV on behalf of the 4<sup>th</sup> International Scientific Congress on SMA.
- Any payment must also mention:  
«Invoice No - Sponsorship company name».

### 5. Invoice

Upon receipt of the signed sponsoring form and after acceptance by MediCongress Services NV, an invoice will be sent to the sponsor for payment.

### 6. Cancellation

Any cancellation must be made in writing and sent by post to MediCongress Services NV. In case of sponsor cancellation, no refund will be made. In case of cancellation before January 15, 2024, a refund of 40% will be granted. After that date, the total amount paid will be charged as cancellation fees.

### 7. Force majeure

In case of force majeure, the dates and / or place of 4<sup>th</sup> International Scientific Congress on SMA may be modified or the event cancelled. In case of cancellation of the event, the sums received will be reversed to the sponsors.

### 8. Insurance

It shall be the responsibility of each exhibitor to maintain such insurance against injury to person or theft, fire damage or loss of property in such amounts as the exhibitor shall deem adequate. Neither the 4<sup>th</sup> International Scientific Congress on SMA Exhibition, nor the Conference Venue will offer the exhibitor any kind of insurance protection.

### 9. Security

The custody of the exhibitor's property is the responsibility of each exhibitor. Exhibitors are advised to add protection against loss / damage of their materials due to fire, theft, accident and the like to their existing insurance.

## 4th Scientific International Congress on Spinal Muscular Atrophy

### GHENT

14th — 16th March 2024

Organised by

**SMA  
EUR  
OPE**

Kindly hosted by



**medicongress**  
conference & association management

Noorwegenstraat 49, 9940 Evergem (Belgium)  
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