

METABOLISM

Third meeting | October 29, 2026

08:15 – 09:00	Welcome Coffee	
09:00 – 09:05	Introduction	
09:05 – 09:40	Keynote lecture Elisa MOTORI Institute of Biochemistry, Center for Molecular Medicine Cologne (CMMC), University of Cologne; Cologne Excellence Cluster on Cellular Stress Responses in Aging-Associated Diseases (CECAD), Germany	Wired for Survival: Compartmentalized Metabolism in Brain and Tumor
09:40 – 10:15	Keynote lecture Thibaut BURG Laboratory of Neurobiology, VIB Center for Brain & Disease Research, KU Leuven, Belgium	Contribution of metabolic dysfunction to motor neuron degeneration in Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)
10:15 – 10:30	Matteo LEVORATO Pole of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, IREC, UCLouvain, Brussels, Belgium	Arginase 2 activity as a metabolic vulnerability in breast cancer bone metastasis
10:30 – 11:05	Coffee break – Poster session (<i>odd numbers</i>)	
11:05 – 11:40	Keynote lecture Baptiste LEROY Laboratory of Proteomics and Microbiology, Research Institute for Biosciences, UMon, Belgium	Metabolic strategies for maintaining electron-carbon balance in purple phototrophic bacteria
11:40 – 11:55	Lotfi LAAOUMIR Cellular Metabolism and Microenvironment Laboratory, de Duve Institute, UCLouvain, Brussels, Belgium	LuCEMe: An accessible luciferase-based method to functionally assess cellular metabolism across model systems
11:55 – 12:10	Damien DETRAUX Biochemistry and Cellular Biology Research Unit (URBC), NARILIS, UNamur, Belgium	Dissection and modulation of mitochondrial pathways during activation and transdifferentiation of cardiac fibroblasts into cardiomyocytes
12:10 – 12:25	Anisa ALIJU Laboratory of Metabolic Regulation, GIGA-Institute, ULiège, Belgium	Metabolic control of mRNA translation as a vulnerability in lung cancer

12:25 – 14:00	Lunch & Poster session (even numbers from 12:30 to 13:15 odd numbers from 13:15 to 14:00)	
14:00 – 14:35	Keynote lecture Carole LINSTER Enzymology & Metabolism group, Luxembourg Centre for Systems Biomedicine, University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg	Damage is inevitable and repair is essential - also in metabolism
14:35 – 14:50	Florine HABETS Mitochondria in Cell Communication, GIGA-Institute, ULiège, Belgium	Mitochondrial protein VDAC1 regulates angiogenesis by tethering Mitochondrial-Derived-Vesicles and early endosomes
14:50 – 15:05	Sara MAGGIORE Laboratory of Myeloid Cell Biology in Tissue Damage and Inflammation, VIB-UGent Center for Inflammation Research, Belgium / Signal Transduction and Metabolism Laboratory, ULB, Brussels, Belgium	Hepatic macrophage heterogeneity during MASLD-HCC progression
15:05 – 15:20	Louise GERARD Molecular Physiology Research Unit (URPhyM), NARILIS, UNamur, Belgium	Metabolic determinant of response to arginine deprivation therapy in pancreatic and colorectal cancer
15:20 – 15:35	Emilie DOERAENE Alzheimer and other tauopathies research group, ULB Center for Diabetes Research, ULB Neuroscience Institute, ULB, Brussels, Belgium	Interaction between Alzheimer's disease and Diabetes
15:35 – 16:10	Coffee break – Poster session (even numbers)	
16:10 – 16:45	Keynote lecture Marc FRANSEN Laboratory of Peroxisome Biology and Intracellular Communication, Department of Cellular and Molecular Medicine, KU Leuven, Belgium	Peroxisomes as cellular redox hubs: Integrating metabolism and H₂O₂ signaling
16:45 – 17:20	Keynote lecture Miriam CNOP ULB Center for Diabetes Research; Division of Endocrinology, Erasmus Hospital, ULB, Brussels, Belgium	Induced pluripotent stem cell-derived beta cells to model diabetes and discover new therapies
17:20 – 17:30	Awards & Closing remarks	

