



# Powering **THE PATH FORWARD**



JUNE 12-13, 2025 | LEONARDO ROYAL HOTEL | AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS



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# HARTELIJK WELKOM IN Amsterdam!

Welcome to Amsterdam and the 32nd Annual International Research Congress on FSHD. Set in a city long celebrated for its contributions to art, innovation, and discovery – from the Dutch Golden Age to the birth of microbiology – Amsterdam provides an inspiring backdrop for this year's gathering. It's a fitting place – where history and progress converge – to explore bold new directions in FSHD research.

This year's scientific program reflects the extraordinary momentum across key domains of FSHD research. Presentations span the validation of clinical outcome measures in both pediatric and adult populations through the MOVE studies, integration of whole-body MRI with molecular biomarkers to map disease progression, and the emergence of platforms like BetterLife FSHD to elevate patient engagement. Insights into comorbidities and treatment responses, alongside expanded trial networks across Europe, Australia, Brazil, Hong Kong, and Japan, speak to a field increasingly focused on clinical readiness and global collaboration. These efforts underscore a shared goal: Building robust, reproducible, and patient-centered paths to therapeutic development.

Together, we're charting a future where meaningful interventions for FSHD are not only possible, but within reach. Your work, your presence, and your commitment make this progress real – and we're honored to continue the journey with you here in Amsterdam.

## PROGRAM COMMITTEE

- Lucienne Ronco, PhD, organizing chair
- Enrico Bugiardini, PhD
- Jeffrey Statland, MD
- Nicol Voermans, MD PhD, co-chair
- Seth Friedman, PhD
- Giorgio Tasca, MD PhD
- Stephen Tapscott, MD PhD, co-chair
- Channa Hewamadduma, FRCP
- Kyoko Yokomori, PhD
- Marnie Blewitt, PhD
- Cristiane Araujo Martins Moreno, MD PhD
- Vishnu VY, MD

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



**Marion Sellenet** (on film) is a 35-year-old visual artist from the Cévennes who lives in Brussels. Diagnosed at age 15 with FSHD, she says: "I made my film, *Marion and the Metamorphosis*, to cure myself of a second illness, not FSHD per se, but one I developed when I was diagnosed: That of the sword of Damocles, of fear, despair, and shame. Because where medicine is powerless to make symptoms disappear, it has no tools to offer for living well with the condition. I made this film to pick up the pieces of my being, fractured by figures and words I didn't understand and by a negative societal vision of the disease. Paradoxically, it was by giving up all hope of a cure that I regained hope in my life. I aspire now to a collaboration among patients, doctors, researchers, and philosophers, with the aim not just of curing symptoms, but of curing people and developing knowledge of how to live healthily with illness."



**Leendert Trouw, PhD**, is a senior researcher and professor of immunology at Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC), where he focuses on the role of complement and autoantibodies in autoimmune disease. He was the first to demonstrate the pathogenicity of anti-C1q autoantibodies during his doctoral studies, and his postdoctoral work in Sweden highlighted the role of complement inhibitors in binding free DNA and dead cells. At LUMC, Dr. Trouw's team discovered anti-carbamylated protein (anti-CarP) antibodies in rheumatoid arthritis, which have since been shown to predict disease onset and severity and are now being developed into a commercial diagnostic test. Supported by prestigious Dutch grants (Veni, Vidi, and the European Research Council), his research continues to explore how modified self-proteins drive autoantibody responses and how complement contributes to disease progression. Recently, he transitioned his group to the Department of Immuno-Hematology to broaden the impact of his findings across multiple disease areas.



**Mart Brandjes** was diagnosed with FSHD at age 14. Since then, his physical abilities have gradually declined. He now relies on mobility aids, and many everyday activities are no longer possible. Between 2019 and 2024, Brandjes participated in a clinical drug trial and several other FSHD-related research studies. Since 2022, he has been involved with SingelSwim, a fundraising initiative for FSHD research, through which he connected with the FSHD Stichting, a foundation based in the Netherlands. In 2024, he joined the foundation's board. He has been working in the yacht-building industry since 2018, where he designs, calculates, and guides complex engineering projects through to successful delivery.



**Karen Chen, PhD**, is the chief executive officer of the Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) Foundation, where she oversees scientific strategy, drug discovery, and operational activities. With more than 35 years of experience in neuroscience research and management, she has led preclinical programs in both nonprofit and pharmaceutical settings. Before joining the SMA Foundation, Dr. Chen held leadership roles at Roche Palo Alto and Elan Pharmaceuticals, focusing on therapeutics for Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and other neurodegenerative diseases. She completed her postdoctoral training at Genentech and earned her PhD in neuroscience from the University of California, San Diego, working with Dr. Fred "Rusty" Gage. Dr. Chen has authored more than 50 scientific publications, holds multiple patents, and actively serves on several nonprofit boards, including Solve FSHD and the Bluefield Project. She is also CEO and cofounder of Imago Pharmaceuticals and previously served on the National Advisory Neurological Disorders and Stroke Council.

