



Royal Belgian Society for Ear, Nose,  
Throat, Head and Neck Surgery

# Annual Congress

ENT, Head and Neck Surgery as a  
Multidisciplinary Team Player

Preliminary Programme

4-5 September 2026

Leuven

Gasthuisberg Leuven

Onderwijs & Navorsing

President:

Vincent Vander Poorten



Dear Colleagues and dear Friends,

The subject of the Annual Congress of B-ORL - the Royal Belgian Society for Otorhinolaryngology and Head and Neck Surgery – **“ORLHNS as team player in multidisciplinary management”** – has never been more actual than today.

The medical care nowadays is constantly improving, yet becoming increasingly complex and requiring the collaboration of different disciplines to provide optimal care for the patient.

ORLHNS typically are very much used to teamwork and open to collaborate with and respectfully learn from any other discipline if we believe it is in our patients' best interest. That is why we organized in Leuven a very broad multidisciplinary program where you as ORLHNS can learn from and interact with experts from collaborating disciplines: Pneumology, Allergology, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Anaplastology, Neurology, Neurosurgery, Ophthalmology, Speech and Language Therapy, Medical Oncology, Radiation Oncology, Pediatrics and Neonatology and Rehabilitation Medicine. Vice versa, they can learn from us.

I promise you that you will be fascinated and thrilled non-stop throughout the congress and we all will leave as a richer and better doctor.

We have the honour of the presence of several fantastic international leaders in our field that will provide keynote lectures: we welcome Prof. **Piero Nicolai** (pioneer in anterior skull base surgery and head and neck surgery, University of Padova, Italy), Prof. **Dirk Kunst** (lateral skull base surgery, Maastricht, the Netherlands), Prof **Vinidh Paleri** (pioneer in Transoral Robotic Surgery, Royal Marsden Hospital, London, UK), Dr. **Daniele Borsetto** (Lateral Skull Base, Cambridge, UK) Dr. **Robert Pauw** (Otology, Rotterdam, the Netherlands), Prof. **Henk Blom** (Otology, Den Haag, the Netherlands) and Dr. **Bas Pullens**, (pediatric ORL, Rotterdam, The Netherlands). Together with the esteemed Belgian colleagues, they will provide a vibrant program focused on multidisciplinary care.

The meeting will take place on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> of September in **UZ Gasthuisberg** Leuven, a stimulating setting where the clinic meets research and vice versa, and where there is ample room and time to interact with colleagues as well as with the supporting companies – our sponsors. The point sublime will be a great conference dinner at the historic site of the Faculty Club – Groot Begijnhof on the evening of Friday 4<sup>th</sup>.

I wish you a pleasant and interesting meeting!

On behalf of the Board,

Vincent Vander Poorten

President 2026 B-ORL - Royal Belgian Society for Otorhinolaryngology and Head and Neck

## PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

### ENT, Head and Neck Surgery as a Multidisciplinary Team Player

| Friday 4 September 2026 |                                                              |                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
|                         | CAG                                                          | GA0                      |
| 08:30                   | Rhino I : Airway Disease                                     | Otology I                |
| 10:30                   | Coffee break                                                 |                          |
| 11:00                   | Rhino II : Sino-nasal Pathology in Multidisciplinary Context | Endocrine Surgery        |
| 12:00                   | Keynote - Rhinology                                          |                          |
| 12:30                   | Lunch                                                        |                          |
| 14:00                   | Facial Plastics / Cleft Lip & Palate                         | Laryngology / Phoniatics |
| 16:00                   | Coffee break                                                 |                          |
| 16:30                   | Keynote - Head and Neck                                      |                          |
| 17:00                   | Reconstruction                                               | Vestibular               |
| 18:00                   |                                                              |                          |
| 19:30                   | B-ORL Walking Networking Dinner                              |                          |

| Saturday 5 September 2026 |                                          |                                                |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
|                           | CAG                                      | GA0                                            |
| 08:30                     | Multidisciplinary Head and Neck Oncology | Paediatric ORL HNS                             |
| 10:30                     | Keynote - Paediatric Airway              |                                                |
| 11:00                     | Spiggle & Theis Symposium                | Coffee break                                   |
| 11:45                     | UPB ORL CCF - BBV ORL GHC                |                                                |
| 13:00                     | Lunch                                    |                                                |
| 14:00                     | Otology II                               | Rhinology - Head and Neck: Anterior Skull Base |
| 15:30                     | OSAS                                     | Otology - Head and Neck: Lateral Skull Base    |
| 17:30                     | Farewell drink                           |                                                |

