

2nd Annual meeting of the Namur Research Pole in Infectiology (NaRePI)

University of Namur, Belgium
Friday November 30, 2018

The 2018 annual meeting of the Namur Research Pole in Infectiology (NaRePI) was successfully held on Friday November 30, 2018, at the University of Namur (UNamur). This second remarkable meeting of NaRePI was attended by 82 participants, including academics, post-doc researchers, PhD students and Master students, from various Belgian institutions (University of Namur, Université libre de Bruxelles, Université catholique de Louvain, University of Liège, University of Mons, Sciensano,...).

Organizing committee

The event was organized by Dr. Charles Van der Henst (ISME ambassador for Belgium and post-doc researcher at the UNamur), Prof. Xavier De Bolle (UNamur) and Prof. Te-Din Huang (CHU UCL Namur).

Conference overview

Oral presentations were given by 8 renowned experts. **Prof. Thierry Soldati** (University of Geneva, Department of Biochemistry, Switzerland) delivered an outstanding keynote presentation on the use of the amoeba *Dictyostelium* as a powerful model to study cell-autonomous defenses. **Prof. Laurence Van Melderén** (Université libre de Bruxelles, Cellular and Molecular Microbiology, Belgium) gave a fascinating talk on how, within a growing bacterial population, a small subpopulation of cells is able to survive antibiotic treatment by entering a transient state of dormancy referred to as persistence. **Dr. Neeraj Dhar** (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne, Switzerland) presented original single-cell approaches for elucidating the mechanisms of bacterial persistence against antibiotics. **Prof. Benedikt Kaufer** (Freie Universität Berlin, Germany) demonstrated how herpesviruses establish latency by integrating their genome into telomeres of host cell chromosomes. **Dr. Sophie Uzureau** (Université libre de Bruxelles, Laboratory of Molecular Parasitology, Belgium) highlighted the ability of the human ApoL1 protein to lyse African trypanosomes and its role in renal disease. **Dr. Laurent Nguyen** (University of Liège, GIGA Neurosciences, Laboratory of Molecular regulation of Neurogenesis, Belgium) shed light on the mechanisms by which Zika virus induces microcephaly. **Prof. Laurent Gillet** (University of Liège, Laboratory of Immunology-Vaccinology, Belgium) discussed the imprint left by the gamma herpesviruses on the immune system of their hosts. Finally, **Prof. David Alsteens** (Université catholique de Louvain, NanoBiophysics lab, Belgium) illustrated innovative applications of atomic force microscopy to study interactions between viruses and host cells.

In addition, several young researchers also actively contributed to the event, with 5 excellent short talks and 10 poster presentations.

ISME Ambassadors funding

Thanks to the ISME Ambassador program, the 2nd annual meeting of NaRePI received a financial support of 500 EUR. This amount allowed us to cover the expenses for travel and hosting of our invited keynote speaker, Prof. Thierry Soldati (University of Geneva). The support offered by ISME to the NaRePI meeting was highlighted on the dedicated webpage, the invitations, the program books distributed to the attendees and the welcome slide projected at the beginning of the conference. ISME support was also acknowledged during the meeting introduction given by the Belgian ISME ambassador, Dr. Charles Van der Henst.