# SLIDE PRESENTATIONS: DAY 1

Thursday, June 12, 2025 • AMSTEL 1 & 2

## 8:00–9:00 a.m. REGISTRATION

Breakfast on your own

## 9:00 a.m.

**WELCOME:** Lucienne Ronco, organizing chair, & Stephen Tapscott, co-chair

## 9:05 a.m.

**KEYNOTE:** *Marion and the Metamorphosis* (film excerpt)  
Marion Sellenet, artist living with FSHD

## 9:20 a.m.

**KEYNOTE:** *Antibodies and complement, partners in crime but also opportunities to intervene*  
Leendert Trouw, Leiden University Medical Center

In many autoimmune and inflammatory conditions, the presence of antibodies triggers activation of the complement system, a protein-based part of the innate immune defense. Understanding the nature of the antibody response and the targets to which the antibodies bind allows insight into the disease-driving processes. Ascertaining the processes by which the antibodies contribute to tissue pathology, activation of complement, triggering of cellular Fc-receptors, or blocking of physiological functions provides insight into the therapeutic options available to address the immunopathology. In this opening lecture, parallels and differences will be discussed among autoimmune diseases like rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, and facioscapulohumeral muscular dystrophy. In addition, new and exciting options will be discussed on therapeutic intervention focusing on antibodies and complement.

## SLIDE PRESENTATIONS

### SESSION 1: Population Genetics & Modifiers

**Session Chairs:** Christiane Moreno & Vishnu VY

## 10:00 a.m.

### S1.01 FSHD in sub-Saharan Africans

Richard Lemmers, Leiden University Medical Center

## 10:20 a.m.

### S1.02 Analysis of genetic diversity and phylogenetic relationships of D4Z4 repeats: Implication for health and disease

Sara Pini, University of Modena, & Reggio Emilia, Modena

## 10:40 a.m.

### S1.03 Correlation of methylation, severity, and parent-of-origin effects in large, multigenerational kindred with FSHD

Russell Butterfield, University of Utah

## 11:00 a.m.

### S1.04 Exploring the boundaries of the diagnostic spectrum of FSHD: Complex genetic findings and their implication for the molecular genetic model of the disease

Hannes Erdmann, Medical Genetics Center Munich and Friedrich-Baur-Institut at the Department of Neurology, Ludwig Maximilian University Hospital, Munich, Germany

## 11:20–11:40 a.m.

### COFFEE BREAK & NETWORKING

Foyer

### SESSION 2: Measures of Disease Activity & Progression

**Session Chairs:** Seth Friedman & Giorgio Tasca

## 11:40 a.m.

### S2.01 FSHD1 in Italy: A 20-year follow-up study of the Italian Clinical Group for FSHD (AIM-FSHD)

Giulio Gadaleta, University of Turin

## 12:00 p.m.

### S2.02 Integrating MRI, RNAseq, and pathology to predict fat fraction change over 1 year in FSHD

Seth Friedman, Seattle Children's Hospital

## 12:20 p.m.

### S2.03 Multi-scale machine learning model predicts muscle and functional disease progression in FSHD

Silvia Blemker, University of Virginia and Springbok Analytics

## 12:40–1:40 p.m.

### LUNCH BREAK

LEO's International Flavors

### SESSION 2: Measures of Disease Activity & Progression (continued)

**Session Chairs:** Seth Friedman & Giorgio Tasca

## 1:40 p.m.

### S2.04 Identification of potential plasma extracellular vesicle-associated protein biomarkers for facioscapulohumeral muscular dystrophy (FSHD)

Nizar Saad, Nationwide Children's Hospital and The Ohio State University College of Medicine

## 2:00 p.m.

### S2.05 Myostatin is a biomarker of disease severity in facioscapulohumeral muscular dystrophy

Julie Dumonceaux, University College London

## 2:20 p.m.

### S2.06 Extracellular vesicle RNA profiling reveals candidate biomarkers of disease activity and progression for FSHD patients

Elvira Ragozzino, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore

## 2:40–3:00 p.m.

### COFFEE BREAK & NETWORKING

Foyer

### SESSION 3: Novel Clinical Outcome Measures

**Session Chairs:** Enrico Bugiardini & Jeffrey Statland

## 3:00 p.m.

### S3.01 Deep learning-based facial movement analysis for automated detection and severity classification of facioscapulohumeral muscular dystrophy (FSHD)

Sabrina Sacconi, Nice University Hospital and Institute for Research on Cancer and Aging of Nice

# SLIDE PRESENTATIONS: DAY 1

Thursday, June 12, 2025 • AMSTEL 1 & 2

**3:20 p.m.**

**S3.02 Reassessing training thresholds in FSHD: The diagnostic value of compensatory movement patterns**

Nicole Voet, Radboud University Medical Center and Klimmendaal, Rehabilitation Center, Arnhem, Netherlands

**3:40 p.m.**

**S3.03 Current abilities score (CAS) is a valid and a reliable patient-reported functional rating scale in FSHD: Data from MOVE natural history study**

Channa Hewamadduma, University of Sheffield

**4:00 p.m.**

**S3.04 Gait-based biomarkers in facioscapulohumeral dystrophy (FSHD): Establishing the validity of inertial measurement units (IMU) to augment in clinic assessments in FSHD**

