



## 12<sup>th</sup> EBF Young Scientist Symposium

### A Herculean Mind: Crossing the Pillars of Bioanalysis

20-22 May 2026

(Incl. 4<sup>th</sup> EBF University \*\*\* 20 May 2026 (11h45-19h00))

Venue: NH Belfort – Ghent – Belgium

#### Day 0: 20 May 2026

10:00 **Registration desk opens**

11:45 19:00 EBF University: program will be communicated later

Building on the experience and feedback from previous editions (2023–2025), the 4<sup>th</sup> EBF University will continue to strengthen training opportunities for young scientists. This compact ½-day session remains designed to minimise travel and lodging impact while maximising learning and interaction.

As in earlier years, the focus will be on *hands-on* round tables where case studies illustrate how bioanalytical expertise can be effectively integrated into preclinical and clinical project teams, supporting issue resolution, study design, and overall project strategy. Content from earlier Universities will be refined and expanded to align with this year's agenda. Each session will combine concise presentations, Q&A discussions, and interactive round tables, moderated by senior experts from the EBF community and its wider network in drug R&D.

#### Day 1: 21 May 2026

08:00 **Registration desk opens**

08:45 09:00 **Welcome and introduction to the 12th YSS**

Philip Timmerman, EBF

09:00 10:20 **(Plenary) Session: Context of use**

09:00 09:20 **Haston Fernandes, Intertek**

Is One Tier Enough? Using MSR and S/N Evaluation to Challenge Conventional ADA Confirmation and Titer Testing

09:20 09:40 **Lynn van Oene, ICON**

A pragmatic framework for implementing Ella-based biomarker analysis within a CRO environment.

09:40 10:00 **Emma Grey, GSK**

A case study on CoU-driven biomarker assay redevelopment

10:00 10:20 **Margot Speltens, argenx**

A Fit for Purpose PK assay in BALF to Assess Local Drug Exposure

10:20 10:30 **Introduction to the Science Café**

10:30 11:00 **Coffee break**

11:00 12:00 **(Parallel) Session: NCE Focus**

11:00 11:20 **Sebastian Zimmermann, Nuvisan**

Bioanalytical Challenges in LC-MS Analysis of Polymyxin B: From Full Validation to Method Qualification and Back

11:20 11:40 **Sarah Hofmann, Nuvisan**

Quantifying diclofenac – proven in theory, problematic in practice

11:40 12:00 **Elisa Milandri, Bologna Uni**

Empagliflozin blood analysis: microsampling for pharmacokinetics

11:00 12:00 **(Parallel) Session: Troubleshooting**

- 11:00 11:20 **Lucie Diouloufet, Sanofi**  
Enzyme Occupancy assay rescue mission: Troubleshooting success in ongoing clinical trials
- 11:20 11:40 **Dominik Wupperfeld, Nuvisan**  
Mitigating Drug Interference: A DualAssay MSD Approach for Pre and PostDose Samples
- 11:40 12:00 **Laura Bernadette Niehaus, BioAgilytix**  
Troubleshooting during transfer
- 12:00 12:40 Lunch - tables grouped to start Science Café discussions**
- 12:40 15:00 Science Cafe (Format: interactive round table)**  
Ever since the 4th YSS, the Science Café has been an integral part of the YSS. This year, the theme will be focussing on **Communication in Science**
- 15:00 15:30 Coffee break**
- 15:30 16:30 (Parallel) Session: C&GT**
- 15:30 15:50 **Anuradha Kumarasinghe, BioAgilytix**  
qPCR vs. dPCR for Replication-Competent Lentivirus (RCL) Monitoring
- 15:50 16:10 **Bram Callens, Sanofi**  
Development and GLP Validation of Fit-for-Purpose IgG and IgM Immunogenicity Assays for LNP-mRNA CAR-T Therapeutics
- 16:10 16:30 **Paola Drago, UCB BioPharma**  
When InterSpecies assay transfer isn't PlugandPlay: Lessons from ddPCR Method Development for Biodistribution studies
- 15:30 16:30 (Parallel) Session: Biomarkers I**
- 15:30 15:50 **Wieland Mayer, Nuvisan**  
From data to strategy - biomarker analysis in sputum
- 15:50 16:10 **Cormac McCarthy, Resoliant**  
Overcoming SPE-edbumps: Implementing a Standardised Oligo Workflow and Resolving Method Development Challenges
- 16:10 16:30 **Robyn O'Connor, F. Hoffmann - La Roche**  
The Strategic Synergy of Bioanalysis and Biosample Operations- where do you as the bioanalyst fit in?
- 17:00 19:00 Social programm (included in the registration fee)**
- 19:30 22:00 12th YSS Conference dinner (included in the registration fee)**

