

SRHSB Annual Conference 2026 - Amsterdam, September 16-18



Programme

Wednesday, 16 September: Costerzaal & Fonteynzaal

- 08:00-09:00** ☕ Registration & coffee. Location: Costerzaal & Fonteynzaal
- 09:00-09:05** Conference Welcome
Dr K.M Slot (Head of Neurosurgery Department, Amsterdam UMC)
- 09:05-09:15** Conference Opening
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.

Moderators: Ian Pople & Will Singleton

- 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. Location: Vrijzaal

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.

Moderators: Ian Pople & Will Singleton

- 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. Location: The Box

Session 3: Fetal surgery in spina bifida

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

Moderators: Jan Deprest & Philip DeKoninck

- 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. Location: Vrijzaal

Session 4: Transition

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

Moderators: Lindsey Reid & Hestien Vreugdenhil

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 Steele** (SHINE, UK), **Corina Mos** (SBH Nederland), **Sjoerd van den Berg** (Expert by experience), **Dr. Will Singleton** (Consultant Pediatric Neurosurgeon at Bristol Royal Hospital for Children and the University of Bristol, UK), **Kim Rehatta** (Expert by experience)
Discussion: *'Bridging the gap'*

17:45-17:55 **Abstract Presentation #9**
Max Been (Expert by Experience) and **Neeltje Verrijt** (Expert by Experience)
Title: *Youth-led implementation of transition tools in spina bifida care: bridging the gap between policy and practice*

17:55-19:00 End of day reception. Location: Vrijzaal

18:10-18:40 SRHSB Annual General Meeting (*SRHSB Members Only*). Location: Costerzaal

Thursday, 17 September: Lecture Hall 4

08:00-08:30 ☕ Registration & coffee. Location: Costerzaal & Fonteynzaal

Session 5: Tethered Cord Syndrome

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

Moderators: Jochem Spoor & Renate Verbeek

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**
Dr P. van Schie (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: *Lipomeningocele*

- 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. Location: Costerzaal & Fonteynzaal & Vrijzaal

Session 6: Hydrocephalus 1

Moderators: Pat McAllister & Chris Roberts

- 10:25-10:45 **Keynote Speaker 13 (online)**
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 (online) Waite Bursary 2025 Award**
Anissa Valverde (Wayne State University, Detroit, USA)
Title: Comparative Analysis of Flow Resistance in New versus Explant 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. Location: Costerzaal & Fonteynzaal & Vrijzaal

Session 7: Urology in Spina Bifida

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

Moderators: Olga Aguedas Flores & Luitzen Groen

- 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 Dr Richard Morgan Prize 2026 (awarded by Shine)**
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
- 15:10-15:20** **Abstract Presentation #20**
Santiago Vallasciani (Sidra Medicine, Doha, Qatar)
Title: Neonatal clean intermittent catheterisation in spina bifida: proactive or reactive?
- 15:10-15:30** ☉ Break. Location: Costerzaal & Fonteynzaal & Vrijzaal

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.

Moderators: Sarah Dekker & Femke Stoelinga

- 15:40-16:20** **Keynote Speaker 19**
Dr. Eveline Boeker (Rehabilitation Physician), **Eefje Muselaers** (Paediatric Physical Therapist), **Melinda Witbreuk** (Orthopaedic Surgeon) (Amsterdam UMC, Amsterdam, The Netherlands)
Title: Evaluation of multilevel orthopaedic management in spina bifida
- 16:20-16:45** **Keynote Speaker 20**
Dr. A. Stadhouder (Orthopaedic surgeon), **Marieke Hijma** (Occupational therapist) (Amsterdam UMC, Amsterdam, The Netherlands)
Title: Operative and conservative challenges in spinal deformities in spina bifida patients
- 16:45-17:00** **Keynote Speaker 21**
Eefje Muselaers (Pediatric 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

- 17:00-17:20** **Keynote Speaker 22**
Dr. H. Vreugdenhil (Psychologist), **Jacqueline Boekhoff** (Social Worker), **Brenda Plantijn** (Social Worker) (Amsterdam UMC, Amsterdam, The Netherlands)
Title: QOL and psychosocial care for children with spina bifida and their family
- 17:20-17:40** **Keynote Speaker 23**
Dr. M. Alsem (Rehabilitation Physician, WKZ Utrecht, Utrecht, The Netherlands), **Femke van den Helder** (Physician Assistant General Pediatrics WKZ Utrecht, Utrecht, The Netherlands)
Title: Interprofessional care in spina bifida
- 17:40-17:50** **Abstract Presentation #21**
Bronwyn Warner (Shine Charity, Peterborough, UK)
Title: Evaluating a Transcutaneous Spinal Stimulation (tSCS) service using the NISE-Stim protocol in paediatric spina bifida physiotherapy
- 17:50-18:00** **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**
- 18:30-21:15** **SRHSB Society Networking Dinner - Amsterdam UMC.** Location: The Box

Friday, 18 September: Costerzaal & Fonteynzaal

- 08:00-08:30**  Registration & coffee. Location: Costerzaal & Fonteynzaal

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.

Moderators: Merijn Bijlsma & Arend Bökenkamp

- 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**
Yuval Mulla (Assistant Professor, Faculty of Science, Molecular Microbiology Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU), The Netherlands)
Title: Bacteriophage treatment in urinary tract infections: Evidence and emerging applications
- 09:15-09:25** **Abstract Presentation #24 (online)**
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 Bökenkamp (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 (online)**
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. Location: Vrijzaal

Session 10: Hydrocephalus 2

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

Moderators: Hannah Botfield & Patricia Pérez-González

- 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**
Dr. Will Singleton (Consultant Pediatric Neurosurgeon at Bristol Royal Hospital for Children and the University of Bristol, UK) **on behalf of 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 (online)**
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 (online)**
Dr. Monica Chau (Chief Scientific Officer, Hydrocephalus Association, USA)
 Title: *The patient-led research priorities in hydrocephalus*
- 12:55-13:10 🍽 Short lunch break (packed lunch). Location: Vrijzaal

- 13:10-13:20** **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
- 13:20-13:30** **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
- 13:30-13:40** **Abstract Presentation #35**
Henrik von Ahn (Umeå University, Umeå, Sweden)
Title: The impact of spinal flow restriction on craniospinal compliance in normal pressure hydrocephalus
- 13:40-13:50** **Abstract Presentation #36**
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
- 13:50-14:00** **Closing Remarks**
Dr. R. Verbeek (Pediatric Neurologist, Amsterdam UMC, Amsterdam, The Netherlands)