

# SRHSB Annual Conference 2026 - Amsterdam, September 16-18



## Provisional Programme

### Wednesday, 16 September

- 08:00-09:00 Registration  
09:00-09:05 Welcome to be announced soon!!  
09:05-09:15 Opening of the Congress; Dr. Ian Pople, Dr. D.P. Bakker, Carola McDonald

#### Session 1: Embryology and imaging in spinal dysraphism

*Cutting-edge insights into imaging of spinal dysraphism's and fetal brain MRI changes, advancing precision diagnostics in spina bifida.*

- 09:15-10:00 Keynote Speaker 1  
**Prof. A. Rossi** (Professor of Neuroradiology, Italy, Genoa)  
Title: *Revisiting spinal dysraphisms: classification, controversies and clinical impact*
- 10:00-10:30 Keynote Speaker 2  
**Prof. M. Aertsen** (Consultant Radiologist, UZ Leuven)  
Title: *The spectrum of brain changes in spina bifida on fetal MRI*
- 10:30-11:00 ☕ Break

#### Session 2: Embryology of spina bifida and hydrocephalus

*Unlocking the origins of spina bifida and hydrocephalus, this session explores embryological development, revealing new insights into early disease formation.*

- 11:00-11:30 Keynote Speaker 3  
**Dr. B. de Bakker** (Assistant Professor, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Amsterdam UMC)  
Title: *Micro-CT of the nervous system*
- 11:30-11:40 Abstract Presentation #1  
**Nyske Engel** (Amsterdam UMC, The Netherlands)  
Title: *Quantitative and qualitative brain changes in fetuses with spina bifida: insights from micro-CT at 15-23 weeks of gestation*
- 11:40-11:50 Abstract Presentation #2  
**Chagajeg Soloukey** (Erasmus UMC, Rotterdam, The Netherlands)  
Title: *Continuous intraoperative mapping for pediatric spinal dysraphism surgery: a pilot cohort study*

- 11:50-12:00 **Abstract Presentation #3**  
**Ingeborg Linskens** (Amsterdam UMC, The Netherlands)  
Title: *Overview of available test in the Dutch prenatal screening program with special focus on spina bifida detection by structural anomaly scans: case characteristics and pitfalls from screening*
- 12:00-12:10 **Abstract Presentation #4**  
**Antoinette Botman** (Children's Hospital at Westmead, Sydney, Australia)  
Title: *Developing an Australian national Spina Bifida Patient Registry - preliminary results of a scoping review on meaningful data to be captured*

12:10-13:00 🍽️ Lunch

### Session 3: Fetal surgery in spina bifida

*Exploring how prenatal intervention is transforming outcomes and redefining the future of neonatal care.*

- 13:00-13:45 **Keynote Speaker 4**  
**Prof. Dr. J. Deprest** (Professor in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Leuven/London)  
Title: *Surgical repair of spina bifida before birth today and tomorrow*
- 13:45-14:15 **Keynote Speaker 5**  
**Dr. Chagajeg Soloukey** (Erasmus UMC, Rotterdam, The Netherlands)  
Title: *Patient proximity*
- 14:15-14:45 **Keynote Speaker 6**  
**Dr. K. Jansen** (Paediatric Neurologist, Leuven, Belgium)  
Title: *Long-term outcome before and after fetal surgery in spina bifida*
- 14:45-15:15 **Keynote Speaker 7**  
**Dr. L. Mazzone** (Paediatric Surgeon, Zurich)  
Title: *Outcomes of 5-year-old patients after open prenatal spina bifida aperta repair in Zurich*
- 15:15-15:25 **Abstract Presentation #5**  
**Chagajeg Soloukey** (Erasmus UMC, Rotterdam, The Netherlands)  
Title: *Prevalence of structural brain anomaly patterns after prenatal repair of spina bifida aperta: a nationwide multicenter MRI study with comparison to a postnatal cohort*
- 15:25-15:35 **Abstract Presentation #6**  
**Ryan Juncker** (Ohio State University, Columbus, USA)  
Title: *Functional outcomes after postnatal closure of myelomeningocele below S1: an argument to consider prenatal closure of S2 lesions*
- 15:35-15:45 **Abstract Presentation #7**  
**Charlotte Kik** (University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada)  
Title: *Development of a Core Outcome Set for Fetal Spina Bifida: Preliminary Results from an International Delphi Study (COSMIC)*
- 15:45-15:55 **Abstract Presentation #8**  
**Petra Aden** (Oslo University Hospital, Oslo, Norway)  
Title: *How a New Classification Changes Epidemiology - Two Years' Experience with the Orpha Revised Coding System*
- 15:55-16:15 ☕ Break

