

# BeRS GAZETTE

Guided by science, we care for our patients | An initiative of the BeRS | JULY 2022



## THE BeRS: A SUCCESS STORY

### CONTENT

**BeRS ACTIVITIES  
2021-2022** P. 2-3

**BELGIAN  
PNEUMOLOGY  
DAYS 2021** P. 4

**BELGIAN  
PNEUMOLOGY  
DAYS 2022** P. 5

**TIME FOR GLORY** P. 6

**SPONSORED  
AWARDS 2021-2022** P. 7

**NEW BPCO ASBL** P. 8

**COMING SOON  
& APPLY NOW!** P. 8

### PRESIDENT'S WORD

**/// The core missions of the BeRS are the dissemination of clinical and scientific knowledge (education), the promotion of respiratory health (advocacy) and the fight against respiratory diseases (health care support).**

We are happy to inform you that the BeRS has organized an unprecedented number of new events in 2021 and 2022 although the environment was more than challenging.

In this first 'Gazette' you will find a graphical summary of our last activities. Two new initiatives, both 1st and 2nd colloquium of the Forum des Pneumologues Francophones and the 1st congress of pneumology for general medicine, were a great success !

We would like to thank all the participants and partners for their trust and for their help in many different and very appreciated manners (expertise sharing, funding, encouragement, participation to our various events...). In order to continue to be informed of our activities and to benefit from preferential rates, do not forget to renew your annual membership to the BeRS and the ERS via your "MyBeRS" account on our website.

We encourage you to join the heart of the BeRS if you wish to actively participate in the scientific, societal and social activities of the BeRS by sitting on the Board or by actively taking part to one of our working groups. New elections for the BeRS Board are planned at the end of the year.

I hope to see you soon and I wish you all a beautiful summer !

**Didier Cataldo**  
**BeRS**  
**President**



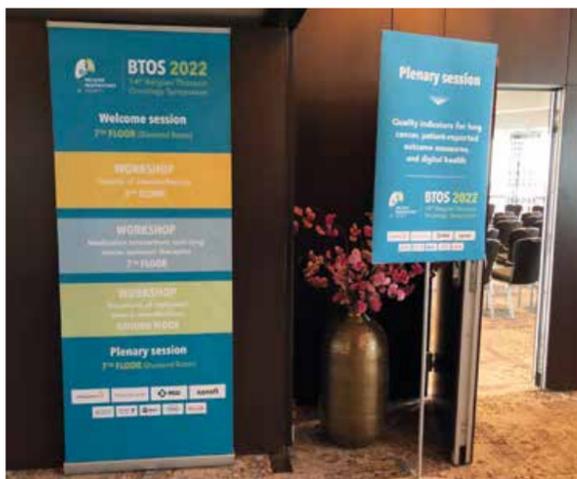
# A LOOK AT THE 2021-2022 BERS & FVL ACTIVITIES

## BTOS 2021 & 2022

*The Belgian Thoracic Oncology Symposium is organized by the "Thoracic Oncology" working group each year in March.*

Due to health restrictions, we were unable to meet face-to-face in 2021 and we did broadcast the sessions virtually. The very successful 2022 edition was held in the Van der Valk Hotel in Diegem. More than 70 participants and 9 partners were present and happy to meet again live. It should also be noted that Christophe Doods has been appointed as new chairman of this working group and Kristof Cuppens has taken over the position of secretary. We would like to thank Sebahat Ocak for leading this working group for many years.

 **The BTOS 2023 will take place on Friday 10 March 2023.**



## BEST 2021

*This new joint formula of the Belgian Endoscopy and Surgery Thoracic Congress has brought together "endoscopic" pulmonologists and thoracic surgeons who reviewed the current techniques and experiences of experts in these fields.*

This exciting three-day programme was held on Wednesday 20 October in Erasme Hospital for the live endoscopic sessions and on Thursday 21 & Friday 22 October in Mons where our partners made equipment available to the participants to test different techniques on state-of-the-art equipment.

 **The next edition will be planned for October 2023.**



## 1<sup>st</sup> Congress of Pneumology in General Practise

*More than 280 participants followed the sessions virtually and 94 general practitioners were present on site.*

This first edition has been organised in collaboration with the "Respiratory Primary Care" working group, Medisquare and our partners.