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

P1	Mayank BANSAL Signal Transduction and Metabolism Laboratory, ULB, Brussels, Belgium	PTPRF is a stress-responsive cytoskeletal checkpoint that limits β-cell adaptation to nutrient overload
P2	Yasmine BOUIDIDA Pole of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, IREC, UCLouvain, Brussels, Belgium	Understanding and targeting tissue-specific metastasis in human pancreatic cancer
P3	Carlos BUSS Signal Transduction and Metabolism Laboratory, ULB, Brussels, Belgium	MagmaFlow: A desktop platform for artificial intelligence-driven expression analysis
P4	Laura CARLIER ULB Center of Diabetes Research, ULB, Brussels, Belgium	A homozygous PD-L1 mutation confers selective β-cell sensitivity in neonatal diabetes
P5	Rupali CHAUHAN Signal Transduction and Metabolism Laboratory, ULB, Brussels, Belgium	PTPRK Regulates β-Cell Fate in Immune- and Diet-Induced Diabetes
P6	Sophie COENEN Beta Cell Neogenesis (BENE) research group, Genetics Reproduction and Development (GRAD), VUB, Belgium	Postnatal NEUROG3 expression reflects δ-cell identity rather than progenitor reactivation
P7	Ilaria COLAUZZI Pole of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, IREC, UCLouvain, Brussels, Belgium	PIN1 targeting radiosensitizes breast cancer stem cell-associated radioresistance through modulation of the MYC axis
P8	Francisco RIBEIRO-COSTA Signal Transduction and Metabolism Laboratory, ULB, Brussels, Belgium	Enhanced insulin secretory function in PTPRF-ablated stem-cell-derived pancreatic islets
P9	Alina DAHLHAUS Cancer Metabolism Group, Department of Cancer Research, Luxembourg Institute of Health, Luxembourg, Luxembourg	Loss of MTHFD1L rewires the Lipidome in breast cancer cells with implications to metastasis
P10	Laure DEGROOTE Beta Cell Neogenesis (BENE) research group, Genetics Reproduction and Development (GRAD), VUB, Belgium	GLP1-E2 therapy delays autoimmune diabetes in late-stage prediabetic NOD mice and potentiates low-dose anti-CD3 therapy for enhanced disease protection
P11	Valentine DELMOTTE Metastasis Research Laboratory, GIGA-Institute, ULiège, Belgium	Role of methylglyoxal in gemcitabine resistance in pancreatic cancer
P12	Tristan DROUET Mitochondria in Cell Communication, GIGA-Institute, ULiège, Belgium	OPA1 coordinates EVs biogenesis through ceramides in breast cancer
P13	Laurine DUPRIEZ Laboratory of Biology, Tumors and Development, GIGA-Institute, ULiège, Belgium	MAPK-dependent KEAP1 degradation drives redox rewiring and therapeutic vulnerabilities in non-V600 BRAF-mutant lung adenocarcinoma

