



pre-symposium

TOWARDS NEW STANDARDS IN RECTAL CANCER TREATMENT

CUTTING EDGE DATA AND CONCEPTS IN RECTAL CANCER

Thu 20 Oct '22 — Fri 21 Oct '22

BMCC Bruges

Invitation TNS Symposium 2022

A WORD FROM THE UZ LEUVEN MULTIDISCIPLINARY COLORECTAL CANCER GROUP

Dear colleague,

We kindly invite all involved in the care of rectal cancer patients to our Towards New Standards Symposium. After a 'COVID' break we are back with our congress on advances in rectal cancer. In the meantime our knowledge has been growing and our ideas have been maturing. This symposium is therefore timely as new paradigms need to be implemented in our clinical practice.

The program will address all subjects that will fuel your further MDT's at home.

Note the brand new venue in Bruges (BMCC) and an impressive line-up of international experts.

It is clear that MRI not only plays a pivotal role in the staging of rectal cancer but certainly also in response assessment to neoadjuvant therapy. This response not only yields prognostic information but could alter the further therapy ranging from a non-operative strategy with a wait and see approach to radical surgery.

Neoadjuvant therapy has evolved over time and there is increasing interest in total neoadjuvant treatment. Understanding differences in duration, timing of RT and the interval to surgery is key, as well as the chemotherapy regimens and strategies.

There is more and more evidence to support a watch and wait strategy, and the guidelines on how to follow those patients, have changed. This approach can be pursued intentionally in early rectal cancer but could be an occasional/accidental strategy in advanced rectal cancer. Early detection of regrowth and timely radical surgery should be integrated.

There is increasing interest in molecular subclassifications of colorectal cancer and the success of immunotherapy in a subset of patients highlights its relevance. The minimally invasive surgical approach is also changing with some words of caution for the trans-anal approach and the increasing interest for the robotic platform.

This symposium will highlight all those aspects and will allow for a multidisciplinary interactive discussion. We have also added pre-symposium workshops, type of masterclass, for surgeons, GI Oncologists and radiation oncologists on the afternoon before our main symposium.

The Leuven multidisciplinary colorectal cancer group looks forward to meeting you all!