### Session 4: Transition

*Bridging pediatric and adult care, enhancing collaboration, sharing insights through panel discussions, and elevating the patient's perspective.*

- 16:15-16:45 **Keynote Speaker 8**  
**Dr. A.L. van Staa** (Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences, Rotterdam, The Netherlands)  
Title: *Transition*

- 16:45-17:05 **Keynote Speaker 9**  
**N. Bakal & I. Bakal with Carola McDonald** (Nurse Practitioner, Amsterdam UMC)  
 Title: *The patient's voice: experience in transition (interview)*
- 17:05-17:45 **Discussion Panel with Kate Steel** (CEO SHINE, UK), **Dr. O. de Wit** (Rehabilitation Physician, Expert by experience), **Corina Mos** (Expert by experience) **Sjoerd van den Berg** (Expert by experience)  
 Discussion: *'Bridging the gap'*
- 17:45-17:55 **Abstract Presentation #9**  
**Iris van Wijk** (De Hoogstraat Rehabilitation, Utrecht, The Netherlands)  
 Title: *Youth-led implementation of transition tools in spina bifida care: bridging the gap between policy and practice*
- 17:55-18:10 Short break before AGM
- 18:10-18:40 **SRHSB Annual General Meeting (SRHSB Members Only)**

## Thursday, 17 September

### Session 5: Tethered Cord Syndrome

*Unlocking the mysteries of tethered cord syndrome: latest updates, dilemmas in untethering, and spine shortening vs. untethering.*

- 08:30-08:55 **Keynote Speaker 10**  
**Dr. D.P. Bakker** (Paediatric Neurologist, Amsterdam UMC, The Netherlands)  
 Title: *Spina bifida, posterior fossa & tethered cord*
- 08:55-09:20 **Keynote Speaker 11**  
**R. Feller** (Neurosurgeon, Amsterdam UMC, The Netherlands)  
 Title: *Tethered cord treatment options: Untethering vs spine shortening*
- 09:20-09:45 **Keynote Speaker 12**  
**Dr. J. Spoor** (Neurosurgeon, Erasmus UMC, Rotterdam, The Netherlands)  
 Title: *Lipomenigocele*
- 09:45-09:55 **Abstract Presentation #10**  
**Sabri Bouharrate** (Erasmus UMC, Rotterdam, The Netherlands)  
 Title: *1-year urological outcomes in paediatric lumbosacral spinal lipoma surgery: a retrospective international dual-centre cohort study*
- 09:55-10:05 **Abstract Presentation #11**  
**Sabri Bouharrate** (Erasmus UMC, Rotterdam, The Netherlands)  
 Title: *New Orphanet Classification for Spinal Lipomas: Validation, feasibility, and observed limitations in 169 patients based on pre-operative MRI*
- 10:05-10:25 ☕ Break

### Session 6: Hydrocephalus 1

- 10:25-10:45 **Keynote Speaker 13**  
**Prof. Nanna MacAulay** (University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark)  
 Title: *Pharmacological modulation of CSF secretion to reduce ICP - starting with rats, but aiming for the clinic*
- 10:45-11:05 **Keynote Speaker 14**  
**Dr. Hannah Botfield** (University of Birmingham, Birmingham, UK)  
 Title: *Decorin treatment for post-haemorrhagic hydrocephalus*

