SPINE SOCIETY Belgium
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SPINE SOCIETY OF BELGIUM
PRESENTS

ID SPINE CONGRESS 2027

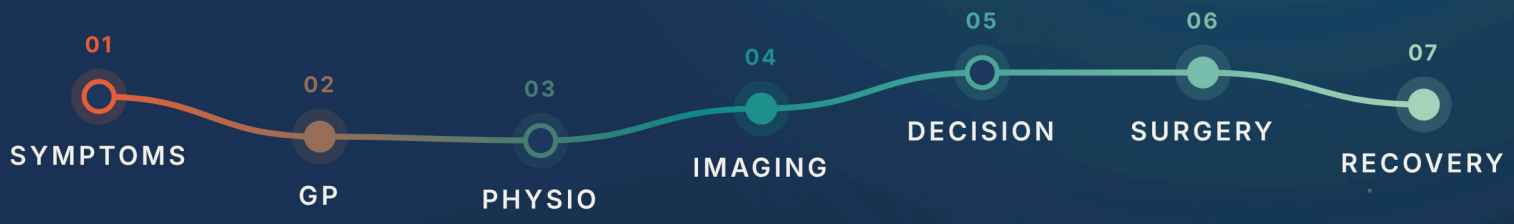
FROM HYPE TO HELP

Shaping the AI-Enabled Lumbar Disc Herniation Journey **Together**

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE · DATA · DIGITAL CARE · PATIENT JOURNEY



THE PATIENT JOURNEY · WHERE DOES TECHNOLOGY TRULY HELP?



DATE	VENUE	PRESIDENT SSBE	LOCAL HOSTS
Saturday 16 January 2027	Vestar Antwerp, Belgium	Dr. Henri-Benjamin Pouleau	Dr. Geert Mahieu Dr. Kris De Smedt

PHYSICIANS · SPINE SURGEONS · PHYSIOTHERAPISTS

CONGRESS LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

WELCOME

Dear colleagues,

It is our great pleasure to invite you to the ID Spine Congress on Saturday 16 January 2027 at Vestar in Antwerp.

This one-day congress brings together physicians, spine surgeons and physiotherapists from Flanders and Wallonia around one shared patient: the patient with a lumbar disc herniation. The congress language is English, so that colleagues from both sides of the language border, and our international guests, can fully take part in the discussion.

We are especially proud that leading figures and award-winning researchers from the EUROSPINE community have chosen to travel to Antwerp to attend and present at our congress, a recognition that reflects the scientific value of this meeting and our shared commitment to raising its quality and relevance for the entire spine community.

From Hype to Help

Artificial intelligence is everywhere. It promises faster diagnoses, smarter triage, personalised treatment and more efficient care. Yet one question remains: what truly helps our patients today, and what is still mainly promise?

With the title *From Hype to Help: Shaping the AI-Enabled Lumbar Disc Herniation Journey Together*, we aim to answer that question in concrete terms. We follow the full journey of the patient with a lumbar disc herniation: from the first complaints, through the general practitioner, physiotherapist and imaging, to surgical and non-surgical treatment and rehabilitation. At every step, we take a critical look at where technology adds value and where it does not.

The word **Together** is a deliberate choice. We will not shape the future of this care as surgeons alone, but together with all professionals involved in the patient's care, across language borders.

> **What truly helps our patients today, and what is still mainly promise?**

THE PROGRAMME IS BUILT ON THREE PILLARS

01

PILLAR 1

Your voice counts, captured live

This congress is not a one-way street. Throughout the day, Christophe Jauquet will interactively survey participants on their experiences, expectations and concerns regarding AI, data and digital tools in disc herniation care.

This allows us to collect structured input from the entire spine community: physicians, surgeons and physiotherapists from Flanders and Wallonia. These data will form the foundation on which we, as representatives of this community, can take concrete action on technology, data collection and innovation in care.

02

PILLAR 2

Christophe Jauquet, moderator and keynote speaker

Christophe Jauquet is an internationally recognised author, podcast host and keynote speaker at the intersection of health, business and technology. He began his career as an intrapreneur at Pfizer, where he received several global innovation awards. He has spoken at the European Parliament and is the author of *Every Business is a Health Business* and *The Transformational Economy*.

As moderator, he will guide the day and actively gather insights from the audience. In his keynote, he will explore how technology is transforming healthcare, and the pitfalls, challenges and opportunities we face as a professional community when implementing technology as an enabler. He will also show that patients often perceive technology differently than we assume, and that the way they inform themselves through technology increasingly shapes how they seek and receive care.

