INTERNATIONAL PATIENT MEETING

Doctor's & Patient's Talks:
Focusing on Dysregulated Mineralization Diseases

Date: January 24, 2025

Time: 14:00 - 18:00 GMT

Format: **Online**

Registration link:
(Deadline: January 17, 2025)

Objective
In alignment with the INTEC objectives, this workshop aims to unite patients' organizations, researchers, and medical doctors to review and explain newly published research on diseases associated with ectopic calcification and ossification.

PROGRAMME*	
14:00 - 14:15**	**Welcome** Prof. Olivier Vanakker, INTEC Coordinator Prof. Leonor Cancela, Organizer
14:15 - 14:45	**Invited speaker: Prof. Olivier Vanakker** Ghent University Hospital/Ghent University, Belgium Theme: Pseudoxanthoma Elasticum (PXE)
14:45 - 15:15	**Invited speaker: Prof. Frank Rutsch** Muenster University Hospital, Germany Theme: Generalized Arterial Calcification of Infancy (GACI)
15:15 - 16:00	**Invited speaker: Dr. Laetitia Michou** University of Laval and Hospital, Quebec Theme: Ectopic cardiac calcifications associated with Paget's disease of bone
16:00 - 16:15	**Break**
16:15 - 16:45	**Invited speaker: Prof. Frederick S. Kaplan** University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, US Theme: Fibrodysplasia ossificans progressiva (FOP)
16:45 – 17:15	**Invited speaker: Marta Jacinto** Patient Organization: *PXE and Rare Diseases, Portugal*
17:15 – 18:00	**Round table discussion**
***** presentations are 20 minutes plus 10 minutes for discussion ****** hours are in GMT	

For more details and any questions please contact: **Leonor Cancela - lcancela@ualg.pt**

ABOUT INTEC

The International Network on Ectopic Calcification (INTEC) is one of the latest International Thematic Networks which are being supported by Ghent University. These are cooperative networks consisting of Ghent University staff members and international partners concerning a specific topic of excellence in education and research.

INTEC creates a robust network to contribute to the advancement of scientific knowledge and unite international institutions' expertise around ectopic calcification (EC). Ghent University (Hospital) has a strong history concerning connective tissue and EC research, being international leaders for more than three decades. A unique strength of the Ghent partners is the specific capacity for collaboration and integration over different disciplines and teams within the University (Hospital), such as clinics vs. molecular or basic research lab, ...

INTEC uses an interdisciplinary thematic approach to connect the relevant knowledge at Ghent University - fundamental and translational research, clinical and pharmaceutical experts with an established high-impact track record in studying aspects of EC - with an international network of 15 partners who were carefully chosen to represent a diverse base of expertise, to exploit complementarities and to avoid competition. They are internationally recognized leading researchers that acknowledge the need for a collaborative approach to make important progress in the field of EC. Complementarity and diversity are achieved with respect to research expertise and education. In addition, important stakeholders are involved as affiliated members: Genetic Alliance - a coalition of patient organizations, and industrial partners – Sanifit/Vifor, Inozyme, Elastrin, Haltex and VIB.

INTEC contains thus all necessary expertise to address the challenges of EC via excellent and innovative science, to invest in high-quality education of all EC stakeholders, and to establish sufficient impact for the network by dissemination of results. While the fundamental research partners have know-how and technological expertise necessary to accomplish INTEC's research aims, the clinical partners' expertise covers most tissues where EC occurs. In addition, it allows INTEC to take advantage of the largest cohorts of hereditary EC patients and integration of cohorts with acquired EC. These patients play a crucial role in the translation of basic science results.

INTEC is the largest consortium of experts dedicated to advancing the knowledge on acquired and genetic calcification towards clinical and therapeutic applications by stimulating, facilitating and enhancing cooperation and better transfer of knowledge as it bridges different disciplines (rare versus common disease, genotype versus phenotype, preclinical versus clinical) and sectors (academic research, clinical research and industrial R&D). We are confident that the network will fertilize a multitude of new collaborations and will broaden the perspective of all partners both in terms of internationalization and across sectors. In this respect, it is important that INTEC is an open network that welcomes all stakeholders relevant for EC in aging and disease. INTEC's collaborative ecosystem will reinforce the efficiency of the Research and Innovation on EC by decreasing fragmentation, avoiding duplication, and identifying major research gaps that can be tackled together.