- 11:05-11:15 **Abstract Presentation #12 SRHSB Integra Travelling Fellowship 2025 Award**  
**Chagajeg Soloukey** (Erasmus UMC, Rotterdam, The Netherlands)  
 Title: *Variation in cerebrospinal fluid diversion rates and practices for myelomeningocele-associated hydrocephalus: a mixed-methods analysis*
- 11:15-11:25 **Abstract Presentation #13 Waite Bursary 2025 Award**  
**Elena Pinkney** (University of Manchester, Manchester, UK)  
 Title: *Identifying CSF factor(s) responsible for the developmental defect in hydrocephalus*
- 11:25-11:35 **Abstract Presentation #14 Waite Bursary 2025 Award**  
**Anissa Valverde** (Wayne State University, Detroit, USA)  
 Title: *Comparative Analysis of Flow Resistance in New versus Explanted Hydrocephalus Shunt Valves: A Multi-Center Benchtop Study*
- 11:35-11:45 **Abstract Presentation #15 Waite Bursary 2025 Award**  
**Martina Rivero Garcia** (University of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain)  
 Title: *How does meningitis lead to development of hydrocephalus?*
- 11:45-12:00 **Keynote Speaker 15**  
**Dr. Chris Roberts** (Wayne State University, Detroit, USA)  
 Title: *The effect of catheter position on cerebrospinal fluid flow distribution in ventricular catheters*

12:00-12:45 Lunch ☺ - Sponsor Round

## Session 7: Urology in Spina Bifida

*Cultural approaches, self-catheterization adherence, and bowel management: antegrade vs. retrograde irrigation.*

- 12:45-13:15 **The Welburn Lecture**  
**Prof. Dr. Ahmad Elderwy** (Professor of Paediatrics, Asyut, Egypt)  
 Title: *The dilemma of spina bifida in Egypt*
- 13:15-13:40 **Keynote Speaker 16**  
**Mrs. T. de Kraker** (Nurse practitioner, Amsterdam UMC, Amsterdam, The Netherlands)  
 Title: *Therapy compliance in neurogenic bladder*
- 13:40-14:05 **Keynote Speaker 17**  
**Dr. J.R. de Jong** (Pediatric Surgeon) & **Janine van Leeuwen** (Nurse Practitioner)  
 (Amsterdam UMC, Amsterdam, The Netherlands)  
 Title: *Bowel irrigation via Chait trapdoor - a surgical intervention*
- 14:05-14:30 **Keynote Speaker 18**  
**Prof. Dr. R.J.M. Nijman** (Urologist, Groningen UMC, Groningen, The Netherlands)  
 Title: *European guidelines for bladder management in spinal dysraphism*
- 14:30-14:40 **Abstract Presentation #16**  
**Jenny Sacree** (Sidra Medicine, Doha, Qatar)  
 Title: *Embedding longitudinal clinical intelligence: Development of a spina bifida registry and registry-driven urological pathway standardisation*
- 14:40-14:50 **Abstract Presentation #17**  
**Femke Bannink Mbazzi** (MRC/UVRI & LSHTM Uganda Research Unit, Entebbe, Uganda)  
 Title: *Clean intermittent catheterization among children with spina bifida and their caregivers in Uganda: a mixed method study*
- 14:50-15:00 **Abstract Presentation #18**  
**Pierre Mertens** (Child-Help International, Antwerp, Belgium)  
 Title: *A peer-driven, low-cost neurogenic bladder care model for low income settings*
- 15:00-15:10 **Abstract Presentation #19**  
**Annick Viaene** (University Hospital Ghent, Ghent, Belgium)  
 Title: *The impact of fecal and urological (in)continence on activities, participation, and quality of life in patients with spina bifida*

15:10-15:30 ☕ Break

## Session 8: Rehabilitation and Orthopedics

*Use of gait analysis in spina bifida, scoliosis, sports with physical disabilities, and evaluation of quality of life in spina bifida.*