## **Day 2: 22 May 2026**

- 08:30 08:45 Feedback from the Science Café**
- 08:45 10:00 Poster Pitches (5-min each) - order of presenting may still change**
- 1. Kevin Michel, Syneos Health**  
Validated LBA Assays for Intact and Total ADC Quantification as a Functionally Relevant Alternative to LC-MS
  - 2. Ilse Hoorn, Ardena Bioanalysis**  
Strength in Adaptation: Innovative hybridization strategies for oligonucleotide bioanalysis
  - 3. Tim Marchhauser, F. Hoffmann - La Roche**  
Efficiency by Design: A Lean 5-Step Framework for Accelerated ADA Bridging Assay Development
  - 4. Tirza van Schaijk - Bruurmijn, Citryll**  
Working in Parallel: How Dual Assay Strategies Enabled Rapid Development of a Robust PK Method for CIT-013 in Rheumatoid Arthritis.
  - 5. Rui Simões, Celerion**  
Turning Up the Heat on Aggregation: Implementing Heat Pre-treatment to Enhance SIMOA Bead Stability
  - 6. Rashunda Astwood, Labcorp**

From Noise to Clarity: Applying a Stepwise Troubleshooting Strategy to Resolve Elevated Negative Control Signals

**7. Marta Malaquias, Mercodia**

Overcoming Assay Robustness in PD Assay

**8. Fabienne Hartman, Ardena Bioanalysis**

Quantification of adjacent drug antibodies with LC-MS/MS

**9. Anna Fortuño Mateos-Aparicio, Anapharm Bioanalytics**

Challenges in the development of a method for the detection of Free Testosterone

**10. Arthur Stok, Celerion**

A Flexible Automation Strategy for Bioanalytical Services

**10:00 10:35 Discussions @ posters during coffee break**

**10:35 11:35 (Plenary) Session: Automation**

**10:35 10:55 Alicia Göttert, BioNTech**

Automation and efficiency versus human skill: Comparison and validation of automated and manual laboratory processes

**10:55 11:15 Riccardo Galimberti, NovoNordisk**

Development of Generic and Automated LC-MS/MS Methods for Bioanalysis of Small Molecules, Peptides and Proteins in Plasma Samples

**11:15 11:35 Reilly Birmingham, Labcorp**

Evaluating Throughput and Sensitivity of Automated RNA Extraction: Are We There Yet?

**11:35 11:40 Logistic break to move to parallel sessions**

**11:40 12:40 (Parallel) Session: Biomarkers II**

**11:40 12:00 Bryony Pomfret, Intertek**

Where PK and Biomarker assays collide

**12:00 12:20 Stella Pusterla, Resolian**

From Strip to Signal: Bioanalytical Challenges in Nasal Biomarker Recovery

**12:20 12:40 Open slot**

*theme: Biomarkers*

**11:40 12:40 (Parallel) Session: Microsampling technology**

**11:40 12:00 Rosalie Ghesquière, U-Ghent**

Advancing population biomarker monitoring through microsampling technologies: insights from the Belgian National Food Consumption Survey

**12:00 12:20 Roberta Di Lecce, Bologna Uni**

Enabling the analysis of nitazenes in whole blood using volumetric absorptive microsampling

**12:20 12:40 Hannah Paling, Labcorp**

Investigating the performance of manual extraction techniques versus automation using a Hamilton STAR for capillary microsampling with a case study.

