



Nijmegen, The Netherlands
29-30 January 2016

*The Mitochondrial European Educational Training Project
(MEET)*

**Funded within the frame of PEOPLE Marie Curie Actions
Presents**

**MEET Symposium 2016
From bench to bedside, and back:
Patients MEET Researchers**

*Radboud University Medical Centre, Radboud Auditorium
Geert Grooteplein 15 (route 296)
6525 EZ Nijmegen (The Netherlands)*

**For additional info: <http://www.itn-meet.org/MEET-Symposium-2016>
For registration: <http://www.paoheyendael.nl/meetsymposium>**



Within the context of a deep collaboration between various European fundamental and translational laboratories, the MEET project represents a platform for the training of 14 young scientific investigators in the field of mitochondrial medicine.

A 2-days scientific symposium specifically addressed to patients, their families and associations/foundations will be held in Nijmegen (The Netherlands) in late January 2016. An important peculiarity of this symposium is the direct and proactive role of the young MEET researchers in the organization process.

The main goal of this conference is to exchange the most up-to-date knowledge advances regarding mitochondrial medicine crossing the *gap/bridge* between patients and researchers.

Delivering the outcome of the MEET projects to patients and their associations and balance optimistic expectations and realistic progresses is another important task to be fulfilled.

The targets of this symposium are patients, clinicians and researchers. It is intended as a bidirectional and challenging communication from patients to researchers and *vice versa* with the crucial intermediate role of clinicians.

After the welcome and introduction speech, we propose to leave the floor to the people representing the only ultimate reason for mitochondrial disease research, i.e. patients. Right after, patients families and their associations will give insight of the domestic every day patients care. Different biomedical expertise are working in such a multifaceted area of research, a well-known experienced medical doctor with also a deep understanding of the basic research will close the first “from the different angles” session. Therefore, instead of the usual “*from bench to bedside*” approach we propose a “*from bedside to bench*” perspective.

After the first session depicting the different major actors, their feelings and their experiences with mitochondrial disease, a more clinically-orientated session will analyse the difficulties of the diagnostic process. This will lead us to the third session, the most research orientated part of the symposium, where the importance of basic research (study the physiology to understand the pathology) and of its tools (cellular and animal models) will be highlighted.

The last session will give an overview of how the knowledge has been used to develop potential treatment strategies.



Symposium Program:

Friday, January 29th

The opening

09.00 – 09.15	<i>Welcome to the symposium</i>	J. Smeitink
09.15 – 09.30	<i>What is the MEET project and its objectives</i>	G. Gasparre
09.30 – 09.45	<i>Meet the MEETers (1st video from the fellows)</i>	E.F. Iannetti (Fellows Representative)

Session 1: Mitochondrial diseases: from the different angles

Chairman: **P.Willems**

09.45 – 10.00	<i>In the head of the patients: personal experience, how to deal with the disease</i>	S. Warnock
10.00 – 10.30	<i>In the heart of patient's family, how they deal with the disease:</i>	(Patient's parents)
10.30 – 11.00	Coffee Break (with activities)	
11.00 – 11.15	<i>The value of a national patient organisation</i>	P. Santantonio (MITOCON)
11.15 – 11.45	<i>Through the landscape of mitochondrial diseases: from mitochondrial to nuclear DNA and beyond</i>	V. Carelli
11.45 – 12.00	<i>2nd part of the MEETers Video</i>	MEET Fellow
12.00-14.00	Lunch break (with activities)	



Session 2: The long road to a diagnostic and the follow up of the disease

Chairman: **J.A.Mayr**

14.00 – 14.15	<i>3rd part of the MEETers Video</i>	MEET Fellow
14.15 – 14.45	<i>Phenotypic heterogeneity: the impact on the clinical, biochemical and genetic diagnosis</i>	R. Rodenburg
14.45 – 15.00	<i>The diagnosis seen from the other side</i>	(Patient's parent)
15.00 – 15.45	Coffee Break (with activities)	
15.45 – 16.15	<i>100,000 genomes project: technological breakthrough in molecular genetics will facilitate diagnosis</i>	P. Chinnery
16.15 – 16.45	<i>Outcome measures in mitochondrial disease</i>	S. Koene

Saturday, January 30th

Session 3: The basic research

Chairman: **V.Tiranti**

09.00 – 09.30	<i>From gene defects to mitochondrial metabolism</i>	C. Garone
09.30 – 10.00	<i>In vivo and In vitro Models, why do we need them?</i>	M. Zeviani
10.00 – 10.45	Coffee Break (with activities)	

Session 4: On the way to possible treatment

10.45 – 11.15	<i>Power to the People! Democracy and Mitochondrial Donation</i>	R. McFarland
11.15 – 11.45	<i>Drug screening and clinical trials</i>	J. Smeitink

The closure

11.45 – 12.00	<i>Pre-closure</i>	J. Smeitink
12.00 – 12.15	<i>The circle closes: The voice of patients at an international level</i>	E. Van der Veer (International Mito-Patients Chairman)
12.15 – 14.00	Lunch break (with activities)	



NCMD 20th celebration

Side activities during the afternoon

Speaker affiliations:

Carelli, Valerio	Department of Biomedical and Neuromotor Sciences (University of Bologna, Italy)
Chinnery, Patrick	International Centre for Life; Institute of Genetic Medicine (University of Newcastle, UK)
Garone, Caterina	MRC Mitochondrial Biology Unit (University of Cambridge, UK)
Gasparre, Giuseppe	Department of Medical and Surgical Sciences (University of Bologna, Italy)
Koene, Saskia	Nijmegen Centre for Mitochondrial Disorders (NCMD, Nijmegen, The Netherlands)
McFarland, Robert	Welcome trust center for mitochondrial research (University of Newcastle, UK)
Rodenburg, Richard	Nijmegen Centre for Mitochondrial Disorders (NCMD, Nijmegen, The Netherlands)
Santantonio, Piero	Mitocon (Rome, Italy)
Smeitink, Jan	Nijmegen Centre for Mitochondrial Disorders (NCMD, Nijmegen, The Netherlands)
Van der Veer, Elija	International Mito Patient Chairman (IMP, Amsterdam, The Netherlands)
Zeviani, Massimo	MRC Mitochondrial Biology Unit (University of Cambridge, UK)