

EAA Andrology Training Centre
Centre Report

2022



ANDROLOGY CENTER GHENT, BELGIUM

DEPTS OF ENDOCRINOLOGY, REPRODUCTIVE MEDICINE AND UROLOGY

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[HTTPS://WWW.UZGENT.BE/PATIENT/ZOEK-EEN-ARTS-OF-DIENST/ANDROLOGISCH-CENTRUM](https://www.uzgent.be/patient/zoekeenarts-of-dienst/andrologisch-centrum)

A Report for the European Academy of Andrology

**by Dr. Ahmed Mahmoud, Prof. Dr. Guy T'Sjoen, Prof. Dr. Karel Everaert, and
Ms. Eline Vereecken**

Updated November 2022



History of Centre

The Center for Andrology, Ghent University Hospital, Belgium, has a long history of innovation and research in many fields of andrology including reproductive medicine, the aging male, bone health, transgender care, variations of sexual development (DSD) care, hormonology, and the effect of the environment on reproductive health.

Many tests to simplify the diagnosis of male infertility have been developed at our andrology laboratory including the MAR test for the detection of antisperm antibodies, the Autosperm system for objective semen analysis, the fertilityScore kit, and Varicoscreen for the thermographic detection of varicocele. The formula of Vermeulen and Kaufman for the calculation of free testosterone has also been generated at our department. Moreover, Frank Comhaire and Ahmed Mahmoud co-edited the WHO clinical manual for the diagnosis and treatment of the subfertile male.

Prof. Frank Comhaire, a pioneer andrologist and director of the center retired in 2005. In the following years, the head of department of Endocrinology and supervisor of the Andrology center, Prof. Jean-Marc Kaufman shifted the focus of our research in the direction of the aging male and the effects of hormones on bone. After Prof. Kaufman's partial retirement in October 2014, Prof. Guy T'Sjoen, the current head of the department of Endocrinology, also head of the Center for Sexology and Gender, is focused on reproductive andrology, pituitary disease, sexology and transgender care, in addition to the above-mentioned fields of patient care and research.

The Division of Reproductive medicine has been one of the first to implement the technique of intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI) since 1993, soon followed by TESE in case of obstructive and non-obstructive azoospermia. More specifically, disorders of fertilization after ICSI, due to oocyte activation pathology, caused by

the absence of the sperm mediated oocyte activation factor phospholipase C- ζ , have been studied and treated using artificial oocyte activation techniques.

The department of urology has excellent expertise in the surgical aspects of male infertility, erectile dysfunction and variations/disorders of the genitalia and the prostate.

Other fields of action in Andrology have been developed, a.o. genetics, pathology, oncology and freezing, sexology, pediatric endocrinology (focus DSD), etc.

Our center has been certified thrice before by the EAA, in 2002, 2016 and 2019. It is now conceived and runs a platform of specialists interacting with each other with the best possible treatment path for the patient in mind.

As outreach to the general public, several books were published by members of our team: 'Onder de gordel (2018)' on andrology, 'Transgenderzorg (2019)' on transgender health care, 'Hormonen onder controle (2020)' on endocrinology, and 'Het Seksboek' (2019) on sexology by Prof. T'Sjoen. Prof. De Sutter published 'Zwanger worden (2018)' and 'De maakbare baby (2017)' on ART, while prof. Hoebeke published 'Gender in de blender (2020)', 'De penis', translated in English as 'Members club' about the penis (2020), and 'De staat van de prostaat' (2021). Many members of UZ Gent contributed to 'Gezond en wel, met dank aan de wetenschap –UZ Gent', a general health care book including chapters on fertility and sexuality.

Organization of Centre

Organisation of the Department

Organization charts legend: Department / Unit Structure

Unit Name	← Unit name: Andrology Center University Hospital Ghent
Head	← Director: G. T'Sjoen
Staff member 1 Staff member 2 Staff member 3 Staff member 4	←
Outpatient Clinics Embryology Ovarian stimulation Ultrasound Oocyte retrieval Embryo transfer FNA / TESE	← Staff members G. T'Sjoen, K. Everaert, D. Stoop (<i>steering committee</i>) A. Mahmoud (co-ordinator), B. Lapauw, J-M Kaufman P. Hoebeke, E. Van Laecke, A-F. Spinoit, N. Lumen, F. Hervé, G. Bou Kheir P. Vanden Meerschaut, C. Deroo M. Cools
Diagnosis of infertility Counseling of infertile couple Cryopreservation of sperm Ethics in Andrology	← Clinical services For historical reasons, the intake of andrological patients occurs at endocrinology, gynecology and urology. A central intake and a single phone number via endocrinology and a standardized approach have been developed and implemented. Highly qualified and certified personell (EAA, EAU, ESHRE, ESSM etc) provide good clinical services including diagnosis and management, genetic and psychological counseling, surgery. State of the art equipment and certified laboratories are available for imaging techniques, laboratory tests, surgical and radiological treatment, tissue cryopreservation and assisted reproductive techniques including assisted hatching and artificial oocyte activation. Members of our staff are active in ethics commissions at local, national (including parliament) and international levels. The andrology lab has been integrated in the IVF lab
Clinical services	
Contribution to EAA training	Contribution to EAA training program In 2018, a 2 day EAA andrology course and an EAA exam have been jointly organized by the Belgian EAA centers of Brussels, Ghent and Leuven. The course took place in Leuven One specialist has been trained and one planned (Endocrinologists). Our staff, facilities, and varied pathologies among our patients provide excellent training opportunities in all fields of andrology including infertility, sexual dysfunction, and diagnostic, therapeutic, endocrine, urological, gynecological, genetic, psychological and ethical aspects of andrology Examples of training activities Permanent training in sexology at Ghent University started in 2012 The 5th International DSD symposium, DSD including a training course, Ghent, 2015 First biennial conference of the European Professional Association for Transgender Health: Transgender Health Care in Europe, Ghent, Belgium, 2015, 2nd Belgrade 2017, 3rd Rome 2019. EPATH symposium at each ESSM conference. Semen analysis courses, Scientific institute of Public Health, Brussels, Belgium (1 course per year) Members of our staff are active in ethics commissions at local, national (including parliament and government) and international levels.