03

PILLAR 3

International faculty: Winners in Spine

Finally, it is a great honour and privilege to welcome leading European spine experts and award-winning researchers to Antwerp. In the Winners in Spine session, they present their work and bring the latest European insights directly to our community. We extend our sincere gratitude to Dr. Johan Van Lerbeirghe, spine consultant at Ortho.Gent and chair of the EUROSPINE Rehabilitation Council and member of the Executive Committee, whose dedication and position within EUROSPINE were instrumental in bringing this distinguished international faculty to Antwerp.

Jarkko Halme, MD

KUOPIO, FINLAND

Spine surgeon at Kuopio University Hospital. Since 2024 he has chaired the European Spine Societies Advisory Board (EuSSAB) Council and serves on the EUROSPINE Executive Committee.

Gregor Fischer, MD

ZURICH, SWITZERLAND

Spine surgeon at the Schulthess Klinik in Zurich. His study, which received the 2025 Scientific Award of the Swiss Society of Spinal Surgery, identifies a patient profile at higher risk of early re-herniation, a finding directly relevant to the disc herniation journey at the heart of this congress.

Prof. Helena Brisby, MD

GOTHENBURG, SWEDEN

Distinguished orthopaedic surgeon and researcher at the Sahlgrenska Academy and Sahlgrenska University Hospital, and local host of EUROSPINE 2026 in Gothenburg. She presents the five-year results of the NORDSTEN trial on the extent of decompression in lumbar spinal stenosis.

Frank Hassel, MD

FREIBURG, GERMANY

Head of the Spine Surgery Department at the Loretto-Krankenhaus in Freiburg and a world authority on endoscopic spine surgery. He chairs the EUROSPINE Endoscopy Course and is a member of the EUROSPINE Research Council.

We look forward to seeing you in Antwerp

We warmly invite you to join us on 16 January 2027 at Vestar, Antwerp, for a day of critical reflection, open dialogue and shared ambition. Together, we can move from hype to help and shape the future of disc herniation care.

With collegial regards,

Local hosts, on behalf of the Spine Society of Belgium.



Dr. Geert Mahieu
Head of Spine Surgery
ORTHOCA, AZ Monica



Dr. Kris De Smedt
Head of Neurosurgery
ZAS – Ziekenhuis aan de Stroom

PROGRAMME · SATURDAY 16 JANUARY 2027

Following the patient, step by step

08:00 – 08:50 Admission & registration

08:50 – 09:00 Welcome by the president · Dr. Henri-Benjamin Pouleau

Morning session · From first call to the operating room 09:00 – 12:15

09:00 – 09:15

01 · INTRODUCTION

Opening the AI-Enabled Spine Journey

Why the future of spine care requires a different approach

Kris De Smedt & Geert Mahieu

09:15 – 09:35

02 · PREOPERATIVE · AI TRIAGE

The First Call

Getting the right patient to the right specialist

Dr. Salim El Hadwe

09:35 – 09:45 Movement break · Eric Bernard

09:45 – 10:05

03 · DIAGNOSTIC · AI & IMAGING

Seeing Beyond the MRI

AI-augmented diagnosis in lumbar disc herniation

Speaker to be confirmed

10:05 – 10:20 Questions & discussion

10:20 – 10:50 Coffee break

10:50 – 11:30

04 · CONSERVATIVE

When Not to Operate

Personalizing conservative care in lumbar radiculopathy

10:50 – 11:10 **Rehabilitation Reimagined**
From standardized exercise to personalized recovery
Kristof De Corte (Gent)

11:10 – 11:30 **Operate, Intervene or Wait?**
Predicting the natural course of radicular pain
Speaker to be confirmed

11:30 – 11:50

05 · PREOPERATIVE · PREHABILITATION

Outcome Starts Before Surgery

The role of prehabilitation in better recovery

Speaker to be confirmed

11:50 – 12:05 Questions & discussion

12:05 – 12:15 Movement break · Eric Bernard

Midday · Keynotes, posters & lunch — 12:15 – 15:30

12:15 – 12:30 — **Best Poster Prize · award presentation**

12:30 – 13:15 (45 min)

EUROSPINE · MODERATOR: JOHAN VAN LERBEIRGHE

Winners in Spine

Excellence Across Borders
Prof. Jarkko Halme (FI)