- 15:30-16:00 **Keynote Speaker 19**  
**Dr. Eveline Boeker** (Rehabilitation Physician), **Susan de Koning** (Movement Scientist) & **Eefje Muselars** (Paediatric Physical Therapist) (Amsterdam UMC, Amsterdam, The Netherlands)  
Title: *Evaluation of multilevel orthopaedic management in spina bifida*
- 16:00-16:25 **Keynote Speaker 20**  
**Dr. A. Stadhouders** (Orthopaedic surgeon), **Marieke Hijma** (Occupational therapist) (Amsterdam UMC, Amsterdam, The Netherlands)  
Title: *Sitting and scoliosis management in spina bifida*
- 16:25-16:50 **Keynote Speaker 21**  
**Eefje Muselaers** (Paediatric physical therapist), **Eveline Boeker** (Rehabilitation physician) (Amsterdam UMC, Amsterdam, The Netherlands)  
Title: *Enhancing participation in regular sport clubs for children with a physical disability - a qualitative study*
- 16:50-17:10 **Keynote Speaker 22**  
**Dr. H. Vreugdenhil** (Psychologist) and **Miss J. Boekhoff** (Social Worker) (Amsterdam UMC, Amsterdam, The Netherlands)  
Title: *Evaluation of QOL in children with spina bifida and family centred care*
- 17:10-17:30 **Keynote Speaker 23**  
**Dr. M. Alsem** (Rehabilitation Physician, WKZ Utrecht, Utrecht, The Netherlands)  
Title: *Interprofessional care in spina bifida*
- 17:30-17:40 **Abstract Presentation #20**  
**Bronwyn Warner** (Shine Charity, Peterborough, UK)  
Title: *Evaluating a Transcutaneous Spinal Stimulation (tSCS) service using the NISE-Stim protocol in paediatric spina bifida physiotherapy*
- 17:40-17:50 **Abstract Presentation #1**  
**Santiago Vallasciani** (Sidra Medicine, Doha, Qatar)  
Title: *Neonatal clean intermittent catheterisation in spina bifida: proactive or reactive?*
- 17:50-18:00 **Abstract Presentation #22**  
**Jesper Vinken** (Erasmus UMC, Rotterdam, The Netherlands)  
Title: *How effective is bipolar fixation for scoliosis in children with spina bifida? A case series*
- 18:00-18:10 **Abstract Presentation #23**  
**Hossein Razaghi** (Erasmus UMC, Rotterdam, The Netherlands)  
Title: *Primary or reconstructive closure following myelomeningocele repair: a multicentre retrospective cohort study comparing neurosurgical and plastic surgery practice*
- 18:10-18:30 **Short break before SRHSB Society Dinner**
- 18:30-21:30 **SRHSB Society Networking Dinner - Amsterdam UMC**

## Friday, 18 September

### Session 9: Paediatrics

*From bone fragility to breakthrough bacteriophage therapy for urinary tract infections, this session explores innovative, multidisciplinary strategies to tackle key complications in spina bifida care.*

- 08:30-08:50**     **Keynote Speaker 24**  
**Dr. M.W. Bijlsma** (Paediatrician, Amsterdam UMC, Amsterdam, The Netherlands)  
Title: *Bone fragility and osteoporosis fractures in spina bifida*
- 08:50-09:15**     **Keynote Speaker 25**  
**Dr H. Herrema** (Amsterdam UMC, Amsterdam, The Netherlands)  
Title: *Bacteriophage treatment in urinary tract infections: Evidence and emerging applications*
- 09:15-09:25**     **Abstract Presentation #24**  
**Madison Phipps** (Children's Health Ireland at Temple Street, Dublin, Ireland)  
Title: *Improving vitamin D monitoring in spina bifida through opportunistic testing: A quality improvement project*
- 09:25-09:35**     **Abstract Presentation #25**  
**Arend Bokenkamp** (Emma Children's Hospital AUMC, Amsterdam, The Netherlands)  
Title: *Comparison of creatinine and cystatin C-based estimated GFR with respect to severity of spina bifida*
- 09:35-09:45**     **Abstract Presentation #26**  
**Jenny Smith-Wymant** (Shine Charity, Peterborough, UK)  
Title: *Spina bifida mortality trends in England and Wales from 2001-2023*
- 09:45-09:55**     **Abstract Presentation #27**  
**Khalil St Brice** (University of West Indies, Trinidad)  
Title: *Myelomeningocele management in a low-resource Caribbean setting: A single-institution experience from Trinidad*
- 09:55-10:15**     ● Break