 **The second edition is planned for Saturday 8 October 2022 at the Tangla Hotel in Woluwe, Brussels.**



## EID 2021

*The Endoscopy Introduction Day 2021 took place at the "Cliniques Universitaires Saint-Luc" in Brussels.*



We thank Thierry Pieters for welcoming and taking care of the group of young doctors.

 **The next course will be held in UZ Antwerp on Friday 7 October 2022.**

Registration is already open on our website. As places are limited, we advise you to register now. As a reminder, this session is reserved for doctors in their first year of training in pneumology (in their fourth year of internal medicine).

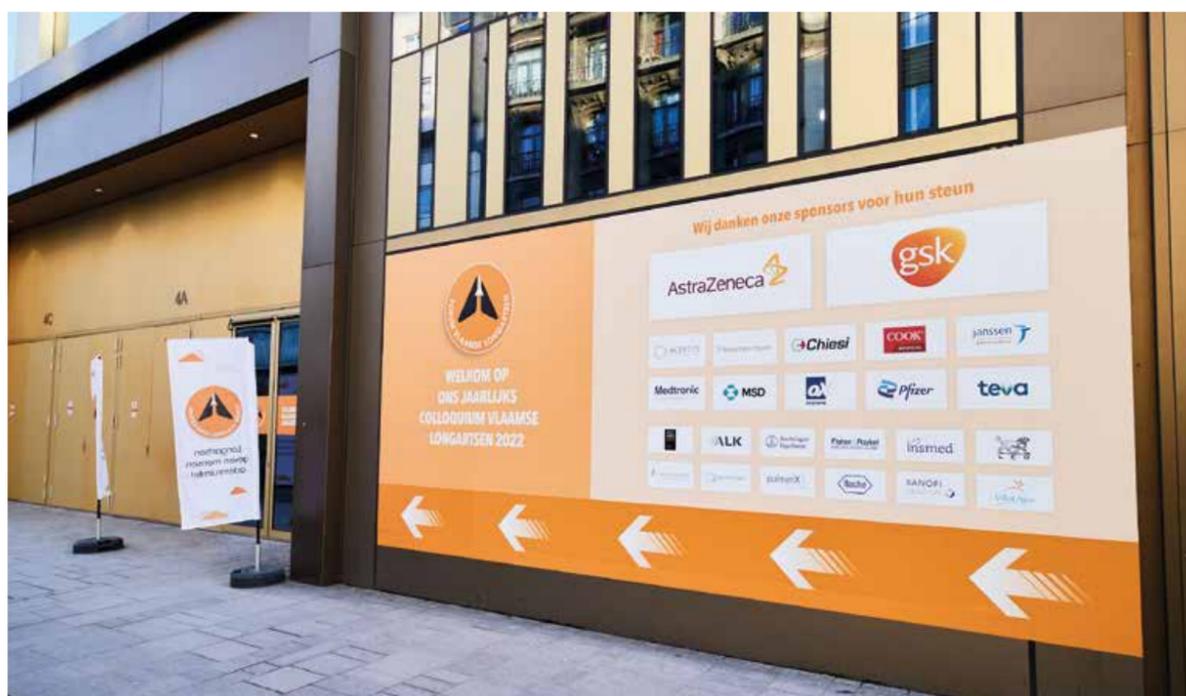


## Forum des Pneumologues Francophones

*The French-speaking counterpart (FPF) of the Forum Vlaamse Longartsen (FVL), has been created under the impulse of Didier Cataldo and enthusiastic French-speaking pulmonologists who form the Organizing Committee.*

After the very positive feedback of the first edition held in September 2021, the Organizing Committee proposed a second programme on 29 and 30 April at Dolce La Hulpe. The workshops based on clinical practice as well as the plenary sessions were very successful for both the participants and our partners.

**The next edition is planned for 28 and 29 April 2023.**



## Forum Vlaamse Longartsen

*For the first time, the organization of the Colloquium 2022 was in the hands of the BeRS. In the meantime, the chairmanship of the FVL has been passed to Lieven Dupont.*

We thank Michiel Thomeer for leading the FVL during so many years. The reactions from both participants and partners were very positive for this first collaboration.

