

## BSNR Symposium 2024

### *Neurorehabilitation Excellence: Calling in the Specialists*



#### Time schedule

- 8:30 Registration
- 8:45 Opening and welcome
  
- 9:00 Keynote lecture 1: *Insights through the eHealth Catalogue* - Liesbet Peeters
- 9:40 Keynote lecture 2: *Sensory hypersensitivity after acquired brain injury: unravelling the complexities* – Hella Thielen
- 10:20 Oral presentations based on submitted abstracts
  
- 10:50 Break & poster viewing
  
- 11:20 Van Calster Award
- 11:30 General Assembly
- 11:40 Keynote lecture 3: *tDCS: challenges of transitioning from lab to rehab* – Stephen Bornheim
- 12:20 Oral presentations based on submitted abstracts
  
- 13:00 Lunch & networking
  
- 14:00 Departure

## Description keynote lectures

### Keynote lecture 1:

*Insights through the eHealth Catalogue.*

Liesbet Peeters, MS Data Alliance & Biomedical Research Institute, Hasselt University, Hasselt, Belgium

Liesbet firmly believes that data can transform the lives of individuals with MS. The use of eHealth Tools in standard clinical practice will allow us to monitor people with MS outside the hospitals (and in between visits) and measure domains of interest that matter most to people with MS (like cognition, fatigue and quality of life). But the strategic oversights across eHealth Tools is lost (what tool is 'the best?'). Liesbet will provide an overview of the most important eHealth Tools in the global landscape.

### Keynote lecture 2:

*Sensory hypersensitivity after acquired brain injury: unravelling the complexities.*

Hella Thielen, KU Leuven, Laboratory for Experimental Psychology & Revalidatieziekenhuis RevArte, Belgium.

Acquired brain injury patients frequently report an increased sensitivity to sensory stimuli following their brain injury compared to their pre-injury state (i.e., post-injury sensory hypersensitivity). This heightened sensitivity can significantly impact their quality of life, yet our ability to effectively assess and treat it remains hindered by several challenges. These challenges include a lack of appropriate diagnostic tools as well as limited knowledge about the underlying mechanisms of self-reported post-injury sensory hypersensitivity.

In this presentation, we delve into recent insights surrounding the assessment, characteristics, and underlying mechanisms of post-injury sensory hypersensitivity. By shedding light on these complexities, we aim to improve patient care, ultimately improving outcomes for individuals navigating sensory hypersensitivity after acquired brain injury.

### Keynote lecture 3:

*Transcranial direct current stimulation (tDCS): challenges of transitioning from lab to rehab.*

Stephen Bornheim, Université de Liège, Liège, Belgium.

Transcranial direct current stimulation (tDCS) has become an increasingly popular technique, and has been shown to be a useful tool in addition to conventional rehabilitation for a variety of neurological disorders. However, transitioning from research to clinical practice is challenging, with some obstacles that are easily overcome, others not quite as much. This talk will cover some of the basics of tDCS, as well as the challenges that can be faced, and will give some insight into certain strategies that can be used to help.

## Speakers

### Liesbet M. Peeters

Liesbet M. Peeters is an Assistant Professor in biomedical data sciences, with extensive expertise in leading complex multi-stakeholder projects, where there is a need to connect multiple experts in data science and (bio)medical science to jointly tackle cutting-edge end-to-end use cases.



Her work so far mainly focused on multiple sclerosis (MS).

Recently, the research focus has also shifted towards other disease areas such as cardiovascular disorders and population health management.

### Hella Thielen

Hella Thielen is a clinical neuropsychologist (PhD). As a clinical neuropsychologist at RevArte Rehabilitation Hospital, she provides assessment and intervention to individuals navigating the challenges of acquired brain injury.



Simultaneously, as a post-doctoral researcher at KU Leuven, Hella is engaged in advancing our understanding of post-injury sensory hypersensitivity as well as contributing to other research initiatives aimed at improving patient outcomes.

In addition, Hella serves as an academic assistant at the University of Gent and as a member of the psychodiagnostics division of the Flemish Association of Clinical Psychologists (VVKP).

### Stephen Bornheim

Stephen Bornheim is a physical therapist at the Liège University Hospital (neurology department and stroke unit). He is a professor at Liège University, and lectures mainly on neurorehabilitation.



His research focus on Transcranial direct current stimulation (tDCS), its long-term applications for stroke rehabilitation, and the difficulties and challenges faced when bringing this new technology into rehabilitation centers.