Jon Street, University of Sheffield

**4:20–5:00 p.m.**

**SPOTLIGHT FIVE-MINUTE POSTER TALKS**

**5:00 p.m.**

**CLOSING REMARKS & ONE-HOUR BREAK**

**EVENING SESSION**

**6:00–6:30 p.m.**

**SPOTLIGHT FIVE-MINUTE POSTER TALKS**

Amstel 1 & 2

**6:30–8:00 p.m.**

**“WALKING DINNER” & POSTER SESSION**

Amstel 3

**8:00–9:00 p.m.**

**FILM SCREENING: *Marion and the Metamorphosis***

Amstel 1 & 2

# SLIDE PRESENTATIONS: DAY 2

Friday, June 13, 2025 • AMSTEL 1 & 2

**8:00–9:00 a.m.**

**REGISTRATION**

Breakfast on your own

**9:00 a.m.**

**WELCOME:** Lucienne Ronco, organizing chair, & Nicol Voermans, co-chair

**9:05 a.m.**

**KEYNOTE: A patient's perspective: Challenges, involvement, and future directions**

Mart Brandjes

**9:20–10:00 a.m.**

**KEYNOTE: Reflections on the development of therapies for spinal muscular atrophy**

Karen Chen, SMA Foundation

Spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) is a rare neuromuscular genetic disease in which the degeneration of motor neurons and intrinsic muscle defects result in muscle atrophy and weakness. In the last eight years, the US Food and Drug Administration has approved three drugs: An antisense oligonucleotide, a gene therapy, and a small molecule that all address the genetic cause of SMA, stabilizing patients and preventing further degeneration. However, there is still a significant unmet need in patients, especially older patients. To address this, researchers are developing approaches to improve muscle function that could be used in combination with the approved treatments. The presentation will provide an overview of the strategies and tools that enabled the development of SMA drugs from the perspective of the SMA Foundation, a nonprofit organization devoted to therapeutic development, as well as learning that could be applied to other diseases such as FSHD, and future directions.

## SLIDE PRESENTATIONS

**SESSION 4: Mechanisms of Disease & Interventional Strategies**

**Co-chairs:** Marnie Blewitt & Kyoko Yokomori

**10:00 a.m.**

**S4.01 SUMOylation regulates SMCHD1 activity and DUX4 expression in FSHD muscle**

Judit Balog, Leiden University Medical Center

**10:20 a.m.**

**S4.02 Mechanism of SMCHD1 and engineering for FSHD treatment**

Shifeng Xue, National University of Singapore

**10:40 a.m.**

**S4.03 Understanding and treating inflammation in FSHD muscular dystrophy**

Beatrice Biferali, San Raffaele Scientific Institute

**11:00–11:20 a.m.**

**COFFEE BREAK & NETWORKING**

Foyer

**SESSION 4: Mechanisms of Disease & Interventional Strategies (continued)**

**Co-chairs:** Marnie Blewitt & Kyoko Yokomori

**11:20 a.m.**

**S4.04 Single-cell RNA sequencing identifies ferroptotic stress in FSHD myoblasts**

Nikolaos Settas presenting for Adam Bittel, Children's National Hospital



# SLIDE PRESENTATIONS: DAY 2

Friday, June 13, 2025 • AMSTEL 1 & 2

**11:40 a.m.**

**S4.05 Decoding the cellular and epigenetic landscape of affected and spared muscles in FSHD patients through single nucleus multi-omic analysis**

Lorena Di Pietro, Dipartimento di Scienze della Vita e Sanità Pubblica, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Rome, Italy, and Fondazione Policlinico Universitario A. Gemelli IRCCS

**12:00 p.m.**

**S4.06 DYNE-302 leads to functional improvement and resolves muscle transcriptomic changes in mouse models of FSHD**

Stefano Zanotti, Dyne Therapeutics

**12:20 p.m.**

**S4.07 SRK-015 improves muscle mass, strength, and endurance in the FLExDUX4.Cre mouse model of FSHD**

Adam Fogel, Scholar Rock

**12:40 p.m.**

**S4.08 Preclinical evaluation of a small molecule inhibitor of WDR5 in facioscapulohumeral muscular dystrophy (FSHD)**

Frida Karakashi, Ospedale San Raffaele

**1:00–2:00 p.m.**

**LUNCH BREAK & POSTERS**

LEO's International Flavors

**SESSION 5: Clinical Care & Related Issues**

**Co-chairs:** Nicol Voermans & Jeffrey Statland

**2:00 p.m.**

**S5.01 Classification, clinical care, outcome measures, and biomarkers in childhood-onset facioscapulohumeral muscular dystrophy (FSHD): An update from the 279th European Neuromuscular Centre (ENMC) Workshop, the Netherlands, November 2024**

Katy de Valle, Royal Children's Hospital

**2:20 p.m.**

**S5.02 Focus on fatigue: The presence of performance fatigability in childhood-onset facioscapulohumeral dystrophy**

Jildou Dijkstra, Radboud University Medical Center

**2:40 p.m.**

**S5.03 An updated international standard of care for facioscapulohumeral muscular dystrophy**

Nicol Voermans, Radboud University Medical Center, & Raj Badiani, FSHD UK

**3:00 p.m.**

**S5.04 Facioscapulohumeral dystrophy (FSHD): In search of a Brazilian epidemiological profile**

Gabriella Dousseau, University of São Paulo

**3:20 p.m.**

**S5.05 Addressing the unmet need for advance care planning and palliative care in FSHD**

Emma Weatherley, FSHD Global Research Foundation, & Nicol Voermans, Radboud University Medical Center

**3:40–4:00 p.m.**

**COFFEE BREAK & NETWORKING**

Foyer

**SESSION 6: Clinical Studies & Trial Design**

**Co-chairs:** Nicol Voermans & Channa Hewamadduma

**4:00 p.m.**

**S6.01 Introducing BetterLife FSHD, an innovative new patient-reported data repository and engagement tool**

Amanda Hill, FSHD Society

**4:20 p.m.**

**S6.02 Natural history of muscle volume and muscle fat content biomarkers in FSHD based on whole-body fat-referenced MRI**

