

# 6th Dutch Experimental Gastroenterology and Hepatology (DEGH) meeting

March 21 & 22, 2013 in Veldhoven

**Organised by:** The Section Experimental Gastroenterology of the Dutch Society of Gastroenterology & The Section Basic Hepatology of the Dutch Association for the Study of the Liver

## Scientific Program

1. 30 selected abstracts for oral presentation. New this year is that sessions will be introduced by clinicians explaining the pathophysiology of liver and gastrointestinal diseases.
2. Poster sessions
3. Awards for best Gastroenterology and Hepatology lectures and posters
4. Keynote speakers:



**Arthur Kaser** is a full professor of Gastroenterology at the University of Cambridge, UK. The lab of Professor Kaser focuses on mucosal immunology and has special interest in inflammatory bowel disease. They study the biology of the intestinal epithelium; in particular the epithelial endoplasmatic reticulum (ER) stress response and how genetically or environmentally imposed unresolved ER stress within the epithelium can lead to inflammatory bowel disease.



**Meritxell Huch** is a senior postdoctoral researcher at the Hubrecht Institute for Developmental Biology and Stem Cell Research in Utrecht, the Netherlands. After obtaining her PhD degree in Gene Therapy and pancreatic cancer in Barcelona, she moved the laboratory of Professor Hans Clevers and redirected the focus of her research into Adult Stem Cell Biology. In the first stage of her research, she isolated, for the first time, the stem cells responsible for the rapid turnover of the adult stomach and she showed that these adult stomach stem cells can be maintained and expanded in culture, forming "mini-stomachs" in vitro. More recently, she has been studying the role and replicative potential of liver progenitors during liver regeneration. She found that liver progenitors can be unlimitedly expanded in vitro and are a source of liver tissue for future cell therapy interventions for liver diseases.



**Tom Hemming Karlsen** is a professor of Gastroenterology in the Oslo University Hospital, Norway. He is a leader of the Norwegian Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis Research Center and coordinator of the International PSC Study Group. His research focuses on the causes of PSC, primarily through large-scale genetic studies that revealed a surprising large overlap of PSC genes with various autoimmune diseases. The primary bile duct injury in PSC is likely to be "autoimmune", but infectious and toxic (i.e. bile) factors may also play a role. His research is now focused on further delineation of the genetic basis of PSC by increasing depth and study sizes with new technologies and extended international collaborations. He studies genetic risk factors in model systems and biobanked patient material (basic translation of genetics) and uses genetic and proteomic methods to identify biomarkers for disease activity and early diagnosis of PSC (clinical translation of genetics), and further investigates of molecular biomarkers in early diagnosis of biliary tract cancer.



**Michel Neunlist** is Professor at the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research (INSERM) in Nantes, France. After obtaining his PhD-degree at the Louis Pasteur University in Strasbourg, France, he did a post-doctoral fellowship in Neurogastroenterology at the School of Veterinary Medicine in Hannover, Germany. Since 2008, he is heading the Research Unit 'Enteric nervous system neuropathies and digestive pathologies' within the Institute of Digestive Diseases at INSERM. His unit studies the role of enteric neurons and enteric glial cells in GI functions, such as the intestinal epithelial barrier, cell proliferation and inflammatory processes. In parallel, his group develops new endoscopic based approaches to image and study the enteric nervous system; in health and diseases. Finally, his unit develops therapeutic approaches aimed at targeting the ENS using nutritional based methods or neurostimulation of the ENS. Their approach is translational, including in vitro co-culture models, animal models as well as mechanistic studies in humans.

Registration: [www.nvge.nl](http://www.nvge.nl)



sectie experimentele gastroenterologie



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