Leuven Symposium in Fetal Therapy

From Origins to New Horizons

A tribute to Prof. Dr. Jan Deprest



Friday 13 November 2026, 08:30–13:00
Promotiezaal, Universiteitshal, Naamsestraat 22, Leuven

Programme

08:30–08:40 Opening – **Roland Devlieger**

Part 1 – Chairs: Paolo De Coppi and Jute Richter

08:40–09:00 **Kypros Nicolaides** – Foundations of Fetal Medicine and the Birth of Fetal Therapy

09:00–09:40 **Monochorionic twins**
Liesbeth Lewi – Predicting and Treating Complications in Monochorionic Twins
Eduard Gratacos – Fetal Therapy in sIUGR: From Placental Pathophysiology to Clinical Management

09:40–10:20 **Congenital diaphragmatic hernia**
Alexandra Benachi – FETO for CDH: Development, Trials, and Lessons Learned
Francesca Russo – Why is FETO not enough and how can we further improve outcomes?

10:20–10:40 *Coffee break*

Part 2 – Chairs: Paolo De Coppi and Francesca Russo

10:40–11:20 **Myelomeningocele and other CNS anomalies**
Michael Belfort – From Open Repair to Fetoscopic Approaches: The Surgical Journey
Yada Kunpalin – Understanding the evolution of fetal neurosurgical conditions: from imaging to intervention

11:20–12:00 **Fetal shunts and anaemia**
Monique Haak – Indications, Outcomes, and Complications of Fetal Shunting: What Decades Have Taught Us
Roland Devlieger – Fetal Transfusions: Technique, Safety, and Novel Alternatives

12:15–13:00 **Genetics and new frontiers**
Lynn Chitty – Exome Sequencing for All Fetal Therapy Candidates?
Rabih Chaoui – Fetal Medical Therapy: New Horizons
Jan Deprest – Fetal Therapy, What's Next?

13:00 *Lunch*

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