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Newsletter 4 - November 2023

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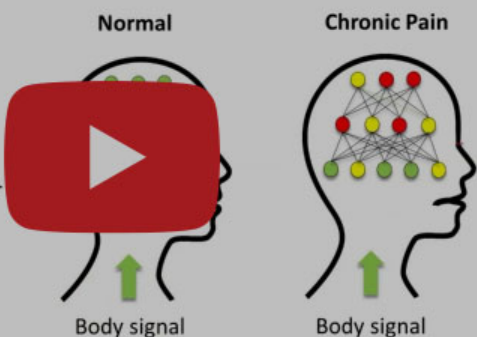
[Successful 8th Steering Committee Meeting](#)

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Welcome to our 4th newsletter! **QSPainRelief** is an international, collaborative **Horizon 2020** research project, funded by the European Commission, that brings together **10 partner institutions** from 5 European countries and the USA. The 5-year-long project started in January 2020 and uses an innovative quantitative systems pharmacology (QSP) pain relief approach in developing effective combinational treatment of chronic pain in individual patients. In our half-yearly newsletter, we inform you of scientific advances in the project, new team members, events, and other relevant news. Watch the project video below to gain an overview of what QSPainRelief is all about. [Sign up here to receive our newsletter](#). We wish everyone Happy Holidays & a healthy and successful New Year!

The problem occurs when the brain starts to interpret normal nerve signals as danger.

When this happens people can feel pain when there is no danger present and this can lead to chronic pain.



Source: <https://hvidpapo.wordpress.com/2014/05/21/reconstructing-functional-brain-networks-how-we-got-the-basics-right/>

This project has received funding from the EU Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 848068. 3

Project Video: Liesbeth de Lange's keynote lecture at Pain Alliance Europe's General Assembly Meeting in June 2020.

Upcoming 5th General Assembly

Preparations for the 5th General Assembly (GA) Meeting in Leiden, NL, from 6-8 December 2023 are going strong. We're kicking things off with the QSPainRelief Patient Event & Podium Discussion on Wednesday, December 6th, hosted by the Centre for Human Drug Research (**CHDR**). Other highlights will be a **Keynote Lecture** (surprise topic) and the **Poster Session** where the QSPainRelief early-career scientists (ECS) will present their newest results and will vote on who will receive the "**Best Poster**" Award. The award will be presented at the end of the meeting by Prof. Liesbeth de Lange, QSPainRelief's scientific coordinator.

We are also grateful that our valued advisory board members **Deirdre Ryan**, current president of Pain Alliance Europe (**PAE**), as well as **Dr. Jan Freijer** (from the pharmaceutical company **Galapagos**) will attend the GA Meeting in person!



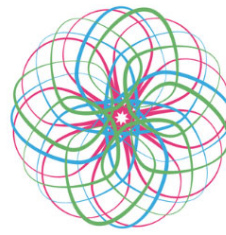
QSPainRelief

6 - 8 December 2023 in Leiden, The Netherlands

5TH GA MEETING

6 December 2023, hosted at CHDR

PATIENT EVENT



CHDR
Centre for Human Drug Research

Register now for our Patient Event (in Dutch)

We cordially invite chronic pain patients, relatives, and interested laymen to our **2nd QSPainRelief Patient Event** at the Centre for Human Drug Research (**CHDR**) in Leiden on **Wednesday, 6th December 2023**.

The event will be held in Dutch language at CHDR's auditorium from 14-16 h. The panel discussion will focus on how to improve patient involvement in clinical studies. Coffee and refreshments will be provided.

- Online attendance is also an option, **see agenda** for details.
- We look forward to hosting you – **please register here!**

If you have elderly Dutch relatives or friends who would like to attend but don't have an email account or smartphone, they can register for the event directly at CHDR via this phone number: **+31 71 5246 400**

PATIËNTEN EVENEMENT & PANEL DISCUSSIE

Woensdag, 6 december 2023
14:00 – 16:00 h

Centre for Human Drug Research (CHDR)
Zernikedreef 8
Leiden, The Netherlands
Locatie: Auditorium(en online / hybride)



CHDR
Centre for Human Drug Research



QSPainRelief
www.qspainrelief.eu

Dit project heeft financiering ontvangen van het onderzoeks- en innovatieprogramma Horizon 2020 van de Europese Unie onder subsidieovereenkomst nr. 848068.