The Andrological Center is managed by a steering committee consisting of the center director Prof. Dr. Guy T'Sjoen (head of dept. of Endocrinology), prof. Dr. Karel Everaert (Urology), and Prof. Dr. Dominic Stoop (Gyneacology), while Dr. Ahmed Mahmoud is the scientific and general coordinator. Prof. Dr. T'Sjoen and Dr. Ahmed Mahmoud are EAA-certified academicians and clinical andrologists.

For historical reasons, the intake of andrological patients occurs at endocrinology, gynecology and urology. We have been working hard for tighter integration and better service for our patients with infertility. The andrology laboratory has been situated in the vicinity of the Urology, Gynecology and ART departments. The sperm bank is also integrated in the "clean room" for ART. The workflow of andrology has been channelled through a single phone number for the all departments at our hospital via endocrinology. Then patients are directed according to medical situation either to andrology, urology or gynecology/IVF. Standardized guidelines have been developed in collaboration with all involved specialists.

The clinical and research activities of the multidisciplinary Unit for Osteoporosis and Metabolic Bone Diseases "the bone Unit" at the department of Endocrinology is coordinated by Prof. Dr. Stefan Goemaere, working closely with Prof. Emeritus Jean Marc Kaufman on sex steroids in health and disease, with particular focus on bone health and aging in men.

Educational activities

Prof. Guy T'Sjoen is a Fellow of the European Board of Sexual Medicine (ESSM), treasurer of the Belgian Endocrine Society and initiator and local organiser of the 1st

meeting of the European Professional Association for Transgender Health (EPATH), took place in March 2015. Since then a 2nd (Belgrade, 2017), 3rd (Rome, 2019) and 4th (Gothenburg) edition have taken place, with sold-out events. He serves currently as a board member of WPATH (past president of EPATH) (the world and European Association for Transgender Health). He initiated 10 years ago the training as Clinical Sexologist at the Ghent University (still ongoing in collaboration with Prof. Els Elaut, psycho-sexologist) and was 1 of the promoters of the Sexpert project 'Sexual Health in Flanders'. The 5th International DSD symposium, DSD has also been organized by our group, in Ghent, June, 2015. It also included a training course, and we participate for this topic in the European Reference Network on Rare Endocrine Conditions (through Prof. Dr. Martine Cools, pediatric endocrinologist). Prof. De Sutter is member of the executive committee of the European Society of Human Reproduction (and she is currently also a vice-prime minister in the Belgian federal government).

The Andrology center is a founding member of the "Belgian expert group for semen analysis" which provides ESHRE training in semen analysis under supervision of the Belgian Institute of Public Health (Ahmed Mahmoud, followed by Kelly Tilleman).

Two candidates have received a training in andrology but chose to leave the department before taking the EAA exam (Drs Gertjan Vereecke, Loes Moernaut). Dr. Yuran Vanwonderghem also received andrological training at our center and has recently been certified as an EAA clinical andrologist shortly after leaving our department. One more candidate (Dr. Justine Defreyne) is planning to start the training.

Research activities

The Andrology Center of the University Hospital of Ghent performs research in different fields of andrology, endocrinology and sexology.

*In the period 2017-2021 alone, these concerted efforts generated more than 200 international peer-reviewed scientific publications and permitted us to perform many ongoing therapeutic (not disclosed) and non-therapeutic studies in these fields (see **Research Activities, Funding and Publications**).*

The Andrology center is a founding member of the “Belgian expert group for semen analysis”. Therefore, The andrology laboratory provides the sperm samples for the nationwide external quality control organized by Belgian Institute of Public Health.

Clinical activities

The Andrology center disposes of consultation facilities at the out-patient section of the Endocrinology department as well as dedicated consultation possibilities within the Center for Reproductive Medicine and the department of Urology. Laboratory facilities include objective analysis of spermatozoa (CASA), biochemical and biological investigations, and functional assays and of course an outstanding IVF/ICSI embryological laboratory performing around 2000 IVF/ICSI cycles per year. Many facilities are available in collaborating departments including: diagnostic and interventional radiology, gynecology, sexology, assisted reproductive technology (ART), urological and plastic surgery, genetic investigations and counseling, metabolic bone disease work-up, extensive laboratory expertise in hormonology, enzymology, protein chemistry, lipid biochemistry, immunohistochemistry, bacteriology, genetics etc. The Andrology center thus functions as an integrated multidisciplinary platform where the patient is seen and treated by the most appropriate physician(s) and collaborators.

This permits our Andrology center to treat many diverse andrological pathologies including male infertility, erectile and sexual dysfunction, pituitary tumors, hypogonadism, Klinefelter syndrome, male hypersexuality, and gender dysphoria.

Highly qualified and certified personell (EAA, EAU, ESHRE, ESSM etc) provide

good clinical services including diagnosis and management, genetic and psychological counseling

State of the art equipment and certified laboratories and facilities are available for imaging techniques, laboratory tests, surgical and radiological treatment, tissue cryopreservation and assisted reproductive techniques including assisted hatching and artificial oocyte activation.

Our andrology laboratory performs about a thousand semen analyses per year and performs screening and sperm-freezing for “candidate” sperm donors and infertility patients.