## PROGRAMME IN DETAIL

### ENT, Head and Neck Surgery as a Multidisciplinary Team Player

**Friday – 4 SEPTEMBER**

**ROOM CAG**

**08h30 – 10h30 Rhinology I : Airway Allergy**

*Chairs : Caroline Huart and Stijn Halewyck*

- |       |                                                                                          |                                                                                                 |
|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 08h30 | Prevention in daily life                                                                 | <b><i>Xander Bertels, Euforea, Brussels</i></b>                                                 |
| 09h00 | ENT in perspective of the allergy burden                                                 | <b><i>Philippe Gevaert</i></b>                                                                  |
| 09h30 | Angioedema and angioedema look-alikes in the ENT region                                  | <b><i>Rik Schrijvers, Allergy and Clinical Immunology Research Group, KU Leuven, Leuven</i></b> |
| 10h00 | Sharper tools, clearer answers: Evolving diagnostics in allergic upper airway conditions | <b><i>Anne-Sophie Vinck</i></b>                                                                 |

**10h30 - 11h00 Coffee break & visit exhibition**

**11h00 – 12h00 Rhinology II : Sinonasal Pathology in Multidisciplinary context**

*Chairs : Kato Speleman and Nadine Masy*

- |       |                                                                   |                                                                          |
|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 11h00 | Lifestyle and prevention                                          | <b><i>Valerie Hox</i></b>                                                |
| 11h15 | Disease modification and remission                                | <b><i>Peter Hellings</i></b>                                             |
| 11h30 | Current topics in occupational exposures and upper airway disease | <b><i>Steven Ronsmans, Environment and Health, KU Leuven, Leuven</i></b> |
| 11h45 | Allergic fungal rhinosinusitis                                    | <b><i>Florence Rogister</i></b>                                          |

**12h00 – 12h30 Keynote Lecture : Rhinology**

*Chair: Vincent Vander Poorten*

- |       |                                                                   |
|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 12h00 | <b>Multidisciplinary Management of Anterior Skull Base Tumors</b> |
|       | <b><i>Piero Nicolai, University of Padova, Italy</i></b>          |

**12h30 – 14h00 Lunch & visit exhibition**

## 14h00 – 16h00 Facial Plastics / Cleft Lip and Palate

*Chairs : Frank Declau and Philippe Rombaux*

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|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 14h00 | The impact of the surgical protocol on multidisciplinary cleft care | <b><i>Greet Hens</i></b>                                           |
| 14h30 | Rhinoplasty: the ENT-facial plastic perspective                     | <b><i>Gert Jeunen</i></b>                                          |
| 15h00 | Rhinoplasty: the plastic and reconstructive surgery perspective     | <b><i>Rutger Schols, Plastic Surgery, UZ Brussel, Brussels</i></b> |
| 15h30 | Rhinoplasty in cleft lip patients                                   | <b><i>Peter Hellings</i></b>                                       |

**16h00 - 16h30**      *Coffee break & visit exhibition*

|               |                                 |
|---------------|---------------------------------|
| 16h30 – 17h00 | Keynote Lecture : Head and Neck |
|---------------|---------------------------------|

*Chair: Vincent Vander Poorten*

- 16h30 **Multidisciplinary Management of Oropharyngeal Cancer**  
*Vinidh Paleri, The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust, London, UK*

|               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| 17h00 – 18h00 | Reconstruction |
|---------------|----------------|

*Chairs : Natacha Terlinden and Arnaud Lambert*

- |       |                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 17h00 | Planning and execution of complex midface reconstruction<br><b><i>Robin Willaert, Oral and Maxillofacial surgery, UZ Leuven, Leuven</i></b>                                                 |
| 17h15 | The role of implant retained prostheses in the rehabilitation<br><b><i>Maarten de Jong, Anaplastology, Maastricht UMC, VUMC, KU Leuven, ZOL Genk, UZ Gent, The Netherlands, Belgium</i></b> |
| 17h30 | Update on facial nerve management: approach to "the cut facial nerve"<br><b><i>Jos Velleman, Plastic, reconstructive and aesthetic surgery, UZ Leuven, Leuven</i></b>                       |
| 17h45 | Update on soft tissue reconstruction following total laryngectomy with pharyngectomy<br><b><i>Davide Di Santo</i></b>                                                                       |

