systems medicine disease maps

9th Disease Maps
Community Meeting

15-17 April 2025
Leuven, Belgium

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The Disease Maps Project is an open community effort to comprehensively represent disease mechanisms for various diseases.

What is a disease map?

A systems medicine disease map is a high-quality expert community-driven representation of disease mechanisms, a conceptual model of a disease. The detailed layer consists of interconnected signalling, metabolic, and gene regulatory pathways stored in standard formats such as SBGN, SBML, and BioPAX. The involvement of domain experts (clinicians and biologists) ensures that all the disease hallmarks are covered and relevant knowledge is adequately represented.

What are the disease maps for?

In translational medicine projects, disease maps are used for advanced 'omics data interpretation and hypothesis generation as the basis for mathematical models, for predictive analysis, and for building clinical decision support systems. The maps can be used for educational purposes as teaching aids.

The community:

The Disease Maps Project is designed as a large-scale community effort. It is a network of groups that work together in order to better understand disease mechanisms. We exchange best practices, share information, and develop tools to make it easier for all the involved groups to achieve their goals.

History of the community and meetings

2025 - Leuven, Belgium
2024 - Belval, Luxembourg
2023 - Maastricht, the Netherlands
2021 - online
2020 - online
2019 - Sevilla, Spain
2018 - Paris, France
2017, Oct - Belval, Luxembourg
2017, Feb - Lyon, France

9ᵗʰ Disease Maps
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The 2025 edition of the Disease Maps Community Meeting is set to take place in Leuven, Belgium. This annual gathering brings together the researchers, clinicians, and domain experts involved in mapping and modelling disease mechanisms. The meeting provides a forum for exchanging best practices, sharing information, and developing tools to advance the use of systems medicine in translational medicine projects and decision making support. Building on the success of previous editions in locations like Belval, Maastricht, Sevilla, and Paris, the 2025 meeting in Leuven is expected to attract a diverse group of participants dedicated to furthering the understanding and application of disease maps in research and healthcare.

Organization team

Liesbet Geris - KU Leuven and University of Liège, BE
Luiz Ladeira - University of Liège, BE
Bernard Staumont - University of Liège, BE
Marek Ostaszewski - University of Luxembourg, LU
Ahmed Hemedan - University of Luxembourg, LU
Marcio Luis Acencio - University of Luxembourg, LU
Alexander Mazein - University of Luxembourg, LU
Anna Niarakis - University of Toulouse, FR
Laurence Calzone - Institut Curie, FR
Emmanuel Barillot - Institut Curie, FR
Martina Summer-Kutmon - University of Maastricht, NL

Venue

KULeuven - Katholieke Universiteit Leuven
Ghb - Onderwijs en Navorsing 2
ON2 Herestraat 49
3000 Leuven - Belgium
Building number: 402-18

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Sponsorship packages

	500€	1000€	1500€
Logo on the website and on digital and printed media from DMCM2025, byteMAL* and HARMONY*	X	X	X
Inclusion of company's promotional materials in the meetings kit	X	X	X
Banner display during the DMCM2025, byteMAL* and HARMONY*		X	X
10-min presentation by the company during the short talk sessions of the DMCM2025		X	X
Member of the industry roundtable at the DMCM2025			X
Attendee's contact information (upon permission)			X

* Sister meeting. See more on the next page. ** Printed graphical material and banners should be provided by the company.

Registration

Registrations to the DMCM2025 are free of charge but mandatory. You can check out how to register at our webpage: https://disease-maps.io/DMCM2025/

Industry roundtable

On Wednesday, April 16, we will hold an industry stakeholders roundtable to discuss how disease maps are being used by our partners on therapy discovery and development and how to move forward to improve the partnership with private companies. Signing up for a 2000€ sponsorship, you secure a place to represent your organization at our roundtable besides all the other benefits.

Poster sessions

The DMCM2025 will count with poster presentations during breaks and a dedicated session at the end of day 1 on Tuesday, April 15. This is a great opportunity for networking and getting up-to-date with the latest developments in the community.

9ᵗʰ Disease Maps
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Sister meetings

By sponsoring the DMCM2025 you will also be sponsoring the two sister meetings happening in the same week in the same venue.

- ByteMAL'25

14th of April (Monday).

ByteMAL is a conference created by and for early-career researchers in the fields of bioinformatics and systems biomedicine and aims to provide a networking platform for knowledge and expertise exchange across borders. Aiming to vitalize communication amongst researchers from the Netherlands, Belgium, and Germany, ByteMAL has been hosted alternately by the Universities of Maastricht, Aachen, and Liege and for the first time it comes to Leuven! More information on the 2024 edition website: https://bytemal.github.io/bytemal-2024/

- HARMONY (COMBINE)

15th -18th of April (Tuesday to Friday).

HARMONY is a codefest-type meeting with a focus on the development of the standards, interoperability, and infrastructure. There are generally not many general discussions or oral presentations during HARMONY; instead, the time is devoted to allowing hands-on hacking and interaction between people focused on practical development of software and standards. https://co.mbine.org/author/harmony-2024/

9th Disease Maps
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Preliminary program

- 4 keynote presentations
- 2 technical presentations
- 10 abstract oral presentations
- 1 poster lightening session with multiple posters
- 1 stakeholders assessment presentation

- 1 stakeholders roundtable
- 1 industry roundtable
- Break-out sessions
- Meeting dinner, coffee breaks, lunches and many network opportunities

This preliminary program is subject to modifications without further notice.

Time	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
	Tuesday - April 15	Wednesday - April 16	Thursday - April 17
08:00	Registration & Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
08:15			
08:30		Keynote 3	Introduction to breakout sessions
08:45			
09:00	Opening talk		Parallel breakout and tutorial sessions
09:15			
09:30	Keynote 1	Technical presentation 2	
09:45			
10:00		Presentation 6	
10:15			
10:30	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break
10:45			
11:00	Presentation 1	Presentation 7	Parallel breakout and tutorial sessions
11:15			
11:30	Presentation 2	Presentation 8	
11:45			
12:00	Presentation 3	Presentation 9	Summary session
12:15			
12:30	Posters & Lunch break	Posters & Lunch break	Lunch and farewell
…			
13:45			
14:00	Keynote 2	Keynote 4	Private meetings
14:15			
14:30			
14:45			
15:00	Presentation 4	Presentation 10	
15:15			
15:30	Presentation 5	Industry roundtable	
15:45			
16:00	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	
16:15			
16:30	Technical presentation 1	Presentation - stakeholders assessment	
16:45			
17:00	Poster lightning talks	Stakeholders roundtable	
17:15			
17:30	Posters and drinks		
17:45			
18:00		Official photo & go to dinner	
18:15			
18:30			
18:45			
19:00		Dinner	

9ᵗʰ **Disease Maps**
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Social activities

This is an essential part of the conference, taking place on Tuesday afternoon, where attendees can choose to participate in one of the sports or recreational activities. These include extreme, moderate, or leisurely activities such as tours of historical monuments and cultural experiences.

Conference dinner

This will occur after the final session of the day on Wednesday, April 16 in the evening. By providing attendees with a typical Belgian menu, the meeting dinner seeks to promote both social contact and an appreciation of regional food. It encourages relationships, productive dialogues, and an atmosphere of integration.

Contacts

For general information, please subscribe to our community mailing list at

https://groups.google.com/g/disease-maps-discuss.

For specific information about the meeting, please contact Dr. Luiz Ladeira at lcladeira@uliege.be and Dr. Bernard Staumont at b.staumont@uliege.be.