Markus Karlsson, AMRA Medical

**4:40 p.m.**

**S6.03 Motor Outcomes to Validate Evaluations in Facioscapulohumeral Muscular Dystrophy (MOVE FSHD): Interim baseline data and potential predictors for FSHD**

Michaela Walker, University of Kansas Medical Center

**5:00 p.m.**

**S6.04 Motor Outcomes to Validate Evaluations in Pediatric facioscapulohumeral muscular dystrophy (MOVE Peds): Protocol for an observational study**

Michaela Walker, University of Kansas Medical Center

**5:20 p.m.**

**S6.05 Topline data from dose escalation cohorts A and B in FORTITUDE™, a phase 1/2 trial evaluating Del-brax (delpacibart braxlosiran) in adults with facioscapulohumeral muscular dystrophy (FSHD)**

Jeffrey Statland, University of Kansas Medical Center

**5:40 p.m.**

**YOUNG INVESTIGATOR & BEST POSTER AWARDS**

Conference program committee

**5:50 p.m.**

**CLOSING REMARKS**

Lucienne Ronco, Stephen Tapscott & Nicol Voermans

**6:00 p.m.**

**BREAK & ADJOURN**

**EVENING SOCIAL TIME**

**7:00–9:00 p.m.**

**JOINT IRC AND FSHD CONNECT RECEPTION**

Amstel Foyer



The main poster session is on Thursday, June 12, 6:30–8:00 p.m. Poster presentations are on the following schedule: Odd-numbered posters 6:30–7:15 p.m., and even-numbered posters 7:15–8:00 p.m. The poster hall will also be open at lunch on both days of the meeting.

## POPULATION GENETICS & MODIFIERS

- P1.01 Genetic epidemiology of facioscapulohumeral muscular dystrophy in Hungary**  
Zsófia Flóra Nagy, Szabolcs Udvari, Xenia Jockers, Zoltán Grosz, Péter Balicza, Mária Judit Molnár
- P1.02 Estrogen rescues muscle regeneration impaired by DUX4 in a humanized xenograft mouse model**  
Silvia Maiullari, Giada Mele, Patrizia Calandra, Giorgia di Blasio, Sonia Valentini, Alessio Torcinaro, Isabella Manni, Emanuela Teveroni, Fabio Maiullari, Maria Pesavento, Ludovica Giorgini, Sabrina Putti, Sara Bortolani, Enzo Ricci, Siro Luvisetto, Massimiliano Mazzone, Giancarlo Deidda, **Fabiola Moretti**
- P1.03 Progesterone may be a regulator and B12 could be an indicator of the proximal D4Z4 repeat methylation status on 4q35ter**  
Ceren Hangül, Filiz Özcan, Sule Darbas, Hilmi Uysal, Ayse Filiz Koc, Sibel Berker Karauzum
- P1.04 See P6.12**
- P1.05 Beyond the classical definition: Unusual genetic patterns and clinical diversity in FSHD**  
Serpil Eraslan, Sahin Avci, Manar Kaptan, Ayse Nur Ozdag Acarli, Beyza Yavuzcan, Ilker Eren, Gulshan Yunisova, Mehmet Demirhan, Piraye Oflazer, Hulya Kayserili

## MEASURES OF DISEASE ACTIVITY & PROGRESSION

- P2.01 Whole-body muscle MRI in children: Two-year follow-up of the iFSHD-LOS cohort**  
Ian Woodcock, Markus Karlsson, Per Widholm, Michael Kean, Katy de Valle
- P2.02 Electrical impedance myography captures features of muscle structure measured by MRI and transcriptomic analysis in facioscapulohumeral muscular dystrophy**  
Leo Wang, Buket Sonbas Cobb, Lara Riem, Olivia DuCharme, Dennis Shaw, Michaela Walker, Leann Lewis, Rabi Tawil, Johanna Hamel, Karlén Mul, Silvia Blemker, Katy Eichinger, Stephen Tapscott, Seward Rutkove, Jeffrey Statland
- P2.03 Mapping immune dysregulation in FSHD: Toward the first immune atlas and novel therapeutic strategies**  
Andrea Papait, Lorena Di Pietro, Elsa Vertua, Eleonora Torchia, Sara Bortolani, Mauro Monforte, Elvira Ragozzino, Flavia Giacalone, Diego Sibilia, Elisa Orecchini, Andrea Sabino, Marta Barba, Angela Cozzolino, Clarissa Ferrari, Antonietta Rosa Silini, Enzo Ricci, Ornella Parolini
- P2.04 Characterization of FSHD1 model mice carrying 5Mb chromosome 4q35 on mouse artificial chromosome**  
Yosuke Hiramuki, Miwa Hosokawa, Ichizo Nishino, Hiroyuki Kugoh, Yasuhiro Kazuki

- P2.05 Quantitative whole-body MRI biomarker relation to muscle strength and function in FSHD patients**  
Mary Foltz, Per Widholm, Markus Karlsson, Jonathan Pini, Angela Puma, Luisa Villa, Michele Cavali, Andra Ezar, Guillaume Bassez, Teresinha Evangelista, Romain Thomas, Loïc Danjoux, Céline Tard, Sabrina Sacconi

- P2.06 Patient-derived stem cell models of childhood-onset facioscapulohumeral muscular dystrophy (FSHD) mirror disease severity in vitro**  
Peter Houweling, Vanessa Crossman, Kathrin Mattes, Leon Kiriaev, Chrystal Tiong, Natasha Tuano, Rebecca McElroy, Chantal Coles, Peter Jones, Richard Mills, Katy de Valle, Ian Woodcock