The impact of Modic changes in recurrent lumbar disc herniation
Persistent Modic type 1 changes represent a high-risk phenotype for early re-herniation
Gregor Fischer (CH)

Does a more extensive decompression lead to a better long-term result in spinal stenosis patients?
Five-year results from the NORDSTEN study
Prof. Helena Brisby (SE)

13:15 – 14:45 — Lunch · sponsor exhibition · poster viewing

14:45 – 15:30 (45 min)

KEYNOTE · HEALTHCARE, TECHNOLOGY & PATIENTS

Title to be announced

Christophe Jauquet

Afternoon session · Surgery, recovery and beyond — 15:30 – 18:40

15:30 – 15:50

06 · SURGERY

The Right Technique for the Right Patient

AI-supported surgical strategy and personalized treatment
Frank Hassel (DE)

15:50 – 16:10

07 · POSTOPERATIVE · DIGITAL REHABILITATION

Recovery as a Data Stream

Monitoring and guiding patients after surgery
Wout Demin & Lieven Maesschalck

16:10 – 16:30 — Questions & discussion

16:30 – 16:40 — Movement break · Eric Bernard

16:40 – 17:10 — Coffee break

17:10 – 17:50

08 · POSTOPERATIVE

When Recovery Does Not Follow the Plan

Understanding and treating persistent pain after surgery

17:10 – 17:30 **When the Pain Persists**
Understanding residual and recurrent radiculopathy
Maarten Moens

17:30 – 17:50 **Beyond Failed Surgery**
Selecting the right patient for neuromodulation
Tony Van Havenberg

17:50 – 18:10 — Questions & discussion

18:10 – 18:25

09 · SUMMARY

Closing the Loop

From patient data to continuously improving spine care
Geert Mahieu & Kris De Smedt

18:25 – 18:40 — Closing words · Dr. Henri-Benjamin Pouleau

Moderator of the day: Christophe Jauquet · live audience survey throughout

CALL FOR POSTERS

Share your work with the Belgian spine community

We invite physicians, surgeons, physiotherapists, residents and researchers to submit an abstract for a poster presentation. Clinical studies, case series, quality projects and innovations along the lumbar disc herniation journey are all welcome, with or without a technology or AI component.

1. Prepare a structured abstract in English as a Word file: background, methods, results, conclusion (max. 300 words). The template is available on the website.
2. Submit online via the congress website before the deadline.
3. The scientific committee reviews all submissions; authors are notified of acceptance by e-mail.
4. Authors of accepted abstracts bring a poster to the congress (A0, no other limitations). Posters are displayed throughout the day and can be discussed during the lunch and coffee breaks.

KEY INFORMATION

Language	**English**
Submission	**Abstract, Word file**
Abstract length	**Max. 300 words**
Template	**Available on the website**
Deadline	**15 November 2026**
Notification	**By 10 December 2026**
If accepted	**Bring an A0 poster**
Submit via	**www.spinesociety.be**

Best Poster Prize

The best poster is awarded on stage at 12:15, just before the Winners in Spine session. The prize is €1,000, along with the possibility of being selected to represent Belgium at the next EUROSPINE Congress in Barcelona, with travel and accommodation expenses covered by the SSBe.

REGISTRATION

One day, the full journey

ATTENDEE CATEGORY	FEE
Member SSBe	**€ 85**
Member BBS	**€ 85**
General Practitioner (GP) / MD (non-spine)	**€ 85**
Physiotherapist	**€ 85**
Non-Member Spine Specialist Including SSBe membership for 2026	**€ 165**
Presenter Selected Poster	**€ 35**
Nurse	**€ 35**
Residents & students Proof of status required	**€ 85**

These are the early bird registration fees, they apply until 15/12.

Cancellation policy:
Participants cancelling their registration before 15 December 2026 will receive a full refund, less 50% administration costs. There will be no refunds for cancellations received after this date. Cancellations must be confirmed in writing to the Secretariat.

YOUR REGISTRATION INCLUDES

- ✓ Access to the full congress day, 08:00 – 18:40
- ✓ All sessions, keynote and Winners in Spine
- ✓ Participation in the live audience survey and access to its results
- ✓ Lunch and two coffee breaks
- ✓ Poster exhibition and sponsor area
- ✓ Accreditation *(requested)*

Register online → ID Spine 2027 – New Registration
Organisation in collaboration with Medicongress