Name and address of Centre

Andrology Center, Ghent University Hospital
 Corneel Heymanslaan 10, 9000 GENT, BELGIUM

Type of Centre

University	<input type="checkbox"/>
University Hospital	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Private Centre	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other (please specify)

1. Director

Prof. Dr. Guy T'Sjoen

Academician Affiliated Member Clinical Andrologist

2a. Clinical responsible

Prof. Dr. Dominic Stoop

Academician Affiliated Member Clinical Andrologist

2b. Clinical responsible

Prof. Dr. Karel Everaert

Academician Affiliated Member Clinical Andrologist

2c. Clinical responsible

Academician Affiliated Member Clinical Andrologist

3. Present Staff (*Senior Scientists*)

- 1) Name Guy T'Sjoen
 Degree Prof. Dr.
 Speciality Endocrinology-andrology
- Academician Affiliated Member Clinical Andrologist
- 2) Name Ahmed Mahmoud (Coordinator)
 Degree Dr.
 Speciality Andrology
- Academician Affiliated Member Clinical Andrologist
- 3) Name Jean-Marc Kaufman
 Degree Prof. Dr. Emeritus
 Speciality Endocrinology
- Academician Affiliated Member Clinical Andrologist
- 4) Name Bruno Lapauw
 Degree Prof. Dr.
 Speciality Endocrinology
- Academician Affiliated Member Clinical Andrologist
- 5) Name Dominic Stoop
 Degree Prof. Dr.
 Speciality Gynecology/Fertility
- Academician Affiliated Member Clinical Andrologist
- 6) Name Piet Hoebeke
 Degree Prof. Dr.
 Speciality Urology
- Academician Affiliated Member Clinical Andrologist

7) Name Erik Van Laecke
 Degree Prof. Dr.
 Speciality Urology

Academician Affiliated Member Clinical Andrologist

8) Name Nicolaas Lumen
 Degree Prof. Dr.
 Speciality Urology

Academician Affiliated Member Clinical Andrologist

9) Name Anne-Françoise Spinoit
 Degree Prof. Dr.
 Speciality Urology

Academician Affiliated Member Clinical Andrologist

10) Name Els Elaut
 Degree Prof. Dr.
 Speciality Psychology-Sexology

Academician Affiliated Member Clinical Andrologist

11) Name Joz Motmans
 Degree Prof. Dr.
 Speciality Transgender Infopunt

Academician Affiliated Member Clinical Andrologist

12) Name Martine Cools
 Degree Prof. Dr.
 Speciality Pediatric Endocrinologist

Academician Affiliated Member Clinical Andrologist

13) Name Stefan Goemaere
 Degree Prof. Dr.
 Speciality Osteoporosis/rheumatology

Academician Affiliated Member Clinical Andrologist

14) Name Björn Heindryckx

Degree	Prof. Dr.
Speciality	Principal Investigator, Ghent-Fertility And Stem cell Team

Academician Affiliated Member Clinical Andrologist

Insert any additional staff below (if required)

MD/Biologists/Chemists

1) Name	Kelly Tilleman
Degree	PhD
Speciality	Director IVF lab, responsible for the operational management of the andrology diagnostic lab. Part of the panel of experts for andrology of Sciensano
Full time/part time	Full time

Academician Affiliated Member Clinical Andrologist

2) Name	Ilse De Croo
Degree	MSc
Speciality	Lead embryologist, expert andrology, replacement expert for the panel of experts for andrology of Sciensano. Performs sperm analysis, processing and cryopreservation for fertility treatment Has a derogation for executing medical laboratory techniques.
Full time/part time	Full time

Academician Affiliated Member Clinical Andrologist

3) Name	Stefanie De Gheselle
Degree	MSc
Speciality	Embryologist, responsible for time lapse applications. Performs sperm analysis, processing and cryopreservation for fertility treatment Has a derogation for executing medical laboratory techniques.
Full time/part time	Full time

Academician Affiliated Member Clinical Andrologist

4) Name	Annelies Tolpe
Degree	MSc
Speciality	Embryologist and quality manager. Has a derogation for executing medical laboratory techniques.
Full time/part time	Full time

Academician Affiliated Member Clinical Andrologist

Insert any additional staff below (if required)

Specialists

- 1) Name Hans-Georg Zmierczak; Rheumatologist, osteoporosis
 2) Name Joke Marlier, Endocrinologist
 3) Name Arsène-Hélène Batens, Obesity specialist
 4) Name Charlotte Verroken, Endocrinologist
 5) Name Joke Marlier, Endocrinologist
 6) Name George Bou Kheir, Urologist
Frauke Vanden Meerschaut, Gynecologist – fertility specialist
Chloë Deroo, Gynaecologist – fertility specialist

PhD Students

- 1) Name Sarah Collet
 2) Name Meltem Kiyar
 3) Name Clara Leyns
 4) Name Tine Papeleu
 5) Name Jeroen Vervalcke

Nurses

- 1) Name Yeter Cekic (head nurse)
 2) Name _____
 3) Name _____

Laboratory Technicians

- 1) Name Jolien Benoot (diagnostic andrology lab + IVF lab)
 2) Name Marieline Boghaert (diagnostic andrology lab + IVF lab)
 3) Name Lobke De Vuyst (IVF lab)
 4) Name Klaas Declerck (IVF lab)
 5) Name Valerie Dullaerts (diagnostic andrology lab + IVF lab)
 6) Name Sofie Ellegiers (IVF lab)
 7) Name Sylvie Lierman (diagnostic andrology lab + IVF lab)
 8) Name Arne Lootens (IVF lab)
 9) Name Vanessa Muyshond (IVF lab)
 10) Name Nathalie Steyaert (IVF lab)
 11) Name Anneleen van de Velde (Head lab technician IVF lab)
 12) Name Evy Van de Voorde (diagnostic andrology lab + IVF lab)
 13) Name Sofie Van Eesbeek (IVF lab)
 14) Name Chrissy van Hoomissen (diagnostic andrology lab + IVF lab)
 15) Name Sarah Van Laere (diagnostic andrology lab + IVF lab)
 16) Name Kim Van Volxem (IVF lab)

17) Name Faye Vandenbosch (IVF lab)

