

1st Announcement and Call for Abstracts

1st EBF Next Generation Community (NGC) Summit

Connecting Generations. Growing Together

26-28 May 2027

*(Incl. 5th EBF University *** 26 May 2027 (11h30-19h00)*

Venue: NH Belfort – Ghent – Belgium

Join us in Ghent on 26–28 May 2027 for the first EBF Next Generation Community (NGC) Summit. The Summit grew out of the Young Scientists Symposium (YSS), where early-career bioanalytical scientists have shared their work, exchanged ideas and learned from one another.
The NGC Summit builds on that foundation by bringing early-career and experienced scientists together around practical bioanalytical questions. Early-career scientists can present their research, discuss challenges from the lab and connect with colleagues working across EBF's Project Domains. Submitted abstracts will shape the programme through podium presentations, poster pitches and poster discussions.

Meeting programme

For your schedule, the conference splits in two main events, i.e. the **5th EBF University** and the **1st NGC Summit.**

5th EBF University: the afternoon of May 26th starting at 12h30 (small sandwich lunch at 11h30)

As in previous editions, the 5th EBF University will centre on hands-on roundtables. This year, the programme will draw more directly on the work of the EBF's Project Domains, giving early-career scientists a chance to explore the questions these groups are working on and discuss them with colleagues involved in that work. Case studies will show how bioanalytical scientists work with preclinical and clinical project teams to resolve issues, design studies and inform project strategy. Each session will combine short presentations, Q&A and roundtable discussion, moderated by experienced scientists from the EBF community and its wider drug R&D network.

1st NGC Summit starts at 09h00 on 27 May and ends around 16h30 on 28 May 2027.

A. Science Café

The Science Café continues a tradition of discussing issues that affect the bioanalytical community. The Organising Committee will announce the theme and format closer to the Summit.
Registered delegates will receive a short survey to share their views before the meeting. The Science Café does not accept abstracts.

B. Themes for oral presentations and posters = subject of this Call for Abstracts

1. AI and automation: from opportunity to practical application: Where are AI and automation making a difference in bioanalysis, and what does it take to implement them with confidence? Suggested sub themes for inspiration:

- Practical applications of AI in bioanalytical workflows, data analysis and interpretation.
- Automation: demonstrating advantages and managing changes to established workflows.
- Validation, human oversight and regulatory considerations for AI-supported processes.
- Lessons from implementation: demonstrated benefits, limitations and unexpected challenges.

2. Applying the 3Rs: rethinking samples, matrices and analytical workflows. How can bioanalytical choices support replacement, reduction and refinement while providing reliable data for the intended purpose? Suggested sub themes for inspiration

- Synthetic, surrogate and alternative matrices: when are they appropriate, and what evidence is needed?
- New Approach Methodologies (NAMs) and in vitro models: emerging bioanalytical needs and challenges.
- Microsampling, alternative sampling strategies and miniaturised workflows.
- Multiplexing and multi-analyte assays to optimise sample analysis.
- Context of use: adapting analytical strategies to the matrix, study and decision.

3. New modalities, immunogenicity and biomarkers: starting with context of use. How do we develop analytical strategies that address the biological questions raised by new therapies? Suggested sub themes for inspiration

- Bioanalytical strategies for new modalities, including ADCs, bispecifics, oligonucleotides and cell and gene therapies.
- Biomarker case studies: connecting assay design and suitability to the analytical requirements.
- Understanding what we measure: free versus total analyte, interference and therapeutic impacts.
- Bioanalytical and immune-response challenges associated with novel vaccines and delivery systems.

4. Choosing and combining technologies: when does each approach add value? When is one method sufficient, and when can complementary or hybrid approaches provide a better answer? Suggested sub themes for inspiration

- Reasons for platform selection (LC-MS, LBA, PCR and flow cytometry) according to the scientific question.
- Complementary and orthogonal measurements: what additional information do they provide?
- Hybrid approaches that overcome limitations in sensitivity, selectivity or analyte characterisation.
- New technologies and workflows: demonstrated improvements and practical trade-offs.

Depending on the abstracts received, some sessions may take the form of a roundtable or panel discussion.



Submit your abstract

We invite abstracts on any of the four themes for an oral presentation, a poster with a five-minute pitch, or a poster without a pitch.

- **Oral presentations:** Submit abstract before **Feb 10th, 2027**
- **Posters with 5-minute poster pitch**: Submit abstract before **Feb 10th, 2027**
- **Posters without poster pitch**: Submit abstract before **April 14th, 2027.**
  Note: Posters should connect with the themes of the meeting.

For details and submission forms: https://meetings.e-b-f.eu/NGC (YSS)/ (tab: submit an abstract)

Register for the meeting → https://registrations.e-b-f.eu/event-registration-1st-NGC/

Meeting only — €530
Choose this option if you prefer to arrange your own accommodation.
Meeting with accommodation at NH Belfort, including breakfast

- 2 nights (25–27 May) — €895
- 3 nights (25–28 May) — €1,080
- 3 nights (26–29 May) — €1,080
- 4 nights (25–29 May) — €1,265

All options include the Summit, coffee breaks, lunches, and the conference dinner and social event on 27 May.

Registration fee (530 €) will only be waived for academic podium presenters.

The NGC Summit is open to early-career bioanalytical scientists from industry (pharma and CROs) and academia.
Our target audience is typically < 35 or < 5 years in bioanalysis.

To ensure the meeting goals on interaction and learning, the meeting is capped at 100 delegates (incl. presenters).

Ghent

Ghent is a historic university city in Flanders, Belgium. The NGC Summit will take place in the city centre.
From Brussels-Zaventem airport, Ghent can be reached directly by train in about one hour. From France, the Netherlands, Germany, or even the UK, the city is easily accessible by train or car. The NH Gent Belfort Hotel, located in the heart of the city next to the Town Hall and the Cathedral, will host the meeting and accommodation.

More info on the meeting and the venue: https://meetings.e-b-f.eu/NGC (YSS)/
Contact us at: yss@e-b-f.eu

Meeting Organisation: Katerina Zafeiriou (Mercodia), Annalena Kenzelmann (AbbVie), Charlotte Cowell (ACM Global Laboratories), Manon Chevallot-Beroux (Genmab), Emma Grey (GSK), Anuradha Kumarasinghe (BioAgilytix), Kieran Williams (Intertek), Helena Schoon (U-Ghent), Ben Veerman (ICON), Giovanni Caslini and Gabriele Sergio Colangelo (Merck KGaA), Thomas Middleditch (Pharmaron), Daniel Derwand (AZ Biopharm), Rachel Foreman (AstraZeneca), Dorian van Kuijk (Byondis), Christoph Gruber (Celerion), Reilly Birmingham (Labcorp), Wieland Mayer (Nuvisan), Tim Marchhauser (F. Hoffmann-La Roche), Cathy Tse (UCB BioPharma) and Rania Benazza and Katrien van Lysebetten (Sanofi).

Meeting coordination: Eva Smits-Hanckmann (Byondis) and Andrea Di Ianni (Merck KGaA)

Meeting Management: Philip Timmerman (EBF)