The programme of the next edition will exceptionally be organized without the NVALT as they will take over at the end of November 2022 the programme we proposed in February 2022. However, keep assured that we will come up with a great concept of workshops and plenary lectures for the Colloquium 2023!

**The next edition is planned for 3 and 4 February 2023.**



# BELGIAN PNEUMOLOGY DAYS 2021

## Our annual congress which took place at the FMCCA in Antwerp on 3 & 4 December 2021 was a huge success !

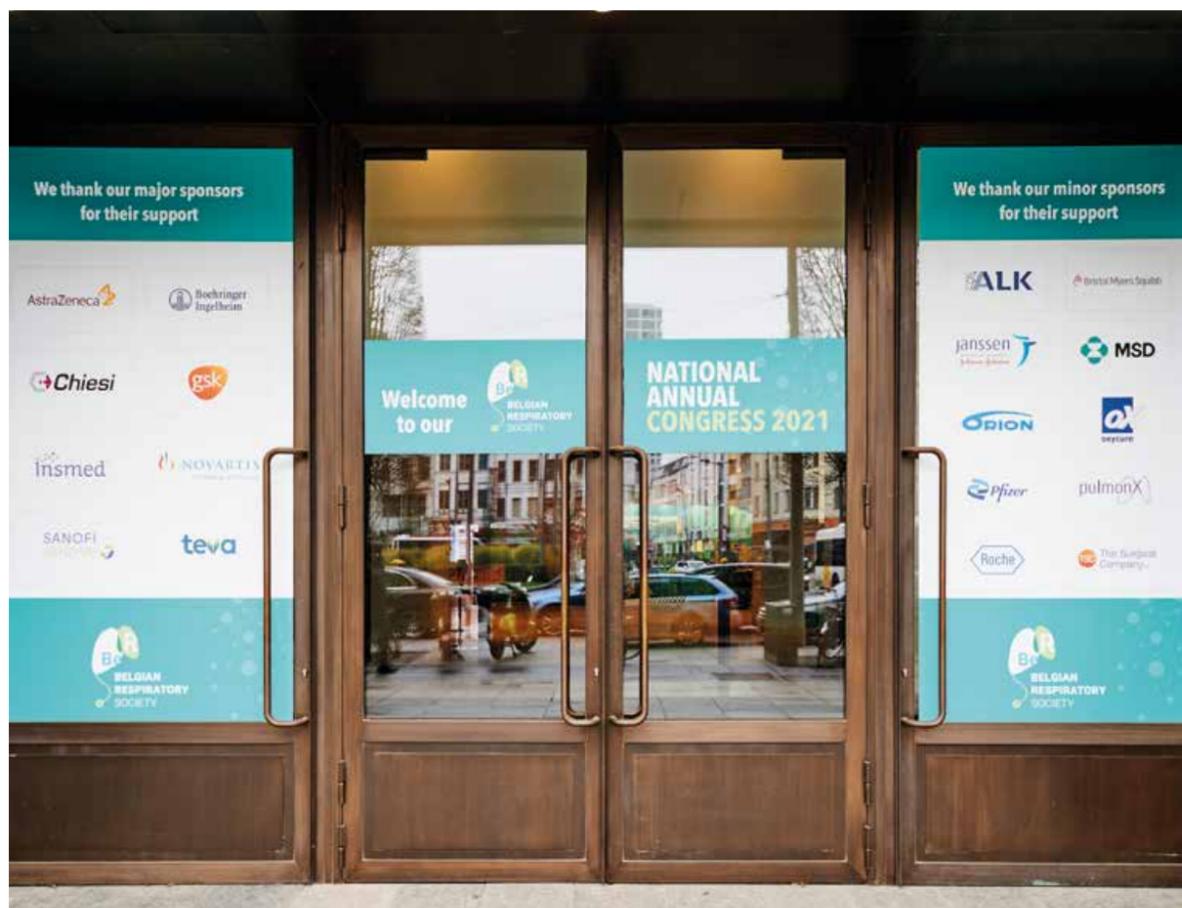
Although the health conditions linked to the pandemic made the organisation of our congress rather complicated, it was a success for both virtual and presential participants. We have therefore taken all the necessary precautions to ensure that our congress runs smoothly.

