

→ SCHEDULE & DETAILS

# 'DE LAGE LANDEN' VETERINARY NEUROLOGY MEETING

BELGIUM+THE NETHERLANDS  
22|05|2026

deSoutter  
MEDICAL



RITA  
LEIBINGER  
MEDICAL



08:30 – 09:00

## REGISTRATION & WELCOME COFFEE

- Coffee & light breakfast

09:00 – 09:15

## OPENING SESSION

- Welcome by organizing committee
- Practical information

09:15 – 10:00

## SCIENTIFIC SESSION: CONSCIOUSNESS IN HUMAN AND NON-HUMAN ANIMALS

Invited speaker: Dr. Steven Laureys,  
University of Liege

10:15 – 10:45

## SCIENTIFIC SESSION: TETHERED CORD SYNDROME IN DOGS: PATHOPHYSIOLOGY, IMAGING AND SURGICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Invited speaker: Dr. Koen Santifort,  
IVC Evidensia The Netherlands

10:45 – 11:15

## COFFEE BREAK

- Industry exhibition

11:15 – 12:00

## SCIENTIFIC SESSION: PLASMAPHERESIS IN VETERINARY NEUROLOGY

Invited speaker: Dr. Kris Gommeren  
and Dr. Etienne Escande,  
University of Liege

12:00-12:30

## PRACTICAL SESSION: DRY LAB DEMONSTRATION: PEDICLE SCREW SYSTEM RITA LEIBINGER

Dr. Niklas Bergknut,  
IVC Evidensia The Netherlands

12:30 – 13:30

## LUNCH

- Industry exhibition

13:30 – 14:15

## SCIENTIFIC SESSION: MYASTHENIA GRAVIS IN DOGS: CURRENT UNDERSTANDING AND CLINICAL IMPLICATIONS

Invited speaker: An Vanhaesebrouck,  
Queen's Veterinary School Hospital in Cambridge

14:30 – 15:15

## SCIENTIFIC SESSION: GENETICS IN NEUROLOGY

Invited speaker: Dr. Paul Mandigers, University  
of Utrecht, IVC Evidensia The Netherlands

15:15- 15:45

## COFFEE BREAK

- Industry exhibition

15:45 – 17:00

## FREE COMMUNICATIONS / RESIDENTS SESSION CLINICAL RESEARCH & INTERESTING CASES

- Short oral presentations (8-10 min each)
- Clinical research & interesting cases

17:00

## CLOSING SESSION | SOCIAL EVENT

- Key take-home messages
- Announcement of next meeting
- Networking drink and informal gathering



CLICK TO REGISTER:  
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## → INVITED SPEAKERS



**DR STEVEN LAUREYS** is an award-winning neurologist, recognized worldwide as a leading physician & researcher in the field of consciousness & cognition.

He is renowned for his expertise in altered states of consciousness, cognitive disorders, neurorehabilitation, recovery of brain function, traumatic brain injury, concussion, coma, stroke, locked-in syndrome, vegetative state/unresponsive wakefulness, minimally conscious state and near-death experiences; but also sleeping, memory and motor disorders, chronic pain and headache, and stress related symptoms.

In over 25 years of clinical experience, he has studied neuroplasticity and the power of the mind using neuroimaging and neuromodulation techniques but also hypnosis & meditation. With his team, he has published over 540 scientific articles on the workings of the brain.

He is head of the Centre Cerveau (Brain Clinic) at the Liège University Hospital in Belgium, founder of the 'Coma Science Group', director of the GIGA Consciousness Research Unit at Liège University & Professor at CERVO Brain Centre, Laval University, Canada. He also serves as Founding Co-Director of the Hangzhou International Consciousness Institute, China (2015-) and as Chief Neurologist at TRAINM Neuro Rehabilitation Clinic, Antwerp.

Professor Laureys has received awards from the European Academy of Neurology, European Academy of Sciences, German Max Planck Society and US Society of Cognitive Neuroscience. He is co-founder of Mind Care International Foundation.



**DR. KRIS GOMMEREN** graduated from Ghent University in 2002, where he completed an internship and residency in internal medicine. In 2009, he became a diplomate of the European College of Internal Medicine and worked briefly in a referral practice before moving to the University of Liège, where he developed the ECC service.