**12:40 13:20 Lunch break - Poster Focus 2**

**13:20 14:40 (Parallel) Session: Hybrid Assays**

**13:20 13:40 Emy Willekens, J&J IM**

Hybrid LCMS/MS for Therapeutic Proteins: Addressing Method Validation Challenges

**13:40 14:00 Gabriele Sergio Colangelo, Merck KGaA**

New approach for the quantitation of conjugated payloads by LC-MS from dual-payload ADCs in preclinical samples

**14:00 14:20 Ronja Peter, F. Hoffmann - La Roche**

Addressing Parallelism in a Combined Bioanalytical and Biomarker Hybrid LCMS-Assay: Method Development and Fit-for-Purpose Validation

**14:20 14:40 Vittoria Papa, Merck KGaA**

Development and Validation of an Automated Hybrid Immunocapture IC Method quantitative (LC-MS) method to quantify the Total Biotherapeutic using specific peptide bearing LALA mutation

- 13:20 14:40 (Parallel) Session: AB-based**
- 13:20 13:40 **Giovanni Caslini, Merck KGaA**  
Quantitative Characterization of Antibody-Receptor Trafficking: from Assay Development to Mathematical Modeling for automated data analysis.
- 13:40 14:00 **Waldemar Gräfenstein, BioAgilytix**  
Unorthodox approaches: Application of the Phadia system for ADA and biomarker assays
- 14:00 14:20 **Illaria Piccolo, Merck KGaA**  
Bioanalytical Strategy for parallel Total and Conjugated Antibody quantification for novel ADCs
- 14:20 14:40 **Alek Nerek, Moderna**  
Development and Troubleshooting of a Multiplex MSD Assay to support analysis of stool samples
- 14:40 15:10 Coffee Break, incl. announcement 2026 YSS Best Poster Winner**
- 15:10 16:30 (Plenary) Session: Future of AI**
- 15:10 15:30 **Aisling O'Neill, F. Hoffmann - La Roche**  
Is Using AI Embarrassing Now?
- 15:30 15:50 **Open slot**  
Please inquire with yss@e-b-f.eu
- 15:50 16:10 **FB from EBF discussions on AI and its values/hurdles/issues and potential for the next generation**  
Presenter tbc
- 16:10 16:30 **Closing panel**  
AI and the next generation of BioA scientist
- 16:30 16:40 Close out and adjourn**

**Meeting Organisation:** Sebastian Zimmermann (Nuvisan), Dorian van Kuijk (Byondis), Annalena Kenzelmann (AbbVie), Daniel Derwand (AZ Biopharm), Enric Milà Vilalta (Boehringer Ingelheim), Charlotte Cowell (ACM Global Laboratories), Rui Simões (Celerion), Federica Calderaro (Genmab), Erin Stevenson (Charles River), Emma Grey (GSK), Chairi Misrielal (ICON), Bryony Pomfret (Intertek), Emy Willekens (Janssen R&D), Reilly Birmingham (Labcorp), Giovanni Caslini and Gabriele Sergio Colangelo (Merck KGaA), Eoin O'Keefe (Moderna), Julie Zurbuch (Novartis), Georgina Varga (Novo Nordisk), Hannah Vernon-Browne (until Feb. 2026) and Annabel Hood (from Feb. 2026 onwards (Resolian), Robyn O'Connor and Tim Marchhauser (F. Hoffmann - La Roche), Mariya Nezhyya (Astrazeneca), Maria-Chiara Arrivas and Lucie Diouloufet (Sanofi), Paola Drago (UCB BioPharma), Roberta Di Lecce and Elisa Milandri (U-Bologna), Diana Kretschmer and Rabekka Thuraiveerasingam (U. Saarland), Rosalie Ghesquière (U-Ghent) and Anuradha Kumarasinghe (BioAgilytix).

**Meeting coordination:** Eva Hanckmann (Byondis), Andrea Di Ianni (Merck KGaA) and Katja Zeiser (Nuvisan)

**Meeting Management:** Philip Timmerman (EBF)

**We would like to thank our Patrons of the 12th YSS:**

Merck KGaA, Intertek, BioAgilytix, ICON, Boehringer-Ingelheim, AstraZeneca and Nuvisan