**19h30 - B-ORL Networking Dinner**

## Friday – 4 SEPTEMBER

### ROOM GA0

#### 08h30 – 10h30      Otolology I

*Chair : Anaïs Grégoire*

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|-------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 08h30 | Artificial intelligence in otology      | <b><i>Vincent Van Rompaey</i></b>                                     |
| 09h00 | Augmented reality in ear surgery        | <b><i>Nicolas Verhaert</i></b>                                        |
| 09h30 | Update on hearing implants              | <b><i>Nora Senese</i></b>                                             |
| 10h00 | New techniques in cholesteatoma surgery | <b><i>Robert Jan Pauw, Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, The Netherlands</i></b> |

***10h30 - 11h00      Coffee break & visit exhibition***

#### 11h00 – 12h00      Endocrine Surgery

*Chairs : Pierre Delaere and Emmanuel D'Heygere*

- |       |                                                                          |                                                              |
|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| 11h00 | Parathyroid disease: approach to the non-localized adenoma               | <b><i>Christophe Vanclooster</i></b>                         |
| 11h15 | Medical options in hyper- and hypoparathyroidism                         | <b><i>Aglaia Kyrilli, Endocrinology, H.U.B, Brussels</i></b> |
| 11h30 | Robotic thyroid surgery: an update on accesses and their pro's and con's | <b><i>Tom Vauterin</i></b>                                   |
| 11h45 | Techniques to deal with the retrosternal goiter                          | <b><i>Sebastien Van Der Vorst</i></b>                        |

**12h00 – 12h30      Keynote Lecture : Rhinology (Room CAG)**

***12h30 – 14h00      Lunch & visit exhibition***

**14h00 – 16h00      Laryngology / Phoniatics**

*Chair : Catherine Dick*

14h00      Adult laryngotracheal stenosis: etiology and diagnosis      **Sebastien Van Der Vorst**

14h30      Adult laryngotracheal stenosis: endoscopic treatment      **Peter Tomassen**

15h00      Adult laryngotracheal stenosis: open surgery, including resection and reconstruction      **Jeroen Meulemans**

15h30      Postoperative rehabilitation by the speech and language pathologist  
**Ann Goeleven, Speech therapy & Audiology, KU Leuven, Leuven**

**16h00 - 16h30      Coffee break & visit exhibition**

**16h30 – 17h00      Keynote Lecture : Head and Neck (Room CAG)**

**17h00 – 18h00      Vestibular**

*Chair : Annelien Huygen*

17h00      Innovations in Vestibular Rehabilitation: what every ENT specialist should know  
**Clara De Somer, Vestibular revalidation, KU Leuven, Leuven**

17h20      Visually induced dizziness  
**Catherine Cassiman, Ophthalmologie KU Leuven, Leuven**

17h40      Endolymphatic sac surgery: is Saccus clipping still a valid option?  
**Henk Blom, Haga Hospital, The Hague, The Netherlands**

**19h30 -      B-ORL Networking Dinner**

## Saturday – 5 September

### ROOM CAG

#### 08h30 – 10h30 Multidisciplinary Head and Neck Surgery

*Chair : Kristof Menten*

- 08h30 Salvage surgery for recurrent head and neck cancer  
*Vinidh Paleri, The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust, London, UK*
- 09h00 New development in immunotherapy: induction, adjuvant, palliative  
*Stephanie Henry, Oncology, CHU UCL Namur, Namur*
- 09h30 Progress in efficacy / reduction of side effects in HN Radiotherapy  
*Sandra Nuyts, Radiation Oncology KU Leuven, Leuven*
- 10h00 Case discussion: complex head and neck cancer decisions *Pierre Ransy*

#### 10h30 – 11h00 Keynote Lecture : Paediatric Airway

*Chair: Greet Hens*

- 10h30 **All You Need to Know About Pediatric Tracheostomy**  
*Bas Pullens, Erasmus Medical Centre-Sophia Children's Hospital, Rotterdam, The Netherlands*