Administrative Personnel

1) Name Stephanie Magniette

2) Name Inge Vangestel

3) Name Emma Van Keymeulen

4. Clinical Activity

A. Outpatients: Consultations per year in the last 3 years

	2019	2020	2021
New patients	NA	NA	NA
Follow-up patients	NA	NA	NA

Type of patients in the last years (%)	2019	2020	2021
Infertility	463 (26,3)	428 (24,3)	408 (22,93)
Erectile dysfunction	364 (20,6)	411 (23,3)	393 (22,09)
Hypogonadotropic Hypogonadism	87 (4,9)	82 (4,6)	85 (4,78)
Klinefelter syndrome	44 (2,5)	47 (2,7)	41 (2,30)
Gynaecomastia	25 (1,4)	28 (1,6)	24 (1,35)
Varicocele	31 (1,8)	28 (1,6)	28 (1,57)
Cryptorchidism	195 (11,1)	159 (9,0)	173 (9,72)
Male sex accessory gland infections	3 (0,2)	4 (0,2)	3 (0,17)
Testicular tumours	28 (1,6)	38 (2,2)	33 (1,85)
Disorders of gender identity	523 (29,7)	539 (30,6)	591 (33,22)
Other	NA	NA	NA

B. Ultrasound (testis, penile, prostate)*

	2019	2020	2021
Total	1158	1103	1067
Controls	NA	NA	NA

* Data from Department of Radiology not available

C. Andrological surgery procedures

	2019	2020	2021
Testicular biopsies (TESE)	71	74	57
Varicocele ligation & embolization	45	22	23
Prostate biopsies	4	7	30
BPH	72	64	90
Prostate cancer	110	103	120
Vasectomy	12	13	12
Vaso-vasostomy	4	5	3
Other	NA	NA	NA

5. A. Andrology laboratory activity

	2019	2020	2021
Semen analyses	1180	928	892
Sperm antibodies	1060	832	819
Seminal markers	79	57	17

5. B. Andrology laboratory activity

Sperm banking donors Yes No Sperm banking cancer patients Yes No

<i>If yes:</i>			
	2019	2020	2021
Number of samples donor	100	18	63
Number of samples cancer patients	125	106	98

5. C. Histopathological evaluation of biopsies Yes No 5. D. Reproductive Hormones Assays Yes No

If yes please specify type of assays and number of samples in the last year

Reproductive Hormones Assays

(FSH, LH, testosterone, SHBG, prolactin):

Many thousands each year, numbers not available

5. E. Y chromosome microdeletions according to EAA/EMQN guidelines Yes No

NA

If yes number of tests in the past year _____Participation to the EAA quality control scheme? Yes No *If no*, specify if available in another lab of the same hospital Yes No Blood karyotyping Yes No *If no*, specify if available in another lab of the same hospital Yes No

Other genetic tests (please specify)

Pre-implantation genetic diagnosis, Amniotic fluid karyotyping, CAVD (CFTR), Spinal muscular atrophy (SMN1), Prader-Willi syndrome, Kallman syndrome, Disorder of sexual development (Androgen receptor, NR5A1, SOX9, WT1, SRY, DMRT1) and many others.

6. Collaborations with other Clinical Units of the University/Hospital

IVF Unit Yes No
If yes please specify: Pediatrics, IVF, Urology, Genetics, Pathology

Urology Clinic Yes No

Endocrine Clinic Yes No

Genetics Lab/Unit Yes No

Paediatric Unit Yes No

Central Hospital Laboratory Yes No

Private Centres Yes No

If yes please specify:

7. Clinical teaching activity

Duration of training (years):

	Number
A: Trainees in the last five years	4
B: Trainees who passed EAA-ESAU\exam for Clinical Andrologist in the last 5 yrs	1
C: Trainees working in the centre preparing to pass the EAA-ESAU examination	0
D: PhD Students	9
E: Medical Students	15
F: Other students (MSc)	10

8. Formal Andrology teaching program Yes No

If yes: specify duration (years/months): Years Months

	Hours of formal teaching per year	Professional training (weeks/months)
Medical Students	1	4 hours per year
PhD Students		
Post Graduate students		
Trainees		
Other degrees (please specify)		

9. Research Activity (maximum 1 page)

Please shortly describe the main research topics of the center and list the most relevant papers in peer review journals (with IF) related to these activities.

The full list of publications (years 2017 - 2021) are presented at the end of this report.

One of our main research topics is the effect of androgens and other hormones on male health, among others bone health, at different ages including the aging male. Another major area of research is the medical and psychological well-being of persons with gender dysphoria and transgender persons as well as persons with variations of sexual/genital development. Many interventional studies have been performed or are still ongoing regarding therapies for diabetes, Cushing's disease, and hypothyroidism. Other topics of research include sexual dysfunction, the etiology and treatment of male infertility and fertilization failure, stem cell research, fertility preservation, doping in sports and prostate cancer.

A selection of representative papers can be found below.

1. Banica, Thiberiu, Charlotte Verroken, Tim Reyns, Ahmed Mahmoud, Guy T'Sjoen, Tom Fiers, Jean Kaufman, and Bruno Lapauw. 2021. "Early Decline of Androgen Levels in Healthy Adult Men : An Effect of Aging per Se? A Prospective Cohort Study." *JOURNAL OF CLINICAL ENDOCRINOLOGY & METABOLISM* 106 (4): 1074–1083. Impact Factor: 5.958
2. Özer, Müjde, Sahaand Poor Toulabi, Alessandra D. Fisher, Guy T'Sjoen, Marlon Buncamper, Stan Monstrey, Marta R. Bizic, Miroslav Djordjevic, Marco Falcone, Nim A. Christopher, Daniel Simon, Luis Capitán, and Joz Motmans. 2022. "ESSM Position Statement 'Sexual Wellbeing after Gender Affirming Surgery.'" *SEXUAL MEDICINE* 10(1):100471. Impact Factor: 2.523
3. Defreyne, Justine, Els Elaut, M. Den Heijer, B. Kreukels, A. D. Fisher, and Guy T'Sjoen. 2021. "Sexual Orientation in Transgender Individuals : Results from the Longitudinal ENIGI Study." *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF IMPOTENCE RESEARCH* 33 (7): 694–702. Impact Factor: 2.896
4. Matthys, Imke, Justine Defreyne, Els Elaut, Alessandra Daphne Fisher, Baudewijntje P. C. Kreukels, Annemieke Staphorsius, Martin Den Heijer, and Guy T'Sjoen. 2021. "Positive and Negative Affect Changes during Gender-Affirming Hormonal Treatment : Results from the European Network for the Investigation of Gender Incongruence (ENIGI)." *JOURNAL OF CLINICAL MEDICINE* 10 (2):296. Impact Factor: 4.964