Wat is QSPainRelief & Hoe helpt het patiënten met chronische pijn?

Prof. Dr. Liesbeth De Lange (Universiteit Leiden)

Introductie van het QSPainRelief platform

Dr. Jeroen Elassaiss-Schaap (PD-Value)



Live demonstratie van de PainCart

Wouter Bakker (CHDR)

Panel discussie

Focus: Het betrekken van patiënten bij
pijnonderzoek en klinische studies

Ilona Thomassen, Pijnpatiënt naar één stem
Prof. Dr. Geert Jan Groeneveld (CHDR)

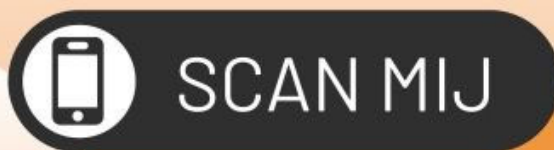


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Meer informatie

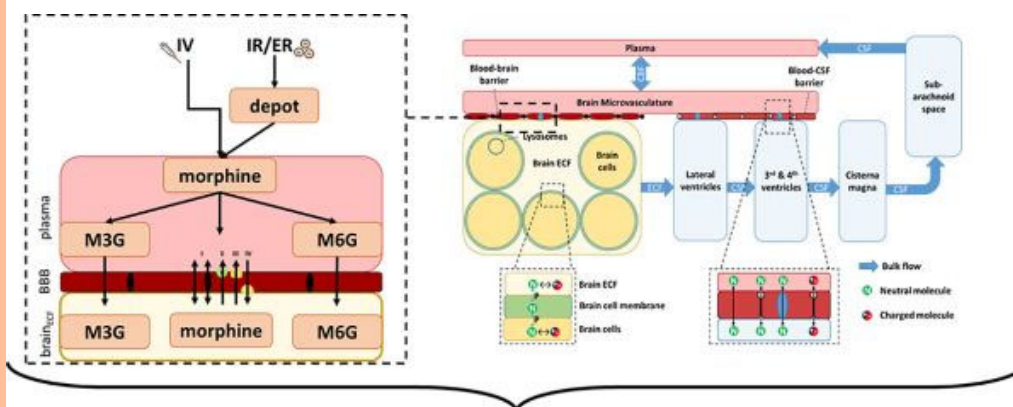


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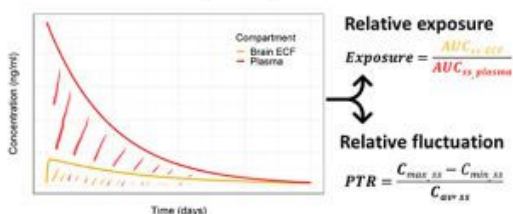
New Publications

We would like to highlight this year's publication by early-career scientists (ECS) Berfin Gülave, Divakar Budda, and colleagues from the group of coordinator Prof. Dr. Liesbeth de Lange at Leiden University (ULEI), who recently published their work in the European **Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences**. It addresses the question of whether nonlinear blood-brain barrier (BBB) transport matters for (lower) morphine dosing strategies. More QSPainRelief publications can be found on the [project website](#).

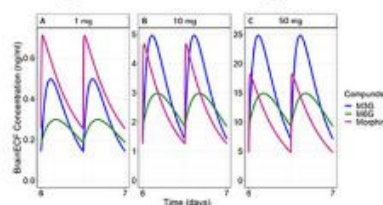


Nonlinear BBB transport effects on

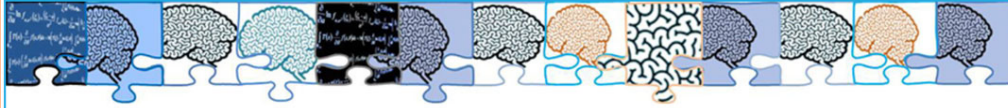
Morphine pharmacokinetics



Morphine vs metabolite profiles



The **12th Annual Course on the Blood-Brain Barrier (BBB) in CNS Drug Development**, which took place from **4 - 6 October 2023**, in Uppsala, Sweden, has concluded successfully. This 3-day course, featuring QSPainRelief coordinator Prof. Liesbeth de Lange (**ULEI**) and renowned expert Prof. emeritus Margareta Hammarlund-Udenaes, provided a comprehensive foundation for understanding the BBB and its role in determining the distribution of drugs in the central nervous system (CNS).



