



EQALM symposium 2026

*Where we were, where we are and where we are going to*

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> of October

Leuven (Belgium)



**The EQALM symposium 2026 will be held in Leuven from 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> of October. Note that the symposium will start on a Tuesday and end on a Thursday.**

Leuven, situated about 30km east of Brussels, is a historic city in Belgium. It is famous for its gothic architecture, the home of KU Leuven, one of the oldest universities in Europe, and the home of the world's largest beer brewer.

The symposium will be held in the Provinciehuis (Provincieplein 1, 3010 Leuven), situated at the edge of the city center. The Provinciehuis is at walking distance from the railway station of Leuven and the main proposed hotels.



### **How to get to Leuven?**

The main airport nearby Leuven is Brussels Airport (BRU). To go from the airport (station: Brussels Airport) to Leuven, there are two trains per hour and the train ride takes 13 minutes.

Belgium is also accessible by high speed trains. The main entrance station is Brussel Zuid (Bruxelles-Midi). This station is connected with Leuven by 4 trains per hour and a train ride lasts 27 to 29 minutes.

**Park Inn hotel** (Martelarenlaan 36, Leuven, 3010 Leuven). This is the hotel closest to the symposium venue.

Link to reserve rooms: <https://www.radissonhotels.com/en-us/booking/room-display?hotelCode=BELEU1&checkInDate=2026-10-11&checkOutDate=2026-10-15&adults%5B%5D=1&children%5B%5D=0&aoc%5B%5D=&searchType=pac&promotionCode=EQALM26&voucher=&brands=&brandFirst=>

**Novotel Leuven** (Vuurkruisenlaan 4, 3000 Leuven). This hotel is about 1km from the Provinciehuis.

Promotional code: EQALM 1393977, Book via email: [franky.mottart@novotel-leuven.com](mailto:franky.mottart@novotel-leuven.com)

**Ibis Leuven Centrum** (Brusselsestraat 52, 3000 Leuven). This hotel is in the center of Leuven, at 1.7km from the Provinciehuis.

Promotional code: 2610EQALMS 1394847. Book via email: [h1457-re@accor.com](mailto:h1457-re@accor.com)

## Important deadlines

Deadline for abstract submission and early bird registration is **July 15**.

## Scientific program

The Scientific program is available at [www.eqalm.org](http://www.eqalm.org). This includes:

- presentations on this year's theme
- a COMET project session
- news from the EQALM Working Groups
- the Adam Uldall Award Lecture
- the EQALM Cas Weykamp Award Lecture
- a poster session.

## Registration

The online Registration form is available at [www.eqalm.org](http://www.eqalm.org).

**Working groups:** Please indicate in the registration form which working group meetings you plan to attend on Tuesday, October 13, to help us plan room assignments for each session. Information about the working groups can be found on [www.eqalm.org](http://www.eqalm.org) under the menu *Working Groups*. We encourage participants to take this opportunity to learn more about the working groups and sign up to participate in their activities beyond the symposium.

Deadline for early bird registration is **July 15**.

## Posters

The Poster abstract form is available at [www.eqalm.org](http://www.eqalm.org).

As every year, some abstracts will be selected for oral presentation. Abstracts will be selected for poster or oral presentation on the basis of their scientific content, originality and relevance to the field of EQA.

**Information on how to submit an abstract, selection criteria and instructions for oral presenters and poster format** is available at [www.eqalm.org](http://www.eqalm.org) under the menu *Annual Symposia > Abstract*.

**Information on application and eligibility criteria for The EQALM Cas Weykamp award** is available at [www.eqalm.org](http://www.eqalm.org) under the menu *Annual Symposia > The EQALM Cas Weykamp Award*. The award may be presented to a person or a group of persons who authored a poster abstract that deals with the topic of EQA super challenges in general or describes the results of such an activity. Applicants must submit their poster abstract in connection with the annual EQALM Symposium and, at the same time, send an e-mail to the EQALM office to indicate that they wish to be considered for the Award and confirming that they meet the eligibility requirements.

Deadline for online abstract registration is **July 15**.

## Adam Uldall Lecture

The Adam Uldall Lecture will be held by Dagmar Kessler and Xavier Albe.

## Social event

On the evening of Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, the Congress Dinner will be held in

De Oude Kantien  
Kantineplein 3  
3001 Leuven

Symposium Scientific Programme Committee:

Wim Coucke (Chair Symposium Scientific Programme Committee, Chair WG Frequency, local organizer)

Barbara De la Salle (Chair EQALM Scientific Committee, Chair WG Haematology)

Gitte Henriksen (Chair The ICHCLR-HALMA project)

Istvan Juhos (Chair WG Virtual Microscopy)

Marc Thelen (Chair WG Performance Specifications)

Executive Board:

President: Gro Gidske (NO)

Secretary: Samantha Jones (UK)

Treasurer: Pierre-Alain Morandi (CH)

Chair Scientific Committee: Barbara De la Salle (UK)

Member of the board: Anja Kessler (DE)

Member of the board: Wim Coucke (B)

Local organizer:

Sciensano, Belgium

EQALM Office

c/o CSCQ

Swiss Center for Quality Control

2 chemin du Petit-Bel-Air

CH-1225 Chêne-Bourg

Switzerland

Email: [office@eqalm.org](mailto:office@eqalm.org)

Web page: [www.eqalm.org](http://www.eqalm.org)