This emergency and intensive care service of the University of Liège has grown into a service with a team of 14 veterinarians, including specialists, residents in training, ECC-dedicated veterinarians, assisted by 6 ECC veterinary nurses and rotating interns. Together they see more than 3,500 emergency cases every year, offering the best possible care including mechanical ventilation, extracorporeal therapies and transfusions to an average of 8 intensive care patients per day; whilst teaching students the necessary day one competencies about this field.

In 2017, Kris became a diplomate of the European College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care and in the meantime completed a PhD on the effects of systemic inflammation on the cardiovascular system.

He is a recover certified instructor and completed the hemodialysis academy. His research focus is on clinical medicine, and he is the author of peer reviewed papers, book(s), chapters and sections that all aim to help all veterinary practitioners.

Kris is former president of the European Society of Emergency and Critical Care (EVECCS), founding member of the Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care UltraSound (VECCUS) interest group, and co-founder of the Animal Blood Bank Benelux.

He is passionate about teaching, especially on point-of-care ultrasound, assessment of the cardiovascular system in critically ill patients, fluid therapy, transfusion medicine and the assessment of volume status and fluid responsiveness.

## → INVITED SPEAKERS



**ETIENNE ESCANDE** is assistant in the emergency and critical care service. After a year of rotatory internship at ENV Toulouse in France, he joined the intensive care team of Liège University in 2022, as a specialized intern. With particular expertise in extracorporeal therapies (Hemodialysis Academy organized by the American College of Veterinary Uro-Nephrology), he helped develop these techniques within the CVU, and is currently responsible for their supervision. He now aspires to specialize and is leading a PhD project focusing on coagulation in the dog.



**DR. KOEN SANTIFORT** graduated cum laude from the Utrecht University, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, the Netherlands in 2015 (MSc (hons), DVM). Until 2020, he worked in general and referral practice before starting his ECVN residency at IVC Evidensia. He finished his residency end 2022 and became a diplomate ECVN in February 2024, continuing his clinical work in IVC Evidensia Small Animal Hospital Arnhem and Hart van Brabant, Waalwijk (The Netherlands). He has published more than 70 English-language, scientific, peer-reviewed articles in the field of veterinary neurology, many of which highlight unique and/or educational features of neurological patients. In addition to his clinical work, he is actively involved in (clinical) research and collaborates with an enthusiastic team of veterinary paraveterinarians and neurologists to provide the best possible care for neurology patients. His passion lies in clinical neurology and neurosurgery.



**DR. PAUL MANDIGERS** (graduated in 1992, specialization in 1996, PhD in 2005) is a veterinary specialist in Neurology. He is a Diplomate of the European College of Veterinary Neurology (ECVN) and, as such, a European Specialist (EBVS). After completing his specialization, he held various positions at the University Clinic for Companion Animals, including researcher, educator, and head of the Neurology Department, and he currently works exclusively as a researcher.

He holds an appointment as Associate Professor (Universitair Hoofddocent) and is affiliated with the Expertise Centre for Veterinary Genetics, part of the University Clinic for Companion Animals of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at Utrecht University (<https://www.uu.nl/staff/PJJMandigers>).

Since 2019, he has also been working part-time at Evidensia Animal Hospital Arnhem as a Veterinary Neurologist, with a focus on clinical neurology and (breed-related) hereditary diseases.

Several colleagues have since completed their PhD under his supervision, and he is currently supervising six PhD projects (see also [www.uu.nl/ecgg](http://www.uu.nl/ecgg)). He is an ECVN residency supervisor, a member of the International Veterinary Epilepsy Taskforce and the International Veterinary Dyskinesia Taskforce, Chair of the Companion Animals Cluster of the KNMvD, a member of the KNMvD Executive Board, and a member of the “Fairdog” steering committee. He has an ever-growing number of peer-reviewed publications and has delivered more than 250 oral presentations at national and international congresses and meetings (<https://www.veterinair-neuroloog.nl>).

He considers himself a passionate clinician, researcher, and educator. In his personal life, he is married, the father of two sons, and enjoys long-distance hiking and survival runs.

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**deSoutter**  
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**AN VANHAESEBROECK** completed a residency in veterinary neurology in Ghent. She did a research fellowship in congenital myasthenia at Oxford University. She now works as a clinical neurologist at the Queen's Veterinary School Hospital in Cambridge. Over the last years she became more and more interested in myasthenia gravis in dogs and autoantibody assays.

→ VENUE

**22 | 05 | 2026**  
**LIEGE UNIVERSITY**  
FACULTY OF VETERINARY MEDICINE  
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