Courses on the BBB in CNS Drug Development

In September, the Pain Awareness Month, the **13th Congress of the European Pain Federation (EFIC2023)** in Budapest, Hungary, concluded with resounding success, including the QSPainRelief workshop on **21 September 2023**. Chaired by Prof. Elizabeth (Liesbeth) De Lange, the workshop delved into "Analgesic Synergy and Opioid-Sparing Effects" - providing an opportunity for attendees to explore the latest research and pharmacological strategies regarding chronic pain treatment. Other speakers and topics were:

- *A novel operant animal model for the evaluation of new pharmacological treatments for chronic pain* by Dr. Beltrán Álvarez Pérez (**UPF**),
- *Molecular pathway analysis for in vitro validation of novel chronic pain treatment strategies* by Prof. Andrea Bedini (**UNIBO**)
- *Using nociceptive thresholds to demonstrate synergy and potentiation of combinations of analgesics in healthy subjects* by Prof. Geert Jan Groeneveld (**CHDR**)



13th CONGRESS OF THE
EUROPEAN PAIN FEDERATION EFIC®
20-22 SEPTEMBER 2023 | BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

Thank you
for attending!

TOWARDS TRANSLATION: STUDIES PROBING ANALGESIC SYNERGY AND OPIOID-SPARING EFFECTS

Chair: Elisabeth De Lange
Beltrán Álvarez Pérez
Andrea Bedini
Geert Jan Groeneveld



On 5 July 2023, the QSPainRelief project took center stage during a symposium on mechanism-based modeling approaches to address Chronic Pain at the **19th World Congress of Basic & Clinical Pharmacology 2023 (WCP2023)**.



05 July 2023
1:35 - 4:00 pm



Symposium

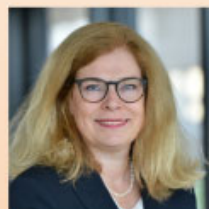
"Towards improvement of treatment of chronic pain by mechanism-based modelling approaches"



