

## About the Conference

The Antwerp Conference (EUCMTSC) was a common project of the European CMT Federation (ECMTF), the University of Antwerp as the host, and the European CMT Research Association (ECRA). More than 130 CMT Specialists, patient advocates and industry representatives met to boost CMT research in Europe.

### Patients as Partners

We chose an innovative concept for the Conference: partnership and cooperation on equal terms between patients and health professionals - from scientists and clinicians to local physicians and other therapists or caregivers.

### Objectives

The thematic objective is to identify shared, system-level roadblocks and opportunities to improve clinical care and accelerate biomedical research for rare inherited neuromuscular diseases (iNMDs) within the EU-health space. CMT is used as an archetypical model for new initiatives within the iNMD space. Concrete deliverables are presented as an outcome of the event. The implementation of its decisions is entrusted to ECRA.

## Our Deliverables

- Model multistakeholder joint project
- Digital care strategy for CMT
- Data sharing framework Outline
- AI in CMT
- Medical Training Program – recommendations
- Outcome measures for CMT (overview)
- Standardization of clinical outcome assessments for CMT
- Towards a Cure of CMT
- Towards Rehabilitation Guidance
- Cooperative R&D for CMT - Patients as Partners

(all available at the ECRA Website)



EUCMTSC - 2025

## The 2nd European CMT Specialists Conference

23-25 October 2025,  
Antwerp

## Program

- Opening Session (with a video-message of Olivér Várhelyi, the EU Commissioner for Health & Animal Welfare)
- Basic sciences and the many faces of CMT
- Methods: diagnostics / genetics of CMT neuropathies
- Therapeutic approaches on CMT neuropathies
- Fishbowl "idea workshops" joint projects and initiatives
- Clinical trials, data sharing and outcome measurement
- Round Table "Access to therapy for patients with a rare disease: from studies to approval, reimbursement and optimal use"
- Open session: Physiotherapy / digital care / patients as partners
- Award Ceremony & Concluding Remarks – further work of ECRA

## Members of the new ECRA Board



## Sustainability through ECRA

In 2024 the European CMT Research Association (ECRA) was created - a follow-up of the 1st European Charcot-Marie-Tooth Specialists Conference 2023 in Paris (Paris Conference) with the aim to encourage and facilitate cooperative multi-stakeholder research on CMT and other iNMD.

ECRA not only coordinated the preparation of the Antwerp Conference, but also carries out its decisions in accordance with the objectives set out in the Articles of Association. The priorities are laid down in the first 5-years action program (2026-2029). Regular conferences, workshops and webinars, as well as mentoring and seed funding programs, are the most important tools for action.

Membership is open to scientists, clinicians and other health professionals, to patient advocates and industry partners from Europe and beyond.

## Seven Steps Towards a Cure on CMT

- Awareness rising, education and (online) training programs on CMT for students and physicians
- Mentoring and seed funding programs for iNMD joint multistakeholder research projects
- Establishing an interoperable data-sharing framework giving researchers access to all the health data of CMT patients
- Developing AI-supported methods for CMT diagnosis, therapy and clinical outcome assessment
- Developing standardized outcome assessment methods and criteria for the EMA / FDA approval of new therapies on rare iNMD's
- Mobilizing patients to engage in joint research projects and participate to clinical trials for new drugs and therapies
- Establishing a system of digital care for CMT patients Europe-wide in order to ensure access to specialized treatment



## Further Information

For the pre-conference materials, the documentation from the conference and the post-conference reporting please find important information here:

1. The UAntwerp Conference Website: <https://www.uantwerpen.be/en/conferences/2nd-european-cmt-specialist-conference/> (limited period!)
2. The official website of the European CMT Federation (ECMTF): <https://ecmtf.org/uniting-science-community-the-2nd-cmtsc/>
3. The new website of the European CMT Research Association (ECRA): [www.ecra-np.org](http://www.ecra-np.org).



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