All those who came on-site were delighted to renew contacts with their colleagues and BeRS partners. We think it is very important to keep in touch and to get out of one's own way, especially when daily life has been so disrupted over the last two years.

We would like to thank you for your confidence and hope to see many of you at the 2022 edition, the preliminary programme of which you will find on the next page.

 **The next edition is planned for 9 and 10 December 2022 - Square Brussels.**

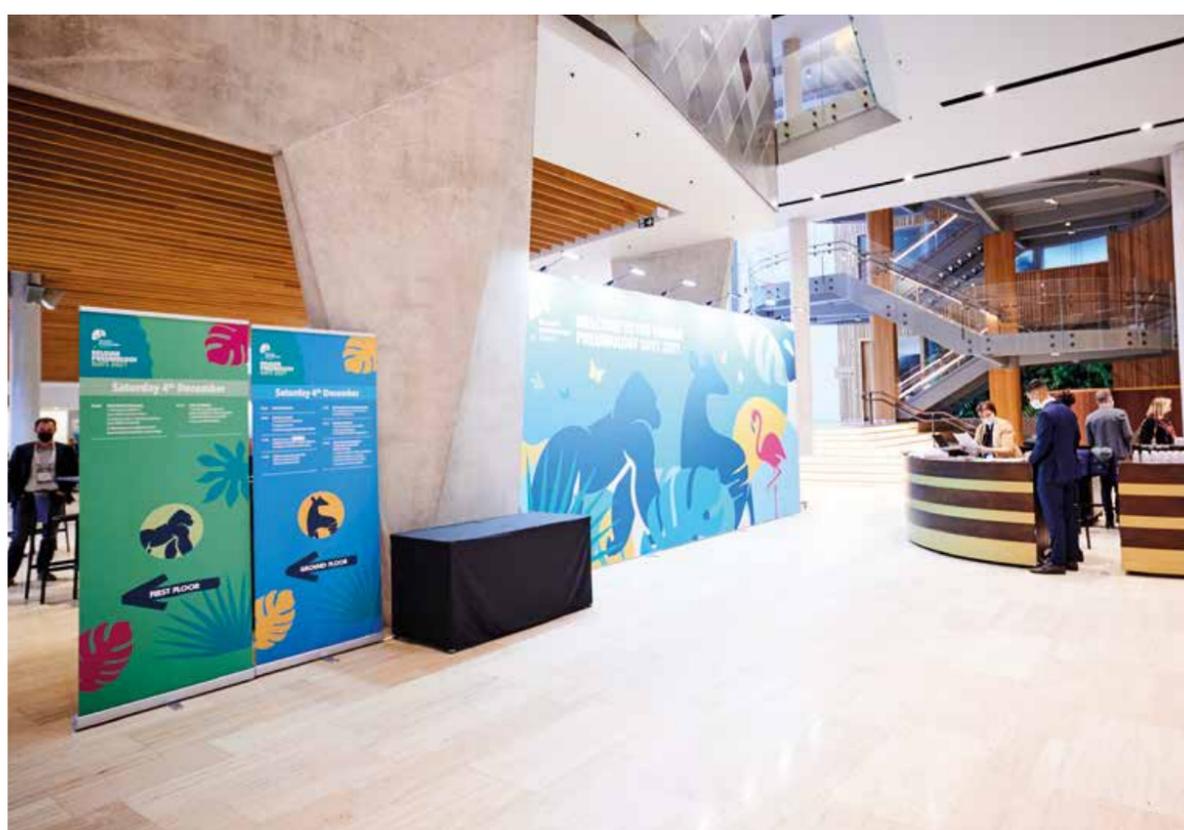
Photos of these events are available on our website [www.bers.be](http://www.bers.be)