- P2.07 Associations between muscle strength and MRI biomarkers in FSHD: Toward imaging-based functional classification**  
Per Widholm, Mary Foltz, Markus Karlsson, Jonathan Pini, Angela Puma, Luisa Villa, Michele Cavali, Andra Ezar, Guillaume Bassez, Benjamin Marty, Teresinha Evangelista, Romain Thomas, Loïc Danjoux, Céline Tard, Sabrina Sacconi

- P2.08 Expanding the UK FSHD Patient Registry Dataset: Improving data collection and amplifying "patient voice"**  
Helen Walker, Lucy Hickson, Robert Muni-Lofra, Emma Matthews, Rajeshri Badiani, Andrew Graham

- P2.09 The UK Facioscapulohumeral Muscular Dystrophy Patient Registry: A powerful tool to support clinical research and patient voice in the translational research pathway**  
Lucy Hickson, Helen Walker, Chiara Marini-Bettolo, Robert Muni-Lofra, Andrew Graham, Fiona Norwood, Mark Roberts, Tracey Willis, Emma Matthews, Mark McQueen-Mencias, Giorgio Tasca, Gavin Langlands, Grace McMacken, Kate Adcock

- P2.10 Linking mechanical strain to progression of fat infiltration in FSHD**  
Kimberly Steininger, Allison McCrady, Seth Friedman, Stephen Tapscott, Silvia Blemker

## NOVEL CLINICAL OUTCOME MEASURES

- P3.01 Quantitative muscle ultrasound as a clinical correlate in facioscapulohumeral muscular dystrophy: Validation of a rapid assessment protocol**  
Nurit Birman Har-Noy, Omer Bouzaglo, Vivian E. Drory, Alon Abraham
- P3.02 Exploring contractile performance with ultrasound in FSHD: Preliminary results of the MUSCLE+ Study**  
Odette van Iersel, Harm Weekenstroo, Donnie Cameron, Jonne Doorduyn, Nens van Alfen
- P3.03 Measuring upper and lower limb movement with Syde® in patients with facioscapulohumeral muscular dystrophy (FSHD): Analytical validation in a controlled environment**  
Peter Ankjær, Mads G Stemmerik, Bjørk Teitsdóttir, Anna Slipsager, Laura Desire, Nicolas Noblot, Oihana Piquet, Tammy McIver, Paul Strijbos, Stéphane Motola, Alexis Tricot, John Vissing, Nicolai Preisler

- P3.04 Episodes of symptoms worsening in FSHD patients**  
**Nurit Birman Har-Noy**, Jacopo Luca Casiraghi, Valeria Ada Sansone

