1.1. Genetic aspects of CDG

Dr Gert Matthijs

Gert MATTHIJS is head of the Laboratory for Molecular Diagnostics at the Center for Human Genetics in Leuven and Professor at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium. He received his Ph.D. in 1989 from this university and has been involved in the diagnostics of inherited diseases since 1994. His major research interest is in Congenital Disorders of Glycosylation (CDG). He was the coordinator of 2 major European projects: EUROGLYCANET and EUROGENTEST2. The former focusing on the identification of novel defects and the generation of models for CDG, and the latter focusing on the development and standardization of genetic testing.Currently, he is the coordinator of EURO-CDG-2, a European research network dedicated to improving diagnosis and treatment of inborn errors of glycosylation. He was a Board member and chaired the Patenting and Licensing Committee of the European Society of Human Genetics (ESHG), and played an important role in the European opposition against the BRCA patents. He is a member of the Scientific Diagnostic Committee of IRDiRC and an Alternate member of the Commission Expert Group on Rare Diseases.

At the national level, he has been a thriving force for a revision of the reimbursement system for genetic tests. He has coordinated a workgroup on legal, ethical and societal aspects of total genome analysis (Metaforum). Additionnaly, he organized an exposition on cartoons and genetics in the summer of 2014, and published a book about genetics for the public ('Iedereen GENiaal'), that was translated in English in 2016 ('the Human Recipe').