#### 11h00 – 11h30 Spiggle & Theis symposium 'Paediatric Laryngotracheal Stenosis Treatment'

- *Bas Pullens, Erasmus Medical Centre – Sophia Children's Hospital, Rotterdam, NL*
- *Greet Hens, UZ Leuven, Leuven*

**11h00 – 11h45 Coffee break & visit exhibition**

**11h45 – 13h00      Session : Beroepsvereniging / Union Professionnelle      (E & E)**

*Chair : Anne Doyen and Bruno Lantsoght*

- 11h45      Current affairs      **Rupal Mehta**
- 12h00      ORL and Aesthetic medicine: Quo vadis? Does the extension from ORL to ORL-HNS change the legal scope of practice?      **Filip Dewallens, Medical Law University Antwerp and KULeuven, President Belgian Association of Health Law, Lawyer Dewallens & partners**
- 12h35      Whats next?      **Rupal Mehta**

**13h00 – 14h00      Lunch & visit exhibition**

**14h00 – 15h30      Otology II**

*Chair : Floor Couvreur*

- 14h00      Genetic testing for hearing loss: a multidisciplinary approach      **An Boudewyns**
- 14h20      Gene therapy for congenital hearing loss: current strategies and future directions      **Natalie Loundon, AP Hôpitaux de Paris, Paris, France**
- 14h40      Congenital CMV infection: diagnosis and treatment      **Frederic Acke**
- 15h00      Cochlear implantation for single sided deafness: from science to clinic      **Elke Loos**

**15h30 – 17h30      OSAS**

*Chairs : Chloé Kastoer and Isabelle Van Valckenborgh*

- 15h30      Diagnostic workup guiding the treatment options in OSAS      **Dries Testelmans, Pneumology, KU Leuven, Leuven**
- 16h00      Maxillary repositioning appliance and other orthodontic / orthognatic measures in OSAS management      **Annick Bruwier, Orthodontics, CHU de Liège, Liège**
- 16h30      OSAS update: what surgical technique for what indication?      **Anne-Lise Poirrier**
- 17h00      Hypoglossal stimulation: upate on technique and indications      **OlivierVanderveken**

**17h30 – 18h00      Farewell drink**

**Saturday – 5 September**

## ROOM GA0

### 08h30 – 10h30 Paediatric ORL HNS

*Chairs : Maaïke Rathé and Oren Cavel*

08h30 ENT sequelae of prematurity *An Boudewyns and Henry Blom, Neonatal Healthcare, University Hospital Antwerp, Antwerp*

09h00 When there is CHAOS before birth *Greet Hens and Jan Deprest, Gynaecology and Obstetrics, KU Leuven, Leuven*

09h30 Oromyofunctional therapy: does it work? The perspective of the SLT, ENT and orthodontist  
*Kristiane Van Lierde, Rehabilitation Sciences, UZ Gent, Gent*

10h00 Mind the rehab: don't leave this ENT teamplayer at the station *Trui Delanghe*

**10h30 – 11h00 Keynote Lecture : Paediatric Airway (Room CAG)**

**11h00 – 11h30 Spiggle & Theis symposium (Room CAG)  
'Paediatric Laryngotracheal Stenosis Treatment'**

**11h00 - 11h45 Coffee break & visit exhibition**

**11h45 – 13h00 Session : Beroepsvereniging / Union Professionnelle (Room CAG)**

**13h00 – 14h00 Lunch & visit exhibition**

### 14h00 – 15h30 Rhinology – Head and Neck : Anterior Skull Base

*Chairs : Joris Demedts and Samuel Lipski*

14h00 Pituitary surgery: experiences from a tertiary care center *Thomas Decramer*

14h15 Beyond boundaries: Orbital involvement in sinonasal cancers  
*Piero Nicolai, University of Padova, Italy*

14h30 Benign but locally aggressive lesions of the skull base *Laura Van Gerven*

14h45 Management of inverted papilloma *Thibaut Van Zele*

15h00 Case discussion: complex anterior skull base decisions *Vincent Vander Poorten*