5. Stuyver, Isabelle, Sara Somers, Veerle Provoost, Katrien Wierckx, Hans Verstraelen, Elia Wyverkens, Lien Van Glabeke, Guy T'Sjoen, Ann Buysse, Guido Pennings, and Petra De Sutter. 2021. "Ten Years of Fertility Treatment Experience and Reproductive Options in Transgender Men." *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF TRANSGENDER HEALTH* 22 (3): 294–303.
6. Tack, Lloyd, Alexander Springer, Stefan Riedl, Ursula Tonnhofer, Manuela Hiess, Julia Weninger, Ahmed Mahmoud, Erik Van Laecke, Piet Hoebeke, Martine Cools, and Anne-Françoise Spinoit. 2021. "Adolescent and Young Adult Urogenital Outcome Following Childhood Hypospadias Repair : Perfection Revisited." *JOURNAL OF UROLOGY* 206 (3): 734–743. Impact Factor: 1.07
7. Vereecke, Gertjan, Justine Defreyne, Dorien Van Saen, Sarah Collet, Jo Van Dorpe, Guy T'Sjoen, and Ellen Goossens. 2021. "Characterisation of Testicular Function and Spermatogenesis in Transgender Women." *HUMAN REPRODUCTION* 36 (1): 5–15. Impact factor: 6.353
8. Zitzmann, Michael, Lise Aksglaede, Giovanni Corona, Andrea M. Isidori, Anders Juul, Guy T'Sjoen, Sabine Kliesch, Kathleen D'Hauwers, Jorma Toppari, Jolanta Slowikowska-Hilczer, Frank Tuettelmann, and Alberto Ferlin. 2021. "European Academy of Andrology Guidelines on Klinefelter Syndrome : Endorsing Organization : European Society of Endocrinology." *ANDROLOGY* 9 (1): 145–167. Impact Factor: 4.456
9. Kaufman, Jean, Bruno Lapauw, Ahmed Mahmoud, Guy T'Sjoen, and Ilpo Tapani Huhtaniemi. 2019. "Aging and the Male Reproductive System." *ENDOCRINE REVIEWS* 40 (4): 906–972. Impact factor: 14.661
10. Verroken, Charlotte, Hans-Georg Zmierzczak, Stefan Goemaere, Jean Kaufman, and Bruno Lapauw. 2018. "Bone Turnover in Young Adult Men : Cross-Sectional Determinants and Associations with Prospectively Assessed Bone Loss." *JOURNAL OF BONE AND MINERAL RESEARCH* 33 (2): 261–268. Impact Factor: 2.06
11. Alaa Moubasher, Heba Sayed, Eman Mosaad, Ahmed Mahmoud, Fawzy Farag, Emad A Taha. 2018. "Impact of leukocytospermia on sperm dynamic motility parameters, DNA and chromosomal integrity". *CENTRAL EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF UROLOGY* 71 (4):470-475. Impact Factor: 0.985
12. Tack, Lloyd, Margarita Craen, Bruno Lapauw, Stefan Goemaere, Kaatje Toye, Jean Kaufman, Sara Vandewalle, Guy T'Sjoen, Hans-Georg Zmierzczak, and Martine Cools. 2018. "Proandrogenic and Antiandrogenic Progestins in Transgender Youth :

Differential Effects on Body Composition and Bone Metabolism." *JOURNAL OF CLINICAL ENDOCRINOLOGY & METABOLISM* 103 (6): 2147–2156. Impact factor:5.605

13. Hembree, Wylie C, Peggy T Cohen-Kettenis, Louis Gooren, Sabine E Hannema, Walter J Meyer, M Hassan Murad, Stephen M Rosenthal, Joshua D Safer, Vin Tangpricha, and Guy T'Sjoen. 2017. "Endocrine Treatment of Gender-Dysphoric/Gender-Incongruent Persons : An Endocrine Society Clinical Practice Guideline." *JOURNAL OF CLINICAL ENDOCRINOLOGY & METABOLISM* 102 (11): 3869–3903. Impact factor: 5.789
14. Verroken, Charlotte, Hans-Georg Zmierzak, Stefan Goemaere, Jean Kaufman, and Bruno Lapauw. 2017. "Insulin Resistance Is Associated with Smaller Cortical Bone Size in Nondiabetic Men at the Age of Peak Bone Mass." *JOURNAL OF CLINICAL ENDOCRINOLOGY & METABOLISM* 102 (6): 1807–1815. Impact factor: 5.789

10. Research Funding (only endocrinology department)

Please specify the amount of available funds in the last 3 years and their source (Government, European Union, University, Local Government, Pharmaceutical Industries, Banks, Foundations....)

Main Sources

Regional and community funding: Special Research Fund (BOF)
 Research Foundation - Flanders (FWO)
 Flanders innovation and interperneurship (VLAIO)
 European society of sexual medicine (ESSM)
 Pharmaceutical industry
 Gifts

These numbers are based on incomplete data

Year	2019
Total amount (€)	210 956
Funding Source(s)	Various

Year	2020
Total amount (€)	173 024
Funding Source(s)	Various

Year	2021
Total amount (€)	537201
Funding Source(s)	Various

Examples

Fund for diabetes research 2021-ongoing

This project aims at investigating , among others, special forms of diabetes, adolescent transition, muscle and bone health in diabetes

Funding: a gift

Total amount: 193 003 Euro

Promotor: Bruno Lapauw

Better estimates of hormonal exposure to improve diagnosis and treatment in endocrine diseases (BEED-ED) 2021-2025

Funding: Research Foundation - Flanders (FWO)

Total amount:866 400 Euro

Promotor: Bruno Lapauw

The association between new measures of glycemic control and arterial stiffness in type 1 diabetes, and the influence of high-intensity interval training 2020-ongoing

Funding: Research Foundation - Flanders (FWO)

Co-promotor: Bruno Lapauw

Influence of glycemic variability on autonomic and cardiovascular function, and the impact of postprandial physical training in patients with type 1 diabetes 2018-2020

Funding: Regional and community funding: Special Research Fund (BOF)

Co-promotor: Bruno Lapauw

EUROPEAN CALCIFIED TISSUE SOCIETY: Amgen bone biology research fellowship 2018-2019

Funding: European Commission

promotor: Bruno Lapauw

The Bone unit 2019-2021: 107.450 Euro

The unit performs Bone density scan for 6 academic studies and 13 studies funded by the pharmaceutical industry.