**283**  
VIRTUAL  
PARTICIPANTS

**114**  
PARTICIPANTS  
ON-SITE

**21**  
SPONSORS



# BELGIAN PNEUMOLOGY DAYS 2022

## PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

### FRIDAY 9 DECEMBER 2022

<b>08:00</b>	<b>Welcome and registration</b>	
<b>08:45</b>	<b>Opening Ceremony</b>	
<b>09:00</b>	<b>PARALLEL SESSIONS</b>	
	<b>AUDITORIUM 1 - Asthma &amp; Allergy</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Precision medicine in asthma</li> <li>• Exacerbations in patients treated with asthma biologics</li> <li>• Role of infection in asthma</li> </ul>	
	<b>AUDITORIUM 2 - Lung Peditry Award Session</b>	
<b>10:30</b>	<b>Meet the sponsor</b>	
<b>11:00</b>	<b>Sponsors &amp; posters break - Exhibition Hall</b>	
<b>11:30</b>	<b>PARALLEL SESSIONS</b>	
	<b>AUDITORIUM 1 - Respiratory Infections</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phage therapy</li> <li>• Update on COVID-19 : treatment and prophylaxis</li> <li>• Tuberculosis - what's new ? Focus on MDR</li> </ul>	
	<b>AUDITORIUM 2 - Lung Peditry</b>	
	Evaluation and management of respiratory problems in congenital disorders:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Esophageal atresia</li> <li>• Primary ciliary dyskinesia</li> <li>• Congenital heart disease</li> </ul>	
	<b>Designation of the winner of the "Lung Peditry" award 2022</b>	
<b>13:00</b>	<b>Lunch - Sponsors &amp; posters break - Exhibition Hall</b>	
<b>14:00</b>	<b>PARALLEL SESSIONS</b>	
	<b>AUDITORIUM 1 - Clinical Science</b>	
	<b>Jean-Claude Yernault Awards 2022</b>	
	<b>AUDITORIUM 2 - Basic Science</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The discovAIR project: a roadmap towards the Human Lung Cell Atlas</li> <li>• Cellular senescence in airway disease and the potential for senolytics</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding cell-cell interactions within tissues through spatial transcriptomics</li> </ul>
<b>15:10</b>	<b>Meet the sponsors</b>	
<b>15:40</b>	<b>Sponsors &amp; posters break - Exhibition Hall</b>	
<b>16:10</b>	<b>PARALLEL SESSIONS</b>	
	<b>Ethics &amp; economy session</b>	
	<b>AUDITORIUM 1 - Thoracic Oncology</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Antibody-Drug Conjugates (ADC) : novel drug candidates to treat lung cancer</li> <li>• Other bispecific antibodies (bsAbs) : mechanism of action and applications in NSCLC</li> <li>• Targeting KRAS : recent progress and new approaches</li> </ul>	
	<b>AUDITORIUM 2 - Lung Function &amp; respiratory somnology</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The relevance of chronic ventilation in COPD patients : who, when and for what benefits ?</li> <li>• Obesity hypoventilation syndrome</li> <li>• Novel ATS-ERS recommendation on lung function interpretation</li> </ul>	
<b>17:45</b>	<b>Lifetime achievement Awardee 2022</b>	
<b>18:00</b>	<b>Awards 2022 session</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 Prof. J.C. Yernault Awards</li> <li>• 2 Prof. Pauwels Awards</li> <li>• 1 Chiesi Award 2022</li> <li>• 4 GSK Awards 2022</li> </ul>	
<b>18:40</b>	<b>Closing session</b>	
<b>19:45</b>	<b>BeRS Gala Dinner</b>	

### SATURDAY 10 DECEMBER 2022

<b>08:00</b>	<b>Welcome and registration</b>	
<b>09:00</b>	<b>PARALLEL SESSIONS</b>	
	<b>Ethics &amp; economy session</b>	
	<b>AUDITORIUM 1 - Thoracic Endoscopy</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benign and malignant tracheo-bronchial stenosis : which material, which indication, reconstruction techniques</li> <li>• Expiratory central airway collapse : definitions, types and therapeutic approach</li> <li>• Single-use vs reusable flexible bronchoscopes</li> </ul>	
	<b>AUDITORIUM 2 - Pulmonary Vascular Diseases &amp; ILD</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New guidelines in pulmonary hypertension</li> <li>• The new ATS/ERS/JRS/ALAT IPF and PPF guidelines</li> <li>• CPFE, an enigmatic disease entity</li> </ul>	
<b>10:40</b>	<b>Meet the sponsors</b>	
<b>11:10</b>	<b>Break to visit the (virtual) exhibition hall</b>	
<b>11:40</b>	<b>PARALLEL SESSIONS</b>	
	<b>AUDITORIUM 1 - COPD</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the definition of "control of COPD"?</li> <li>• My COPD patient is chronically colonized with P aeruginosa or Aspergillus... I have to treat !</li> <li>• Palliative care in COPD</li> </ul>	
	<b>AUDITORIUM 2 - Thoracic Surgery</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Pleural complications</li> <li>b. Is previous thoracic surgery a contra-indication for lung transplantation and what are the Consequences ?</li> <li>c. LVRS and ELVR as a bridge towards lung transplantation in COPD patients</li> </ul>	
<b>13:10</b>	<b>AUDITORIUM 1 - General Assembly &amp; Results elections</b>	
<b>13:30</b>	<b>Closing session &amp; Lunch</b>	

