



PROFESSOR SARAH-MARIA FENDT

**OF THE KULEUVEN RECEIVES
THE GRANT FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH 2020
FOR HER RESEARCH ON THE FORMATION
OF CANCER METASTASES**

In order to stimulate medical research in Belgium, the Baillet Latour Fund awards an annual grant to a young laboratory director to financially support his or her research project in a Belgian university or university hospital. This year, the grant is awarded to Professor Sarah-Maria Fendt (KULeuven) for her research on the understanding of metastasis formation and its treatment as a metabolic disease.

■ A GRANT TO STIMULATE MEDICAL RESEARCH IN BELGIUM: € 750,000.

As every year, the Baillet Latour Fund awards its 'grant for medical research'. This grant supports the research project of a young laboratory director in a Belgian university or university hospital on the same theme as the International Baillet Latour Health Prize. The jury of this International Health Prize chooses the beneficiary of the grant. For three years, an annual amount of € 150,000 is allocated to the laboratory, with a possible extension of two years.

The grant for medical research 2020 was awarded to a researcher working in the field of metabolic disorders. The theme for next year is «infectious diseases».

■ PROFESSOR SARAH-MARIA FENDT, WINNER OF THE BAILLET LATOUR GRANT FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH 2020

Sarah-Maria Fendt is Associate Professor in the Department of Oncology at KU Leuven and senior researcher at the Cancer Biology Centre of the Flemish Institute of Biotechnology (VIB). She studied biochemistry at the University of Munich, Germany, before completing her PhD in molecular systems biology at the ETH Zurich, Switzerland. Subsequently, she did postdoctoral research on cancer metabolism at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the United States.

In 2013, she moved to Belgium to set up her own independent laboratory focusing on metastasis metabolism. Sarah and her team's research has contributed to a fundamental shift in our understanding of metastasis formation. They discovered that metastatic cancer cells need specific small molecules called metabolites and that inhibiting the use of these metabolites can prevent metastasis. The Baillet Latour grant will allow Sarah and her team to extend their research to metabolites that are particularly present in food, to study in particular how fats and other nutrients promote metastasis formation and to develop new therapeutic strategies against metastasis formation based on the results of this research.

The work of Sarah and her team has already been published in prestigious journals such as Nature. Sarah has received numerous awards, including the Conquer Cancer Now Award and a grant from the European Union's ERC Consolidator Grant programme. She is also internationally recognised as an expert in cancer metabolism and metastasis, is a regular guest speaker at conferences and has organised several meetings on this topic.

THE JURY OF THE BAILLET LATOUR GRANT FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH 2020

Prof. Pascal Ferré - Centre de Recherches des Cordeliers- Sorbonne Université

Prof. Ellen E. Blaak - Chair Department of Human Biology - Maastricht University Medical Centre

Prof. Fiona M. Gribble - Cambridge Institute of Metabolic Science - University of Cambridge

Prof. Gökhan S. Hotamisligil - Director, Sabri Ülker Center for Metabolic Research - Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health.

Prof. Bart Staels - Director, UMR 1011 Inserm - University of Lille - EGID, CHU Lille.

Prof. Ron A. Wevers - Emeritus Professor in Clinical Chemistry - Radboud University Medical Centre - Nijmegen.

Prof. Juleen Zierath - Department of Physiology and Pharmacology - Karolinska Institutet Biomedicum - Stockholm.

■ FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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