Unit head Stefan Goemaere

Let's Call It a Day: 24-Hour Behaviors in Overweight and Obese Individuals 2021-ongoing

Funding: Research Foundation - Flanders (FWO)

Co-promotor: Bruno Lapauw

Point-of-Care solution for osteoporosis management 2018-2019

Funding: Flanders innovation and interperneurship (VLAIO)

Promotors: Stefan Goemaere

The role of social exclusion in mental and physical health in transgender persons 2018–2022

Promotor: Guy T’Sjoen

To determine the role of social exclusion in psychological and physical health in transgender persons this project will use 1) self-report data, 2) experimental psychological tasks and psychophysiology and 3) general health parameters and immune-related markers of health. Specifically, the project will compare transgender persons before and after transition and compare them to cisgender controls.

Projects of the Transgender info point (TIP)

Promotors: Guy T’Sjoen & Joz Motmans

The TIP is a partner in a European project “TRANSFORM: Raising standards of health care service provision for LGBTIQ people” in which we advise the Maltese partners in the development of a website aimed at general practitioners, psychosocial professionals, nurses, midwives, care providers and other health professionals, modeled on the website www.transgenderzorg.be of the TIP. We also participate in the training of 80 general practitioners and 25 emergency room workers in Malta and Gozo to ensure that their practices are inclusive for LGBTIQ patients and provide them with specialized knowledge on the treatment of transgender patients for generic conditions.

As a senior expert, TIP is involved in the European Commission's “Study on Intersex people in the EU” being conducted by ICF.

The TIP supports the PhD research “Return to work” by dra. Joy Van de Cauter, which focuses on work resumptions among transgender people during and after their medical and social transition.

The TIP coordinates the “Test & Tell” study on sexual health and HIV prevalence in transgender and non-binary individuals.

The TIP coordinates the 'Genoeg-Enough-Assez' research into the experiences of violence of LGBTI+ people in Flanders.

Acoustic and perceptual effects of intonation training in transgender women

2021-2024

The first purpose is to investigate the relation between acoustic intonation parameters and gender perception. Secondly, short- and longer-term effects of intonation training on vocal characteristics, listener perceptions and PROMS in trans women will be investigated using a randomized sham-controlled trial. This research will lead to new insights in speech feminization and will have a major impact on evidence-based practice.

Funding: Regional and community funding: Special Research Fund

Promotor: Evelien D'haeseleer

Co-promotor: Guy T'Sjoen

Fellow: Tine Papeleu

Researchers: Hannah Kepler, Peter Tomassen

PhD Theses

Invloed van genetische polymorfismen (androgeen en oestrogeen receptoren) op hersenstructuur en hersenfunctie van transgender personen. English translation to be determined

2023

Author: Sarah Collet.

Promotor. G. T'Sjoen, co-promoto S. Müller

The neurobiological and psychophysiological underpinnings and its impact on mental health in transgender people.

2023

Author: Meltem Kiyar

Co- promotor. G. T'Sjoen, promotor S. Müller

Mathilde Kennis. To be determined (PhD)

Acoustic and perceptual effects of articulation exercises in trans women

2023

Author: Clara Leyns.

Promotor E. D'haeseleer, co-promotors G. T'Sjoen, P. Tomassen

Acoustic and perceptual effects of intonation training in gender diverse people

2022-2026

Author: Tine Papeleu

Promotor E. D'haeseleer, co-promotor G. T'Sjoen

Cardiometabolic effects of gender affirming hormone treatment, a 10 year follow-up study

2022

Jeroen Vervalcke

Promotor G. T'Sjoen, co-promotor S. Gevaert

Long-term outcomes of hypospadias : urological and psychosexual function and endocrine-reproductive capacity

2022

Author: Lloyd Tack

Promotors: Martine Cools, Anne-Françoise Spinoit and Hannah Verdin

Sex steroids in relation to bone metabolism and body composition in men

2022

Author: Thiberiu Banica

Promoter: Bruno Lapauw and Stefan Goemaere

Contributions to clinical applications of LC/MSMS for the assessment of sex steroids and free fractions thereof in blood and saliva

2020

Author: Tom Fiers

Promotors: Bruno Lapauw and Jean-Marc Kaufman

Gender affirming endocrine care in adults

2020

Author: Justine Defreyne

Promotors: Guy T'Sjoen and Els Elaut

Masters (examples)

The microbiome and the male gonadal function

2022-2024

Promotor: Ahmed Mahmoud

Student: Maarten Heylen

Sexual function in healthy adult men in relation to hormonal and other health parameters (master)

2021-2022

Promotors: A. Mahmoud and T. Banica

Student: Antje Rogiers

Andrology-related meetings, workshops and courses organized within the last 5 years (since 2017)

In 2018, a 2 day EAA andrology course and an EAA exam have been jointly organized by the Belgian EAA centers of Brussels, Ghent and Leuven. The course took place in Leuven.

Prof. Guy T'Sjoen is a Fellow of the European Board of Sexual Medicine (ESSM), treasurer of the Belgian Endocrine Society and initiator and local organiser of the 1st meeting of the European Professional Association for Transgender Health (EPATH), took place in March 2015. Since then a 2nd (Belgrade, 2017) and 3rd (Rome, 2019) edition have taken place, with sold-out events. He initiated 10 years ago the training as Clinical Sexologist at the Ghent University (still ongoing in collaboration with Prof. Els Elaut, psycho-sexologist) and was 1 of the promoters of the Sexpert project 'Sexual Health in Flanders'.