P14	NIL FIGUERAS-DUCH Laboratory of Cancer Signalling, GIGA-Institute, ULiège, Belgium	Neutrophils on the move: tRNA wobble modification reprograms tumor associated neutrophils
P15	Ani GARABET Signal Transduction and Metabolism Laboratory, ULB, Brussels, Belgium	Exploring the role of chemerin in lung fibrosis
P16	Aline GENBAUFFE Metastasis Research Laboratory, GIGA-Institute, ULiège, Belgium	Tumor Metabolism Dictates Site-Specific Metastasis in Pancreatic
P17	Eduardo GILGLIONI Signal Transduction and Metabolism Laboratory, ULB, Brussels, Belgium	PTPRF coordinates cytoskeletal and metabolic adaptation in hepatocytes during nutrient stress
P18	Marine HEMMER Laboratory of Biology, Tumors and Development, GIGA-Institute, ULiège, Belgium	Metabolic shift to the mevalonate pathway reveals a targetable weakness in drug- tolerant BRAFV600E lung adenocarcinoma
P19	Leila HOSSEINZADEH Signal Transduction and Metabolism Laboratory, ULB, Brussels, Belgium	CAF origin and secretory state drive context-specific tumour-cell programs that converge on tumour-promoting phenotypes
P20	Gabriel Garnik HOVHANNISYAN Signal Transduction and Metabolism Laboratory, ULB, Brussels, Belgium	CellCousin2: An Optimized System for Partial Ablation and Tracing of Regenerative Lineages
P21	Romane JOBÉ Mitochondria in Cell Communication, GIGA-Institute, ULiège, Belgium	Adipocyte Differentiation Rewires EV Biogenesis Toward a Ceramide-Dependent Pathway to Promote Tumor Progression
P22	Emilie LAVERDEUR Metastasis Research Laboratory, GIGA-Institute, ULiège, Belgium	Myoferlin is required for desmoplasia in pancreatic cancer
P23	Kaylee MORRIS Institute of Biochemistry, Center for Molecular Medicine Cologne (CMMC), University of Cologne, Germany	The role of neuron-cancer metabolic interactions in small cell lung cancer
P24	Keïla OPELE-NAVENGE Laboratory of Analysis by Nuclear Reactions (LARN), NARILIS, UNamur, Belgium	Targeting ferroptosis resistance to sensitise cancer cells to radiotherapy/protontherapy
P25	Guillaume PAULISSEN Biochemistry and Cellular Biology Research Unit (URBC), NARILIS, UNamur, Belgium	Overcoming barriers to direct cardiac reprogramming: decoding the cardiac fibroblast activation continuum
P26	Paola PIREDDU Institute of Biochemistry, Center for Molecular Medicine Cologne (CMMC), University of Cologne, Germany	Elucidating the role of mitochondrial metabolism in neuronal maturation
P27	Alice PUTZU Metastasis Research Laboratory, GIGA-Institute, ULiège, Belgium	Glycation stress as a novel vulnerability in glioblastoma stem-like cells

P28	Isabella Francesca RIZZI Pole of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, IREC, UCLouvain, Brussels, Belgium	Acetate metabolism in head and neck cancers: role for ACSS2 to support tumor growth under hypoxia
P29	Ema ROEKENS Mitochondria in Cell Communication, GIGA-Institute, ULiège, Belgium	PVT1 and OPA1 cooperatively control EVs secretion in breast cancer
P30	Torben ROY Cellular Metabolism and Microenvironment Laboratory, de Duve Institute, UCLouvain, Brussels, Belgium	A genetically-encoded aspartate biosensor reveals two distinct leukemia populations responding differently to chemotherapy
P31	Buse SARI Pole of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, IREC, UCLouvain, Brussels, Belgium	Towards Metabolic Targeting Of Residual Disease In Chemotherapy-Treated Hr+/Her2- Breast Cancers
P32	Célia THOMAS Biochemistry and Cellular Biology Research Unit (URBC), NARILIS, UNamur, Belgium	Exploring the therapeutical potential of plant extracts on lipid metabolism in hepatocytes
P33	Annelore Van MULDER Beta Cell Neogenesis (BENE) research group, Genetics Reproduction and Development (GRAD), VUB, Belgium	Iron deficiency induces maturation-dependent loss of pancreatic β-cells
P34	Violaine VANDENHOOF Mitochondria in Cell Communication, GIGA-Institute, ULiège, Belgium	Mitochondrial OPA1 Loss Converts Extracellular Vesicles into Inducers of Tumor Regression
P35	Aveline VANDENHOOF Mitochondria in Cell Communication, GIGA-Institute, ULiège, Belgium	Investigating the role of MDVs in endosomal composition
P36	Hanne VERHAEGHE Laboratory of Immunoparasitology, Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Transplantation, Rega Institute for Medical Research, KU Leuven, Belgium	Role of complement factor 3 and hepatic mitochondrial dysfunction in severe malaria-associated dysmetabolism
P37	Lien WILLEMS Beta Cell Neogenesis (BENE) research group, Genetics Reproduction and Development (GRAD), VUB, Belgium	Selective Remodeling of Islet-Resident Macrophages Coincides with Physiological β-Cell Expansion During Pregnancy
P38	Mingming ZHAO Laboratory of Peroxisome Biology and Intracellular Communication, Department of Cellular and Molecular Medicine, KU Leuven, Belgium	Peroxisomal H₂O₂ Signaling: Linking Redox Metabolism to Organelle Communication