### 15h30 – 17h30 Otology – Head and Neck : Lateral Skull Base

*Chairs : Ingeborg Dhooge and Guillaume Gersdorff*

- 15h30    Non surgical management of vestibular schwannoma. What is new?  
***Daniele Borsetto, Addenbrooke's  
Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Trust, Cambridge, UK***
- 16h00    Malignancy around the ear: when the head and neck surgeon needs the otologist  
and vice versa  
***Dirk Kunst, MUMC and Radboudumc, Maastricht, Nijmegen, The Netherlands***
- 16h30    Case discussion: complex cases requiring the head and neck surgeon and the  
lateral skull base surgeon  
***Sandra Schmitz***
- 17h30 – 18h00        Farewell drink**

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Venue and Dates

The Annual congress of B-ORL will take place at the **University Hospitals Leuven - Campus Gasthuisberg, Onderwijs & Navorsing 1 (O&N I)** on 4 and 5 September 2026.

*Address:* Onderwijs & Navorsing 1 en 2, Herestraat 49, 3000 Leuven

### Itinerary

#### By public transport

The Leuven railway station is 4 km away from the University Hospital Leuven (Campus Gasthuisberg).

- Buses leave from the train station to the campus about every 10-15 minutes and arrive to the Leuven Gasthuisberg Campus bus stop in around 15 minutes.
- Bus Lines :
  - **Bus 3:** Departs from Leuven train station and stops directly at the bus stop: Leuven Gasthuisberg Campus.
  - **Bus 43/R90:** Also stops at the bus stop Leuven Gasthuisberg Campus
- You may use De Lijn's Route Planner (<https://www.delijn.be/en/routeplanner>) for precise schedules and real-time updates.

#### By car - Parking Space

- Parking O&N A. Before you leave ask the exit code at the registration desk!
- To reach the 'Onderwijs en Navorsing' buildings, walk through one of the pedestrian walkways at the beginning of the car park in the direction of the building 'Onderwijs en Navorsing'. At the bicycle shed, there are signs in the direction of O&N. Take the stairs and enter on your left the building.
- Visitors Parking U.Z. Follow the sign "Onderwijs en Navorsing" to reach the "Onderwijs en Navorsing" buildings.

## SOCIAL PROGRAM

On Friday evening 4 September 2026, we like to welcome you for the congress dinner in the Faculty Club, located in the 13th century infirmary of the Great Beguinage, which is on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

*Price dinner: € 140,00 / person*

#### Congress Secretariat

Semico n.v.

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## REGISTRATION

Registration on-line at [www.ORL-NKO.be](http://www.ORL-NKO.be)

| Registration fee *            |                 | Early    | Late<br>(as from 23/08/2026) |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|----------|------------------------------|
| B-ORL Member MD               | 1 Congress day  | € 150,00 | € 180,00                     |
|                               | 2 Congress days | € 200,00 | € 230,00                     |
| Non-Member MD                 | 1 Congress day  | € 500,00 | € 530,00                     |
|                               | 2 Congress days | € 500,00 | € 530,00                     |
| MD in residence               | 1 Congress day  | € 65,00  | € 95,00                      |
|                               | 2 Congress days | € 125,00 | € 155,00                     |
| Medical Student               | 1 Congress day  | € 65,00  | € 95,00                      |
|                               | 2 Congress days | € 125,00 | € 155,00                     |
| Paramedical profession        | 1 Congress day  | € 150,00 | € 180,00                     |
|                               | 2 Congress days | € 200,00 | € 230,00                     |
| Congress Dinner (4 September) |                 | € 140,00 | € 140,00                     |

\* The registration fee covers admittance to the scientific sessions, final program, access to technical exhibition, lunch, refreshments during breaks, B-ORL Congress farewell drink.

### Cancellation of registration

Cancellations must be received in writing via e-mail to: [orl@semico.be](mailto:orl@semico.be). The following conditions will be applicable : For any refund after 23 August an administration cost of 25€ will be deducted. No refund is possible as of 28 August or if the participant fails to attend.

### Liability

In the case of government intervention or regulation, military activity, strikes or any other circumstances that make it impossible or inadvisable for the congress to take place at the time and place provided, the participant shall waive any claim for damages or compensation and there shall be no future liability on the part of either party.

### Insurance

Registration fees do not include insurance of any kind, nor force majeure or any other reason, nor medical expenses (including sickness and accident cover), nor loss or damage to personal property, nor additional expenses and repatriation should travel arrangements have to be altered.

Neither B-ORL, nor the congress organizers can take any responsibility for any participant failing to arrange their own insurance.