Chair
Liesbeth de Lange



Petri Takkala



Petra Bloms-Funke



Jesús Giraldo



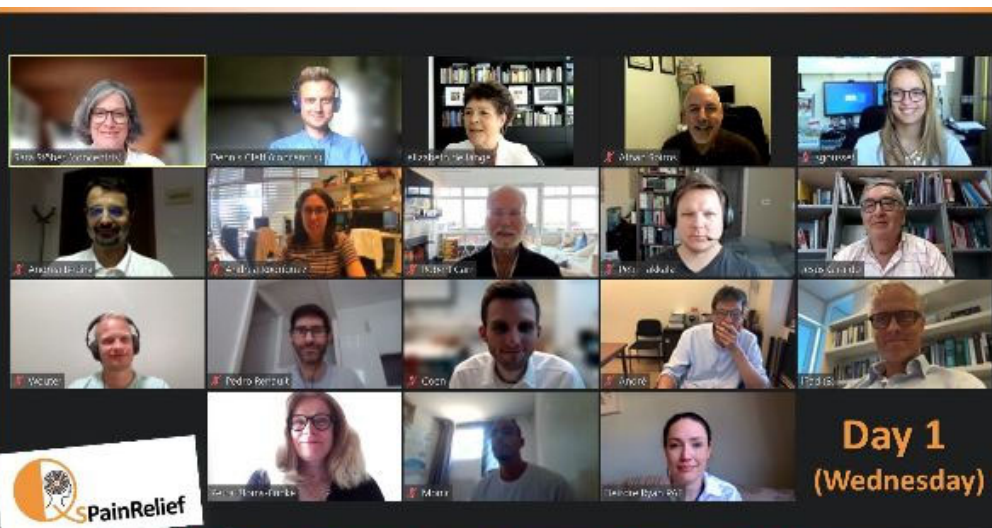
Albert Dahan



WCP2023
2 - 7 JULY 2023
GLASGOW | SCOTLAND

Successful 8th Steering Committee Meeting

The QSPainRelief Steering Committee (SC) assembled remotely via Zoom for the 8th SC Meeting on **June 14th and 15th 2023**. We discussed how to integrate the reviewers' response to the recent periodic reporting (WP1), the progress made in the development of the model platform (WP2), data management (WP3), in silico computation (WP4), cellular pathways (WP5), preclinical validation (WP6), analgesic effects in healthy subjects (WP7), CNS biomarkers in real-world pain patients (WP8), ethical considerations (WP10), and the need to specify our exploitation plan (WP9).



8th SC Meeting, 14 – 15 June 2023

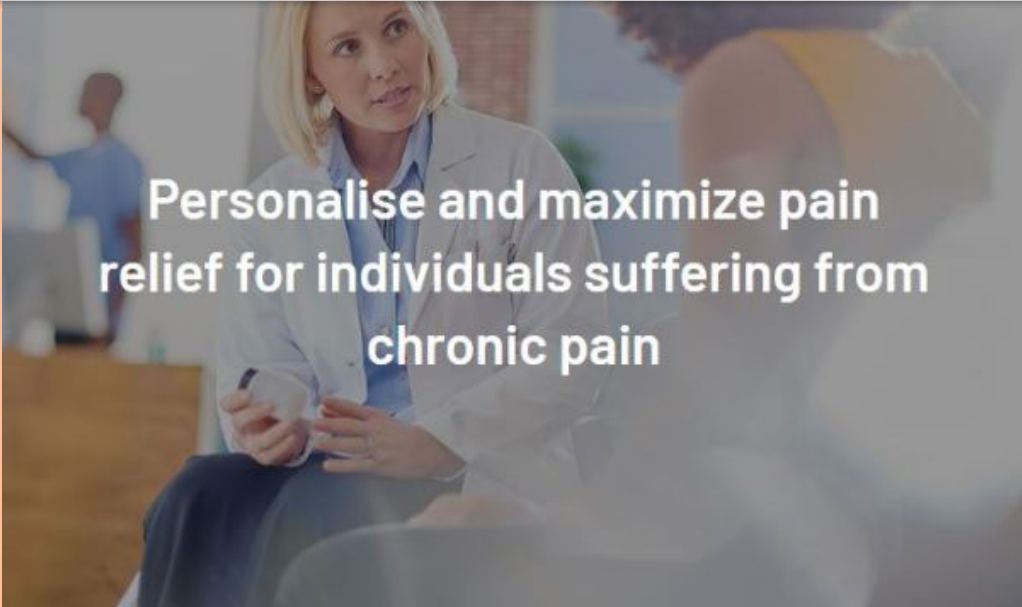


Save the Dates

- 11-15 November 2023 | **SfN 2023** | Washington, D.C., USA
- 23-31 January 2024 | **13th Course on the BBB in CNS Drug Development**
 - online (5 half-days), hosted in Leiden, The Netherlands
 - *Principles, Transport Kinetics, Methods & Translation to Humans*
- 1-3 March 2024 | **San Diego Pain Summit 2024** | San Diego, California, USA
- 7-10 March 2024 | **AAPM 2024** | Scottsdale, Arizona, USA
- 23-25 May 2024 | **EUFEPS** | Debrecen, Hungary
- 9-12 July 2024 | **INRC 2024** | Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA
- 5-9 August 2024 | **IASP 2024** | Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 24-26 April 2025 | **EFIC 2025** | Lyon, France
- 12-17 July 2026 | **WCP2026** | Melbourne / Narm, Australia

Stay tuned for further updates, workshops, and project news on our social media channels ([LinkedIn](#) & [X / Twitter](#)) as well as the official [QSPainRelief website](#).





Personalise and maximize pain relief for individuals suffering from chronic pain



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 848068. This newsletter reflects only the authors' view and the European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains. You are receiving this half-yearly project newsletter because you are either a member of the research consortium, a member of the scientific and ethical advisory board (**SEAB**), a public-records contact point or press representative, a member of Pain Alliance Europe (**PAE**), or a subscriber from our sign-up page.

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