In 2022, Prof. Dr. Rashid Aboutaieb and Dr. Ahmed Mahmoud organized a 2 day andrology training course at the Department of Urology, University of Casablanca, Morocco.

The Andrology center of Ghent is a founding member of the "Belgian expert group for semen analysis" which provides ESHRE training every 1 or 2 years in semen analysis under supervision of the Belgian Institute of Public Health (Ahmed Mahmoud, followed by Kelly Tilleman).

CENTRE PHOTOS

Please, include at least one high resolution photos



FULL LIST OF PUBLICATIONS (with IF) of staff members from the last 5 years

1. Banica, Thiberiu, Charlotte Verroken, Tim Reyns, Ahmed Mahmoud, Guy T'Sjoen, Tom Fiers, Jean Kaufman, and Bruno Lapauw. 2021. "Early Decline of Androgen Levels in Healthy Adult Men : An Effect of Aging per Se? A Prospective Cohort Study." *JOURNAL OF CLINICAL ENDOCRINOLOGY & METABOLISM* 106 (4): 1074 – 1083. *Impact factor: 5.958.*
2. T'Sjoen, Guy, Martine Cools, Joz Motmans, Gerd Verschelden, and Pieter Cannoot. 2021. "Hervorming van de Geslachtsregistratie : Suggesties UGent En UZ Gent." *TIJDSCHRIFT VOOR FAMILIERECHT* (9): 262 – 271. *Impact factor: NA.*
3. Mishra, Swati, Jasin Taelman, Yolanda W. Chang, Annekatrien Boel, Petra De Sutter, Björn Heindryckx, and Susana Marina Chuva de Sousa Lopes. 2021. "Sex-Specific Isolation and Propagation of Human Premeiotic Fetal Germ Cells and Germ Cell-like Cells." *CELLS* 10 (5):1214. *Impact factor: 7.666.*
4. Claus, Mathieu, Malaïka Van Der Linden, Jo Van Dorpe, Bruno Lapauw, and Guy T'Sjoen. 2021. "Primary Sellar Melanocytoma." *PITUITARY* 24 (6): 970 – 977. *Impact factor: 4.244.*
5. Stamatiadis, Panagiotis, Annekatrien Boel, Gwenny Cosemans, Mina Popovic, Bieke Bekaert, Ramesh Reddy Guggilla, Maoxing Tang, Petra De Sutter, Filip Van Nieuwerburgh, Björn Menten, Dominic Stoop, Susana Marina Chuva de Sousa Lopes, Paul Coucke, and Björn Heindryckx. 2021. "Comparative Analysis of Mouse and Human Preimplantation Development Following POU5F1 CRISPR/Cas9 Targeting Reveals Interspecies Differences." *HUMAN REPRODUCTION* 36 (5): 1242 – 1252. *Impact factor: 6.353.*
6. Cannoot, Pieter. 2021. "Interview Met Joz Motmans : 'Van Genderdysforie, Naar Gendereurforie.'" In *Recht En Gender in België : 10 Jaar Later*, ed by. Eva Brems, Pieter Cannoot, and Liesbet Stevens, 563 – 573. Brugge: die Keure.
7. Mishra, Swati, Jasin Taelman, Mina Popovic, Laurentijn Tilleman, Evi Duthoo, Margot Van der Jeught, Dieter Deforce, Filip Van Nieuwerburgh, Björn Menten, Petra De Sutter, Annekatrien Boel, Susana Marina Chuva de Sousa Lopes, and Björn Heindryckx. 2021. "Activin A-Derived Human Embryonic Stem Cells Show Increased Competence to Differentiate into Primordial Germ Cell-like Cells." *STEM CELLS* 39 (5): 551 – 563. *Impact factor: 6.277.*
8. Stuyver, Isabelle, Sara Somers, Veerle Provoost, Katrien Wierckx, Hans Verstraelen, Elia Wyverkens, Lien Van Glabeke, Guy T'Sjoen, Ann Buysse, Guido Pennings, and Petra De Sutter. 2021. "Ten Years of Fertility Treatment Experience and Reproductive Options in Transgender Men." *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF TRANSGENDER HEALTH* 22 (3): 294 – 303.
9. Burgwal, Aisa, and Joz Motmans. 2021. "Trans and Gender Diverse People' s Experiences and Evaluations with General and Trans-Specific Healthcare Services : A Cross-Sectional Survey." *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF IMPOTENCE RESEARCH* 33 (7): 679 – 686. *Impact factor: 2.896.*
10. Burgwal, Aisa, Natia Gvianishvili, Vierge Hård, Julia Kata, Isidro García Nieto, Cal Orre, Adam Smiley, Jelena Vidić, and Joz Motmans. 2021. "The Impact of Training in Transgender Care on Healthcare Providers Competence and Confidence : A Cross-Sectional Survey." *HEALTHCARE* 9 (8):967. *Impact factor: 2.194.*
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- Overview.” *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF IMPOTENCE RESEARCH* 33 (7): 671 – 678. *Impact factor: 2.896*.
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 13. Van de Velde, Frederique, Koen Deventer, Wim Van Gansbeke, Peter Van Eenoo, Pieter Van Renterghem, Tom Fiers, Tim Reyens, Jean Kaufman, Yves Van Nieuwenhove, and Bruno Lapauw. 2021. “Metabolism of Testosterone during Weight Loss in Men with Obesity.” *JOURNAL OF STEROID BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY* 209: 105851. *Impact factor: 5.011*.
 14. Maras, Davo, Joz Motmans, and Freya Vander Laenen. 2021. “Gender-Binaire Tralies : Een Kwalitatief-Exploratief Onderzoek Naar de Ervaringen En Uitdagingen van Transgender Personen in Detentie.” *FATIK* (172): 14 – 28. *Impact factor: NA*.
 15. Van de Cauter, Joy, Hanna Van Schoorisse, Dominique Van de Velde, Joz Motmans, and Lutgart Braeckman. 2021. “Return to Work of Transgender People : A Systematic Review through the Blender of Occupational Health.” *PLOS ONE* 16 (11) :e0259206. *Impact factor: 3.752*.
 16. Kaufman, Jean. 2021. “Management of Osteoporosis in Older Men.” *AGING CLINICAL AND EXPERIMENTAL RESEARCH* 33 (6): 1439 – 1452. *Impact factor: 4.481*.
 17. Defreyne, Justine, Els Elaut, M. Den Heijer, B. Kreukels, A. D. Fisher, and Guy T’Sjoen. 2021. “Sexual Orientation in Transgender Individuals : Results from the Longitudinal ENIGI Study.” *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF IMPOTENCE RESEARCH* 33 (7): 694 – 702. *Impact factor: 2.896*.
 18. Pirtea, Paul, Jean Marc Ayoubi, Stéphanie Desmedt, and Guy T’Sjoen. 2021. “Ovarian, Breast, and Metabolic Changes Induced by Androgen Treatment in Transgender Men.” *FERTILITY AND STERILITY* 116 (4): 936 – 942. *Impact factor: 7.490*.
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 20. Cocchetti, Carlotta, Giovanni Castellini, Davide Iacuanello, Alessia Romani, Mario Maggi, Linda Vignozzi, Thomas Schreiner, Martin den Heijer, Guy T’Sjoen, and Alessandra Daphne Fisher. 2021. “Does Gender-Affirming Hormonal Treatment Affect 30-Year Cardiovascular Risk in Transgender Persons? A Two-Year Prospective European Study (ENIGI).” *JOURNAL OF SEXUAL MEDICINE* 18 (4): 821 – 829. *Impact factor: 3.802*.
 21. Tack, Lloyd, Alexander Springer, Stefan Riedl, Ursula Tonnhofer, Manuela Hiess, Julia Weninger, Ahmed Mahmoud, Erik Van Laecke, Piet Hoebeke, Martine Cools, and Anne-Françoise Spinoit. 2021. “Adolescent and Young Adult Urogenital Outcome Following Childhood Hypospadias Repair : Perfection Revisited.” *JOURNAL OF UROLOGY* 206 (3): 734 – 743. *Impact factor: 1.07*.

