

Tenth European Society of Human Genetics Training Course on Cardiogenetics

May 9-12, 2026
Antwerp, Belgium
Auditorium Kinsbergen (route 12)
Antwerp University Hospital (UZA)

This course aims at delivering up-to-date knowledge on cardiogenetics to cardiologists, genetic counselors, clinical and molecular geneticists in training or certified.

It creates the best opportunity for interaction and discussion with experts from all over Europe. The faculty combines experts from many fields of cardiogenetics known for their didactic skills. Participants are encouraged to present a clinical or genetic case in a Poster format for on-site discussion.

Directors of the course:

Bill Newman (United Kingdom) and Bart Loeys, Johan Saenen (Belgium)

PROGRAM

Day 1 program: Saturday, May 9, 2026

THEME: BASICS IN CARDIOGENETICS

15:15 – 15:30	Course Introduction Bill Newman & Bart Loeys
15:30 – 16:00	A clinical geneticists' approach to inherited cardiac disorders Bart Loeys
16:00 – 16:30	Introduction to the Mystery Case Johan Saenen
16:30 – 17:00 REFRESHMENT BREAK	
17:00 – 19:00	Genetic basics for Cardiologists Maaike Alaerts Cardiology concepts for Geneticists Johan Saenen
19:00	SANDWICH dinner

Day 2 program: Sunday, May 10, 2026

THEME: **STRUCTURAL HEART and AORTIC DISORDERS**

09:00 – 09:30 **Counselling considerations in inherited cardiac disorders** Saartje van Pottelberg
09:30 – 10:00 **A patient perspective on cardiogenetics** Axel Verstraet
10:00 – 11:00 **Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy** Job Verdonschot

11:00 – 11:30 **COFFEE BREAK**

11.30 – 12:30 **Dilated and neuromuscular cardiomyopathy** Job Verdonschot
12:30 – 13:00 **Arrhythmogenic Right Ventricular Cardiomyopathy** Pieter Koopman

13:00 – 14:00 **LUNCH**

14:00 – 15:00 **Aortopathies** Bart Loeys
15:00 – 16:00 **Pathology of inherited cardiac disorders** Joe Westaby
16:00 – 16:45 **Mystery Case – follow-up** Johan Saenen

16:45 – 17:15 **COFFEE BREAK**

17:15 – 18:45 **Imaging workshop – echocardiography/Cardiac MRI**
Tevfik Ismail -> cardiologist
Caroline Van de Heyning/Nicol Sturkenboom -> genetics
18:45 – 20:00 **Case Discussion** Bart Loeys/Bill Newman/Johan Saenen

20:00 **WALKING DINNER in UZA**

Day 3 program: Monday, May 11, 2026

THEME: **PRIMARY ELECTRICAL DISORDERS**

08:30 – 09:30 **Basic concepts in Ion channel disease** Johan Saenen
09:30 – 10:00 **Catecholaminergic polymorphic ventricular tachycardia** Pieter Koopman

10:00 – 10:30 **COFFEE BREAK**

10:30 – 12:00 **Electrophysiology workshop – ECG/Ex ECG/Ajmalin/Adrenalin testing**
Pieter Koopman -> genetics
Johan Saenen -> cardiologist
12:00 – 13:00 **Case presentations by Participants**
Bart Loeys/ Bill Newman/Johan Saenen

13:00 – 14:00 **LUNCH**

14:00 – 14:30 **Next generation sequencing – different approaches** Bart Loeys & Bill Newman
14:30 – 15:00 **Molecular autopsy** Bill Newman

15:00 – 16:30 Workshop/Quiz NGS interpretation

Lut Van Laer – Suzan Lambin -> cardiology
Maaike Alaerts -> genetics

16:30 – 17:00 COFFEE BREAK

17:00 – 18:00 Keynote lecture - Past, present and future perspectives in Long QT Syndrome and sudden cardiac death management - Peter Schwartz

18:00 – 18:30 Mystery Case – conclusion Johan Saenen

18:45 Bus transfer to Hof Van Liere

19:30 COURSE DINNER AT Hof Van Liere (faculty club)

Day 4 program: Tuesday, May 12, 2026

THEME: CONGENITAL HEART DISEASE

08:30 – 09:30 Heart embryology Marco De Ruyter

09:30 – 10:00 Genetics of Congenital Heart Disease Bert Callewaert

10:00 – 10:30 iPSC approaches to understand inherited cardiac disorders Maaike Alaerts

10:30 – 11:00 COFFEE BREAK

11:00 – 11:45 Polygenic risk scores for inherited cardiac disease Sean Zheng/James Warre

11:45 – 12:30 Syndromic/metabolic inherited cardiac disorders Marije Meuwissen

12:30 – 13:00 Management of inherited cardiac disorders in competitive and leisure athletes Hein Heidbuchel

13:00 – 14:00 LUNCH

14:00 – 15:00 Case presentation – Bill Newman/Bart Loeys/Johan Saenen

15:00 END OF COURSE Bart Loeys/Johan Saenen