## MECHANISMS OF DISEASE & INTERVENTIONAL STRATEGIES

- P4.01 Quantifying anti-DUX4 therapy for facioscapulohumeral muscular dystrophy**  
**Matthew V. Cowley**, Peter S. Zammit, Christopher R. S. Banerji
- P4.02 Characterization of a DUX4-responsive reporter mouse**  
**Lindsay Wallace**, Jessica Camp, Kate Neal, Noah Taylor, Scott Harper
- P4.03 Investigating Dux expression in extra-embryonic tissues and whether it modulates maternal-fetal tolerance**  
**Aidan O'Donnell**, Andrew Smith, Sean Bennett, Stephen Tapscott
- P4.04 Modeling cell-type-specific sporadic DUX4 activation in FSHD**  
**Mitsuru Sasaki-Honda**, Alvaro Rada-Iglesias, Hidetoshi Sakurai
- P4.05 SMCHD1 enzymatic activity is promoted by bidentate binding to DNA**  
**Alexandra Gurzau**, Richard Birkinshaw, Andrew Leis, James Murphy, Marnie Blewitt
- P4.06 Detailed analysis of inflammatory and ultrastructural changes in TIRM-MRI guided muscle biopsies of FSHD patients**  
**Anna Greco**, Benno Kusters, Ritse Mann, Jurgen Fütterer, Leon de Jong, Yordy Welling, Marieke Ploegmakers, Ger Pruijn, Leo Joosten, Bazel van Engelen
- P4.07 Selection of peptides for a muscle-targeted delivery of ASOs directed against DUX4 mRNAs through complementary approaches in silico, in vitro, and in vivo**  
**Maëlle Limpens**, Aline Derenne, Carmen Burtea, Sophie Laurent, Alexandre Legrand, Anne-Emilie Declèves, Alexandra Belayew, Frédérique Coppée, Alexandra Tassin
- P4.08 DUX4-sPAS base editing gene therapy technology in FSHD**  
**V. Dauksaite**, D. Vinke, R. Augustinus, D. Zheng, J. M. Janssen, J. Liu, M. F. V. Gonçalves, J. C. de Greef, N. Geijsen, S. M. van de Maarel
- P4.09 Unlocking the potential of 3D-TESMs: A promising drug testing tool for FSHD therapies**  
**Silvana Jirka**, Lucia Bartolotti, Marnix Franken, Silvère van der Maarel, Jessica de Greef
- P4.10 Increased METTL3 expression and m6A methylation in myoblasts of facioscapulohumeral muscular dystrophy**  
**Nikolaos Settas**, Adam Bittel, Yi-Wen Chen
- P4.11 DUX4 overexpression in proliferating myoblasts induces an early response of the metabolic sensor AMPK**  
**Fiona Ngassam Lowe**, Charlotte Lemoine, Maëlle Sciôt, Alexandre Legrand, Alexandra Tassin, Anne-Emilie Declèves
- P4.12 Application of the Cuore to analyze effect of training on FSHD 3D tissue engineered skeletal muscles**  
**Galina Filonova**, Marnix Franken, W. W. M. Pim Pijnappel, Silvana M. G. Jirka, Silvère M. van der Maarel, Jessica C. de Greef
- P4.13 Baseline expression of DUX4-regulated pathogenic genes across 74 different human muscles in healthy controls**  
**Aysylu Murtazina**, Artem Borovikov, Anna Kuchina, Daria Sherstukova, Mikhail Skoblov
- P4.14 Fibro-adipogenic progenitors and FSHD**  
**Carlo Serra**, Kathryn Wagner, Thomas Lloyd
- P4.15 A discrete region of the D4Z4 is sufficient to initiate epigenetic silencing**  
 Ellen Paatela, **Faith St. Amant**, Danielle Hamm, Sean Bennett, Taranjit Gujral, Silvère van der Maarel, Stephen Tapscott
- P4.16 Targeting DUX4 transcriptional activity with engineered DNA-binding repressors: A novel therapeutic approach for FSHD**  
**Heloise Hoffmann**, Alice Finkelstein, Goldie Roth, Michael Liu, Vanessa Chiprez Meza, Amanuel Geremew, Ayushi Mohanty, Katherine Xu, Maria Fernanda Velásquez, Phillip Kyriakakis, Lei S. Qi
- P4.17 Direct RNA sequencing reveals the altered epitranscriptomic landscape in DUX4-expressing myoblasts**  
**Dongxu Zheng**, Judit Balog, Iris M. Willemsen, Anita van den Heuvel, Hailiang Mei, Susan Kloet, Ahmed Mahfouz, Silvère M. van der Maarel
- P4.18 An update: Creating an immune cell atlas of the peripheral blood for facioscapulohumeral muscular dystrophy (FSHD)**  
**Chantal Coles**, Katy de Valle, Ian Woodcock, Peter Houweling
- P4.19 Targeting DUX4 mRNA with anti-TfR NANOBODY® oligonucleotide conjugates**  
**Elizabeth Allen**, C. Hunter Wallace, Kristen Peissig, Wen Tang, Samantha Gentle, Jayaprakash Thummapudi, Shan (Julia) Zhou, Shruthi Ramkumar, Ayman Ismail, Sigrid Cornelis, Kevin J. Kim, Anthony Saleh, Nina Leksa, Fernande Freyermuth
- P4.20 Non-myogenic mesenchymal cells shape the degenerative microenvironment in FSHD patient muscles**  
**Flavia Giacalone**, Lorena Di Pietro, Alessandra Nagar, Elisa Orecchini, Chiara Lisciandrello, Gaia Guardabascio, Simona Nanni, Giulia Mantini, Andrea Papait, Elvira Ragozzino, Diego Sibilia, Federica Nagar, Sara Bortolani, Eleonora Torchia, Andrea Sabino, Wanda Lattanzi, Luciano Giacò, Enzo Ricci, Ornella Parolini

**P4.21 Nucleolar FRG2 lncRNAs inhibit rRNA transcription and translation linking FSHD to dysregulation of muscle-specific protein synthesis**

**Valentina Salsi, Francesca Losi, Bruno Fosso, Marco Ferrarini, Sara Pini, Marcello Manfredi, Gaetano Vattermi, Tiziana Mongini, Lorenzo Maggi, Graziano Pesole, Anthony Henras, Paul Kaufman, Rossella Tupler**

**P4.22 The overexpression of the RNA binding protein FRG1 leads to reduced maturation and decreased metabolic efficiency in skeletal muscle**

**Sebastian Fantini, Grazia Bisceglia, Joanna Zyla, Noemi Moio, Andi Nuredini, Giuseppe D'Antona, Gaetano Vattermi, Edoardo Malfatti, Joanna Polanska, Rossella Tupler**

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**Camila Simonetti, Sabrina M. Pagnoni, Oliver D. King, Scott Q. Harper, Alberto L. Rosa**

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**Francesca De Santa, Valentina Fustaino, Giorgia Sperandio, Giada Mele, Alessandra Magenta, Ferdinando Scavizzi, Anne Bigot, Vincent Mouly, Fabiola Moretti, Alessio Torcinaro**

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**Moriya Slavin, Clothilde Claus, Keren Zohar, Karimatou Bah, Tsiona Eliyahu, Michal Linial, Frédérique Coppée, Nir Kalisman**

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**Adam Bittel, Yi-Wen Chen**

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**Deepali Shukla, Dinesh Babu, R. Velayudhan Shaji, Meenal Kowshik, Indrani Talukdar**

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**Amanda Hill, Miriam Wagner Long, Josie Godfrey, June Kinoshita, Anna Gilmore, Neil Camarta, Mark Stone, Ken Kahtava**

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**Claudia Strafella, Domenica Megalizzi, Giulia Trastulli, Emma Proietti Pioro, Luca Colantoni, Francesca Torri, Barbara Risi, Carlo Caltagirone, Giulia Ricci, Gabriele Siciliano, Massimiliano Filosto, Raffaella Cascella, Emiliano Giardina**

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**Ayşe Nur Özdağ Acarli, Fahrettin Sertac Yapar, Gulshan Yunisova, Serpil Eraslan, Sahin Avci, Ilker Eren, Mehmet Demirhan, Hulya Kayserili, Piraye Oflazer**

