

**3rd Annual meeting of the
Namur Research Pole in Infectiology (NaRePI)
University of Namur
Wednesday December 18, 2019**

Great time for sharing expertise and exchanging ideas at NaRePI 2019!

For the third year running, the Namur Research Pole in Infectiology (NaRePI) organised a scientific meeting dedicated to cutting-edge research within the field of infectious diseases. The meeting was held on December 18 at the UNamur and attracted ~70 researchers working in a variety of disciplines, such as molecular bacteriology and virology, animal infectiology, cellular biology, medicinal chemistry and spatial epidemiology. It was thus a fruitful day allowing for real sharing of expertise and exchanges of ideas. Besides the scientists from the UNamur, many researchers from other Belgian institutions (ULB, UCLouvain, UMONS, ULiège, KU Leuven, VUB, Sciensano...) were also present in the audience.

Conference overview

This third edition has offered once again a rich and diverse program, including five keynote talks given by renowned experts. **Prof. Jan Michiels** (KU Leuven) delivered a remarkable presentation on the mechanisms of persistence in *E. Coli* and the evolution of antibiotic resistance. **Dr. Olivier Espeli** (Collège de France, Paris) gave a fascinating talk on how a Crohn's disease-associated *E. coli* strain is able to survive, multiply and tolerate antibiotics within macrophages. **Dr. Michaël Herfs** (ULiège) presented his original research on the association between HPV infection and bacterial vaginosis. **Prof. Leen Delang** (KU Leuven) highlighted the risk of spread of antiviral drug-resistant arboviruses by its mosquito vectors and underlined that development of antivirals with a high barrier to resistance should be a priority for antiarbovirus therapy. Finally, **Prof. Marius Gilbert** (ULB) illustrated the rationale of One Health approaches to prevent and control emerging zoonoses and discussed the social, ecological and epidemiological drivers that lead to the emergence of avian influenza epidemics.

In addition, many young researchers also actively contributed to the event, with five short talks, 12 poster flash talks and a dynamic poster session.

The **Belgian ISME ambassador, Dr. Charles Van der Henst** (UNamur – VUB), gave a short talk about "*Heterogeneity of capsule production and virulence in multidrug-resistant Acinetobacter baumannii bacteria*".

Aurore Demars (PhD student at UNamur) was awarded the **Best Short Talk Award** for her communication entitled "*Characterization of a new potential effector playing a role in the early control of Brucella infection in mice*". The **Best Poster** prize was assigned to "*Biosynthetic adaptations and morphological alterations of Brucella abortus inside host cells*" presented Agnès Roba (PhD student at UNamur).

***ISME Ambassadors funding
(Belgian ISME ambassador, Dr. Charles Van der Henst)***

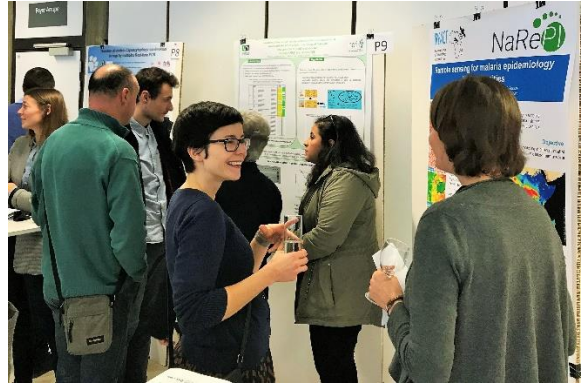
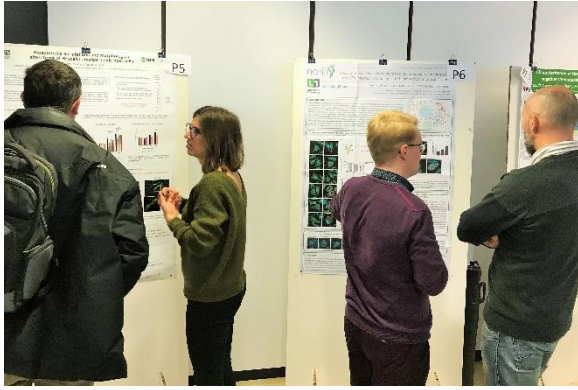


Thanks to the ISME Ambassador program, the 3rd annual meeting of NaRePI received a financial support of 1.000 EUR. This amount allowed to cover the expenses for the awards and the hospitality costs. The support offered by ISME to the NaRePI meeting was highlighted on the dedicated webpage, the invitations, the program books distributed to the attendees and the welcome slide projected at the beginning of the conference. ISME support was also acknowledged during the meeting introduction given by Prof. Xavier De Bolle (UNamur).



*Keynote speakers at NaRePI 2019 meeting
From left to right : Prof. Leen Delang (KU Leuven), Dr. Olivier Espéli (Collège de France), Dr. Michaël Herfs (ULiège) and Prof. Marius Gilbert (ULB)*





*Agnès Roba (UNamur), winner of Best Poster Award and
Aurore Demars (UNamur), winner of Best Short Talk Award*