# TIME FOR GLORY!



**On the occasion of our annual congress, we organised an “Awards session” during which we presented the BeRS awardees as well as those of our partners.**

## Life-time achievement awards

### Awardee 2020 Prof. Dr. Paul De Vuyst

Born in Antwerp on 13 april 1953, Prof. De Vuyst wrote his PhD thesis on the following subject: **“Contribution of mineralogical analyses to the identification of respiratory pathologies related to asbestos”** in 1988 (ULB).

He is the former Head of the Department of Respiratory Medicine, Erasme Hospital, ULB from 1996 until 2018.

His main research interests are occupational and interstitial pathologies (idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, hypersensitivity pneumonitis, drug-induced disease) and more recently air pollution toxicity.



From left to right: Dimitri Leduc - Paul De Vuyst - Didier Cataldo - Guy Joos - Guy Brusselle

### Awardee 2021 - Prof. Dr. Guy Joos

Born in Ostend on 17 january 1956, Prof. Guy Joos wrote his PhD thesis on the following subject: **“The role of neuropeptides in the pathogenesis of asthma”**.

He is the former Head of the Department of Respiratory Medicine, Ghent University Hospital, from 2004 until 2021. His main research interests are translational and clinical research in asthma and COPD.

## Lung Peditry Award 2021

The “Lung Peditry” working group has offered young doctors and scientists (pediatricians in training, doctoral students, fellows, ...) the opportunity to present their scientific work and/or interesting clinical cases.

The candidates were auditioned during the annual congress “Belgian Pneumology Days 2021”. **We congratulate Janne Goossens (PhD Researcher - Allergy and Clinical Immunology Research Group - KU Leuven).**



## Jean-Claude Yernaut Awards 2021

These two prizes are awarded to the best case reports presented at the congress “Belgian Pneumology Days 2021” during the session reserved for free communications.

**1<sup>st</sup> prize - Aude JOSKIN** (Erasme ULB): Harry Potter’s Lung

**2<sup>nd</sup> prize - Céline KEMPENEERS** (ULiège): Primary ciliary dyskinesia: genotype/phenotype correlation confirms the diagnosis



## Romain Pauwels Award 2021

The aim of this annual prize is to stimulate scientific research in the field of pulmonology. He is awarded for the best original paper in the field of pulmonology published in an international journal during the calendar year preceding the award.

**Congratulations to Cedric Bosteels (UZ Gent)!**



# SPONSORED AWARDS 2021-2022

## AstraZeneca Award 2021

*This prize aims to stimulate Belgian scientific research in the field of pneumology and give the opportunity to reward a researcher for his excellent original research work carried out mainly in Belgium.*

**ASTRAZENECA supports this biannual scientific prize with a value of € 12,500. We warmly congratulate Cedric Bosteels (UZ Gent).** His project in a few words: the project aims at

deciphering how antiviral immunity to early life respiratory virus infection, especially respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), intersects with allergic sensitization in the neonatal period and how this risk of virus-induced allergy/asthma enhancement is influenced by maternal allergy. Over the last years, they have built up expertise with the pneumonia virus of mice (PVM) as a relevant model for murine RSV infection in both neonatal and adult mice. Using unique tools, such as MHC-tetramers and TCR transgenic mice, they will explore the clinical course and immune response to PVM infection during the neonatal period. To investigate how the antiviral immunity interacts with allergen exposure, they will

simultaneously expose PVM infected mice to house dust mite (HDM). To address the influence of maternal allergy, they will repeat these experiments by comparing responses in offspring born from allergic and non-allergic mothers.