22. Sen, Maya, Dylan Mooijman, Alex Chialastri, Jean-Charles Boisset, Mina Popovic, Björn Heindryckx, Susana Marina Chuva de Sousa Lopes, Siddharth S. Dey, and Alexander van Oudenaarden. 2021. “Strand-Specific Single-Cell Methylomics Reveals Distinct Modes of DNA Demethylation Dynamics during Early Mammalian Development.” *NATURE COMMUNICATIONS* 12 (1):1286. *Impact factor: 17.694.*
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25. Stangl, Theresa A., Chantal M. Wiepjes, Justine Defreyne, Elfi Conemans, Alessandra D. Fisher, Thomas Schreiner, Guy T’Sjoen, and Martin den Heijer. 2021. “Is There a Need for Liver Enzyme Monitoring in People Using Gender-Affirming Hormone Therapy?” *EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF ENDOCRINOLOGY* 184 (4): 513 – 520. *Impact factor: 6.558.*
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29. Kristensen, Tine Taulbjerg, Louise Lehmann Christensen, Jan Frystyk, Dorte Glintborg, Guy T’Sjoen, Kirsten Roessler, and Marianne Skovsager Andersen. 2021. “Effects of Testosterone Therapy on Constructs Related to Aggression in Transgender Men : A Systematic Review.” *HORMONES AND BEHAVIOR* 128 :104912. *Impact factor: 3.492.*
30. Tytgat, Olivier, MX Tang, Willem van Snippenberg, Annekatrien Boel, RR Guggilla, Yannick Gansemans, Michiel Van Herp, Sofie Symoens, Wim Trypsteen, Dieter Deforce, Björn Heindryckx, Paul Coucke, Ward De Spiegelaere, and Filip Van Nieuwerburgh. 2021. “Digital Polymerase Chain Reaction for Assessment of Mutant Mitochondrial Carry-over after Nuclear Transfer for In Vitro Fertilization.” *CLINICAL CHEMISTRY* 67 (7): 968 – 976. *Impact factor: 12.167.*

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32. Leyns, Clara, Tine Papeleu, Peter Tomassen, Guy T'Sjoen, and Evelien D' haeseleer. 2021. "Effects of Speech Therapy for Transgender Women : A Systematic Review." Ed by. Walter Pierre Bouman. *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF TRANSGENDER HEALTH* 22 (4): 360 – 380.
33. Glintborg, Dorte, Katrine Hass Rubin, Simon Bang Mohr Kristensen, Ojvind Lidegaard, Guy T'Sjoen, Aisa Burgwal, Malene Hilden, and Marianne Skovsager Andersen. 2021. "Socioeconomic Status in Danish Transgender Persons : A Nationwide Register-Based Cohort Study." *ENDOCRINE CONNECTIONS* 10 (9): 1155 – 1166. *Impact factor: 3.221.*
34. Mus, Liselot, Stéphane Van Haver, Mina Popovic, Wim Trypsteen, Steve Lefever, Nadja Zeltner, Yudelca Ogando, Eva Jacobs, Geertrui Denecker, Ellen Sanders, Christophe Van Neste, Suzanne Vanhauwaert, Bieke Decaesteker, Dieter Deforce, Filip Van Nieuwerburgh, Pieter Mestdagh, Jo Vandesompele, Björn Menten, Katleen De Preter, Lorenz Studer, Björn Heindryckx, Kaat Durinck, Stephen Roberts, and Franki Speleman. 2021. "Recurrent Chromosomal Imbalances Provide Selective Advantage to Human Embryonic Stem Cells under Enhanced Replicative Stress Conditions." *GENES CHROMOSOMES & CANCER* 60 (4): 272 – 281. *Impact factor: 4.263.*
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