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**Sandrine Arbogast, Dalila Laoudj-Chenivresse, Eric Raynaud De Mauverger, Christine Fedou, Emma Debroize, Gérald Hugon, Joël Pincemail, Marie-Christine Picot, Jean-Paul Cristol, Jacques Mercier, Florence Portet**



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**Joost Kools**, Lawrence Korngut, Janet Ballantyne, Irene Roozen, Ria de Haas, Amanda Hill, Teresinha Evangelista, Valeria Sansone, Richard Roxburgh, Hanns Lochmuller, Jeff Statland, Nicholas Johnson, Nicol Voermans

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**Eline Boon**, Sanne Vincenten, Jildou Dijkstra, Corrie Erasmus, Nicole Voet, Karlien Mul, Nicol Voermans

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**Johann Sanseau**, Sophie Schmitz

## P6.06 The FSHD European Trial Network

**Ria de Haas**, Sheila Hawkins, Richard Lemmers, Emiliano Giardina, Enrico Bugiardi, Elena Carraro, Julie Dumonceaux, Yann Péréon, Giorgio Tasca, Mauro Monforte, Corrie Erasmus, Tracey Willis, Nicol Voermans

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**Iwona Skorupinska**, Enrico Bugiardi, Louise Germain, Jose M Sanz Mengibar, Laura Berg, Anna Ubiali, Russell Butterfield, Elena Carraro, John Day, Nuran Dilek, Stacy Dixon, Bakri Elsheikh, Katy Eichinger, Seth Friedman, Channa Hewamadduma, Kiley Higgs, Nicholas Johnson, Leann Lewis, Doris G Leung, Hanns Lochmuller, William B Martens, Michael McDermott, Karlien Mul, Sabrina Sacconi, Valeria Sansone, Dennis Shaw, Perry Shieh, Sub Subramony, Jaya Trivedi, Kathryn Wagner, Michaela Walker, Leo H Wang, Matthew Wicklund, Rabi Tawil, Jeff Statland, all investigators of FSHD CTRN NA

## P6.08 A hub-and-spoke model for the French National FSHD Registry: A 2025 update

**Benoît Sanson**, Céline Guieu, Sitraka Rabarimerarijaona, Rafaëlle Bernard, Christophe Bérout, Sabrina Sacconi, the French FSHD registry collaboration group

## P6.09 Early-onset FSHD: An Italian case series

**Martina Prestamburgo**, Claudia Conti, Arianna Iosca, Laura Carraro, Irene Dainesi, Selvia Khalil, Alice Gardani, Lorenzo Maggi, Giulia D'alvano, Federica Silvia Ricci, Rossella D'alessandro, Andrea Barp, Massimiliano Filosto, Liliana Vercelli, Giulio Gadaleta, Tiziana Enrica Mongini, Mauro Monforte, Beatrice Ravera, Giulia Ricci, Lucia Ruggiero, Grazia d'Angelo, Emanuele Costantini, Lorenzo Verriello, Guja Astrea, Roberta Battini, Stefano Previtali, Antonella Pini, Chiara Fiorillo, Angela Berardinelli

## P6.10 The landscape of FSHD data collection: A 2025 expansion to the TREAT-NMD FSHD dataset

**Farjana Ali**, Mitsuru Sasaki-Honda, Helen Walker, Richard Roxburgh, Raj Badiani, Dino Masic, Annie Poll, Miriam Rodrigues, Michaela Guglieri, Anna Ambrosini

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**Katy de Valle**, Chantal Coles, Peter Houweling, Ian Woodcock

## P6.12 FSHD onset before 18 years of age:

### A retrospective longitudinal study

**Beatrice Ravera**, Carmine Di Marco, Ariele Barreto-Haagsma, Sara Bortolani, Eleonora Torchia, Mauro Monforte, Robert Muni-Lofra, Jordi Diaz-Manera, Michela Guglieri, Chiara Marini-Bettolo, Volker Straub, Enzo Ricci, Giorgio Tasca

## LATE-BREAKING ABSTRACTS

## P7.01 Non-viral generation of patient-derived iPSCs for modeling FSHD and screening nanoparticle-based therapeutics

**Deepali Shukla**, Dinesh Babu, R. Velayudhan Shaji, Indrani Talukdar, Meenal Kowshik

## P7.02 Genetic and epigenetic profiling for FSHD diagnosis using nanopore sequencing

**Florentine Scharf**, Hannes Erdmann, Stefanie Gehling, Morghan C. Lucas, Anna Benet-Pagès, Felix Kleefeld, Kerstin Becker, Veronika Schönrock, Annika Saak, Jochen Schäfer, Hans-Werner Rausch, Svenja Neuhoof, Tim Hagenacker, Maggie C. Walter, Teresa Neuhaan, Elke Holinski-Feder, Benedikt Schoser, Angela Abicht

## P7.03 FSHD-SUM (summarized unified measure) PROM – should we pursue this?

**Benedikt Schoser**, Daniel Mendelsohn, Natalia Garcia Angarita, Stephan Wenninger

## P7.04 Investigating the mechanisms of hearing loss in FSHD using a transgenic DUX4 mouse model

**Eleanor Gilstrap**, Zhijun Shen, Maolei Xiao, Michael Kyba, Mark Rutherford, Renatta Knox

## P7.05 Respiratory states and probability surfaces, with application to FSHD evolution

**Patrick Valentin**

## P7.06 Incentivizing novel therapeutic approaches for FSHD

**Jamshid Arjomand**, Jessica Yoon, Annika Anderson, Lauren Pierpoint, Jamie Justice, Richard Hanson, Eva Chin

## P7.07 Pilot study of circulating biomarkers in facioscapulohumeral muscular dystrophy

**Sophelia HS Chan**, Jing Liu, Kuan Hira, Patrick Pak On Yee, Shirley Pang, Gao Yuan, Alex Kiselyov, Patrick TW Law, Tom H Cheung