## Chiesi Award 2021

*The aim of this prize is to promote the quality of patient care directly or indirectly and to meet an existing social need in the field of respiratory pathologies.*

**CHIESI wishes to support this project with an annual prize of €12,500. Congratulations to Sophie Gohy for her project to improve the well-being of cystic fibrosis patients.**

Her project in a few words: The chronic nature of cystic fibrosis imposes a regular rhythm of heavy treatments and hospitalisations for patients who are

already weakened by a daily vigilance on their lifestyle, their social contacts and their medication. They would like to integrate the use of PSIO glasses, a patented technology based on a method combining light therapy and sound programmes for relaxation and



meditation, into the treatment of patients. This technique acts through short or long programmes to target different ailments (sleep disorders, anxiety, chronic pain, fatigue, letting go, burn-out). The ease of this transportable technique allows direct access to a method of relaxation and well-being, and provides freedom of use in terms of duration, means and objective of its use. Integrating this technique would allow its use in parallel with medical consultations to facilitate various technical acts, whether in paediatrics or adult medicine, and would also allow hospitalised patients to resort to an adapted and guided well-being technique, relieving both the patient and the hospitalisation units.

## GSK Awards 2022

*These awards aim to stimulate the exchange of scientific research results. They reward original and high quality communications dealing with a pneumological subject.*

The audition of the candidates took place in the Hilton Hotel Brussels Central Station on 25 May 2022. We congratulate the winners of the four GSK Awards 2022 !



### BASIC SCIENCE 2022

▪ **1<sup>st</sup> price** - 2000 €

Céline Maquet (ULiège)

Ly6Chi monocytes balance regulatory and cytotoxic CD4 T cell responses to control virus-induced immunopathology

▪ **2<sup>nd</sup> price** - 1500 €

Dr. Merel Jacobs (UGent)

Cross-talk between memory B cells and fibroblasts contributes to COPD pathogenesis

### CLINICAL SCIENCE 2022

▪ **1<sup>st</sup> price** - 2000 €

Levi Hoste (UZ Gent)

TIM3+ TRBV11-2 T cells and IFN $\gamma$  signature in patrolling monocytes and CD16+ NK cells delineate MIS-C

▪ **2<sup>nd</sup> price** - 1500 €

Dr. Eline Janssens (UAntwerpen)

External validation of a breath test for pleural mesothelioma : final results of the MesoBreath Series

From left to right:

- Merel Jacobs
- Céline Maquet
- Zeina Eid Antoun (GSK Country Medical Director)
- Didier Cataldo (BeRS President)
- Eline Janssens
- Levi Hoste



## French speaking COPD association

**We are pleased to announce that the French speaking COPD association is now active!**

Despite the pandemic that has delayed the start of the association because of the difficulties and risks for COPD patients to travel, the BeRS Office has been working hard these last few months, in close collaboration with the members of the Board of the association, to finally get the association up and running.

**We are proud to announce that the new website is online!**

Your COPD patients will find a lot of advice, information about their disease and will be able to participate in the group's activities in order to exchange their experience with other people affected by this disease.

Don't hesitate to ask your patients to join the association to become a new member. It is free of charge.

Representatives of the French and Dutch speaking associations will be present at our next events.

**info@bpco-asbl.be**

**www.bpco-asbl.be**

Discover the new website:



## COMING SOON



### BeRS ACADEMY

The BeRS will soon offer its members a new platform that will allow them to follow individual e-learning, virtual online courses or face-to-face courses. It will be called the "BeRS Academy".

**This platform will be online from January 2023.**



### Election New Board

The next elections for the new BeRS Board 2023-2024 will be organized during our annual congress.

Would you like to actively participate in the life of the BeRS and take part in the important decisions and actions of our community? Send a email with your CV to **info@bers.be**.



### Awards 2022

The deadline to apply for the various prizes offered by the BeRS and its partners is Friday 4 November 2022.

Details and regulations can be found on our website **www.bers.be**



Despite the complicated circumstances we have been experiencing for almost two years now, all BeRS activities, both virtual and face-to-face, have been a great success! We thank all the members of the working groups for the excellent work they do every year in proposing topical issues and renowned speakers for all these events. Last but not least, we would like to thank our sponsors for their assistance and their financial and logistical support in our day-to-day work and in the organisation of all our events.