### Session 10: Hydrocephalus 2

*Scientific update in hydrocephalus: VP shunt vs. third ventriculostomy – evaluating different approaches.*

- 10:15-10:45**     **Keynote Speaker 26**  
**Dr. S. Roosendaal** (Neuroradiologist, Amsterdam UMC, Amsterdam, The Netherlands)  
Title: *Imaging of hydrocephalus*
- 10:45-11:15**     **Keynote Speaker 27**  
**Dr. K.M. Slot** (Neurosurgeon, Amsterdam UMC, Amsterdam, The Netherlands)  
Title: *Ventriculoperitoneal shunting versus endoscopic third ventriculostomy*
- 11:15-11:45**     **Keynote Speaker 28**  
**Dr. D. Buis** (Neurosurgeon, Amsterdam UMC, Amsterdam, The Netherlands)  
Title: *Hydrocephalus management in infants*
- 11:45-11:55**     **Abstract Presentation #28**  
**Benjamin Hewitt** (University of Birmingham, Birmingham, UK)  
Title: *Convergent transcriptomic and proteomic signatures define injury pathways in neonatal intraventricular haemorrhage*
- 11:55-12:05**     **Abstract Presentation #29**  
**Molly Perham** (Bristol Royal Hospital for Children, Bristol, UK)  
Title: *Mind the Gap: Strengthening transitional care for young people with hydrocephalus in the UK: Overview of a pilot transition event in South West England*

- 12:05-12:15**     **Abstract Presentation #30**  
**Ram Guru Dev Palaparathi** (Guntur Medical College and Government General Hospital, Guntur, India)  
Title: *Congenital obstructive hydrocephalus secondary to fourth ventricle neuroepithelial cyst: a rare aetiology managed with marsupialization of the cyst*
- 12:15-12:25**     **Abstract Presentation #31**  
**Pat McAllister** (Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, USA)  
Title: *Single-cell profiling of neurodevelopmental and neuroinflammatory dysregulation in experimental hydrocephalus*
- 12:25-12:35**     **Abstract Presentation #32**  
**Maria Garcia Bonilla** (Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, USA)  
Title: *ADAM10-dependent disruption of N-cadherin and ventricular zone in post-hemorrhagic hydrocephalus*
- 12:35-12:55**     **Keynote Speaker 29**  
**Dr. Monica Chau** (Chief Scientific Officer, Hydrocephalus Association, USA)  
Title: *The patient-led research priorities in hydrocephalus*
- 12:55-13:05**     **Abstract Presentation #33**  
**Ryan Juncker** (Ohio State University, Columbus, USA)  
Title: *Glycoprotein Non-Metastatic Melanoma Protein B (GPNMB) as an immune modulator in post-hemorrhagic hydrocephalus*
- 13:05-13:15**     **Abstract Presentation #34**  
**Sebastian Pernal** (Wayne State University, Detroit, USA)  
Title: *Sphingosine-1-phosphate is heterogeneous and is not independently predictive of shunt revision burden in patients with posthemorrhagic hydrocephalus*
- 13:15-13:25**     **Abstract Presentation #35**  
**Henrik von Ahn** (Umeå University, Umeå, Sweden)  
Title: *The impact of spinal flow restriction on craniospinal compliance in normal pressure hydrocephalus*
- 13:25-13:35**     **Abstract Presentation #36**  
**Jonathan Pindrik** (NCH, Ohio State University, Columbus, USA)  
Title: *Post-Shunting Acquired Craniosynostosis (PSAC) following Cerebrospinal Fluid (CSF) Shunt insertion for treatment of hydrocephalus: Systematic literature review and meta-analysis*
- 13:35-13:45**     **Abstract Presentation #37**  
**Frank Kaphesi** (Kamuzu University of Health Sciences, Malawi)  
Title: *Comparison of motor development in children with hydrocephalus after treatment with third endoscopic ventriculostomy and ventriculoperitoneal shunt: A cross-sectional study*
- 13:45-14:00**     **Closing Remarks**  
**Dr. R. Verbeek** (Pediatric Neurologist, Amsterdam UMC, Amsterdam, The Netherlands)
-  Closing meeting refreshments