## P7.08 Characterization of a promising DUX4-regulated circulating biomarker for facioscapulohumeral dystrophy (FSHD)

**Nicholas A. Sutliff**, Sean R. Bennett, Emily Chao, David A. Canton, Yiming Zhu, **Stephen J. Tapscott**

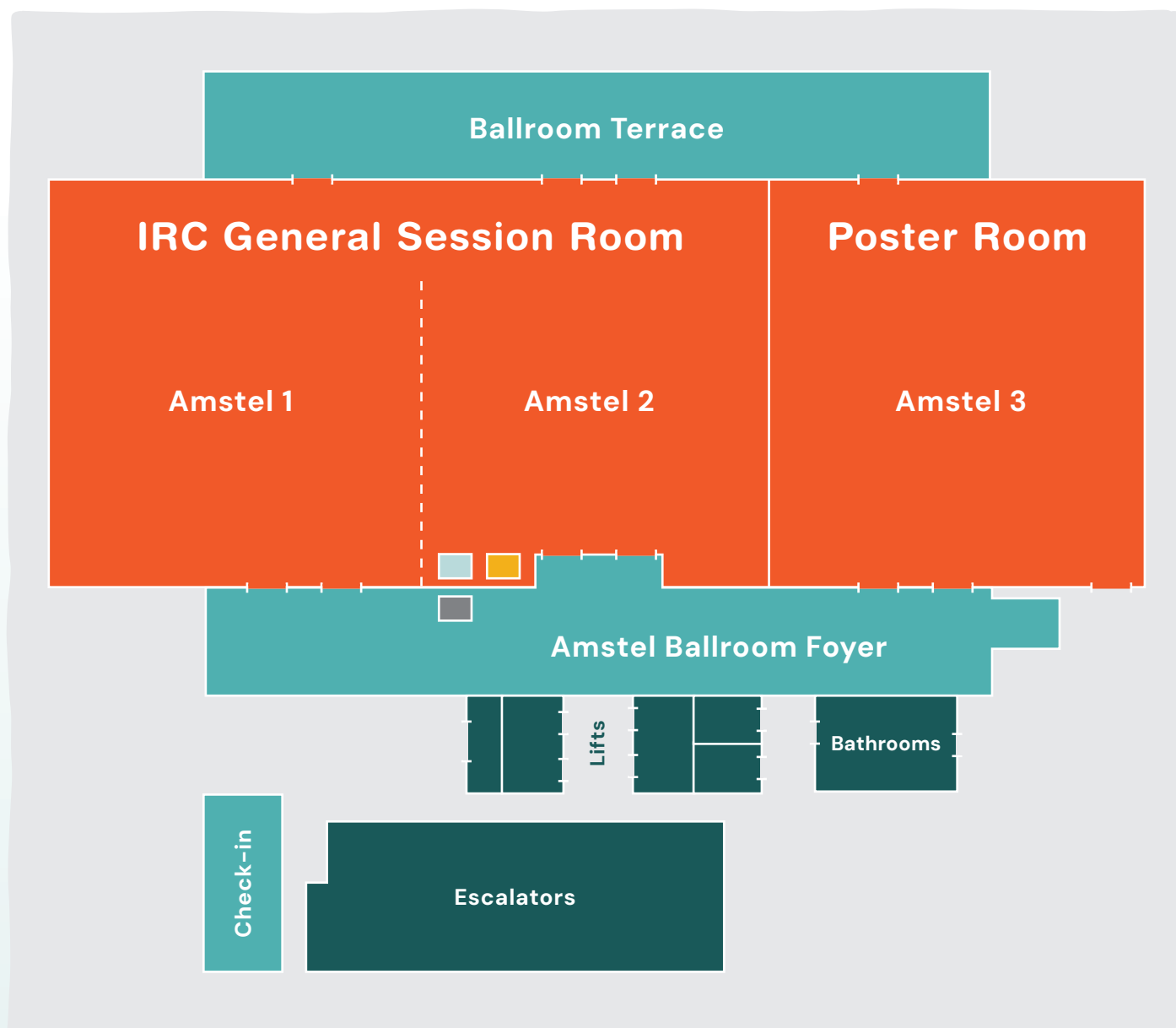
## P7.09 Introducing BetterLife FSHD, an innovative new patient-reported data repository and engagement tool

**Amanda Hill**, Kayleigh Worek, Sarah Akiernan, Grace Westbury, June Kinoshita

# CONFERENCE AND EVENT ROOMS

## FLOOR MAP KEY

- Meeting/Conference Rooms
- Amenities
- Public Space
- Avidity Table
- Dyne Table
- FSHD Stichting Foundation Table



### Leonardo Royal Hotel Amsterdam

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Amsterdam, Netherlands

Tel: +31 20 2500000



**A novel patient engagement solution that improves real-world data collection**

### **About the Platform:**

- BetterLife FSHD enables a uniform, contemporaneous patient-reported dataset
- Researchers search and interact with patient data using the BetterLife FSHD Research Gateway

### **Ways to Engage:**

- Request aggregate or row-level data
- Request recruitment support
- Collect additional patient data or run your study



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