

13TH CONFERENCE

Saliva Symposium

MAY 6 TO 9, 2026
EGMOND-AAN-ZEE

INVITED
SPEAKERS





Henk Brand
*Academic Center
for Dentistry
Amsterdam*

Saliva and systemic diseases

Henk Brand is Associate Professor at the department of Oral Biochemistry at the Academic Centre for Dentistry Amsterdam (ACTA) in the Netherlands. During the past 30 years, his research mainly focused on the relationship between oral health and chronic systemic diseases, especially chronic inflammatory diseases of the gastrointestinal tract, kidney diseases and the oral health of cancer survivors. In all these studies, changes in the secretion rate and composition of saliva were investigated.



Guy Carpenter
*King's College
London*

Saliva and mouth feel

My research has covered saliva and salivary glands with a focus on innervation, secretion and function. Initial studies examined the glycosylation status of parotid salivary proteins in dry-mouth (Sjogren's disease) before exploring the role of nerves in the secretion of IgA into saliva. Since appointment my interactions with industry have expanded, exploring mechanisms of food related astringency which revealed the mucosal pellicle as an important factor. This now forms a major focus of several projects exploring the interaction of salivary mucins (Muc5b and Muc7) with mucosal bound mucins (Muc1). A recent breakthrough has been defining the lubrication mechanism of salivary mucins (hydration lubrication) which involves the glycans binding sodium ions- around which water molecules provide ball-bearing like properties in creating super-lubricity.



**Elaine
Emmerson**
*University of
Edinburgh*

The Importance of Macrophage Crosstalk in Facilitating Salivary Gland Regeneration

Elaine graduated from The University of Liverpool in 2004 with a B.Sc. (Hons) in Genetics and from the University of Manchester in 2010 with a Ph.D. in Cell Biology. Following a 2 year postdoctoral research project, Elaine moved to the University of California San Francisco (UCSF) as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow where she investigated the interaction between nerves and stem cells during salivary gland development. In 2017 she was awarded a Chancellor's Fellowship to initiate her independent research group at The University of Edinburgh, to study salivary gland regeneration, and in February 2018 she was awarded a UK Regenerative Medicine Platform Innovation Award to develop therapeutics to regenerate injured salivary gland in head and neck cancer patients. More recently she has been awarded funding from the Medical Research Council (MRC), Biotechnology & Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), Tenovus Scotland, Wellcome Trust and The Royal Society to further investigate the cellular communication that occurs during salivary gland development and regeneration, with an emphasis on macrophage crosstalk.





Derk Jan Jager
Amsterdam
University Medical
Center

Endoscopic irrigation to enhance salivary gland function in Sjögren's disease

Dr. Jager earned his DMD and PhD from the University of Groningen, as well as advanced prosthodontics training in both Groningen and at the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. At the Amsterdam UMC, he conducts research on oral rehabilitation of Sjögren's disease patients and new therapies for oral dryness related to Sjögren's disease. Furthermore, he is head of a dry-mouth outpatient clinic. Until June 2023, he was president of the Salivary Research Group of the International Association for Dental Research (IADR). Currently he is enrolled in a MSc programme in Clinical Trials at the University of Oxford.



**Manuel
Jimenez Lopez**
International
University of La Rioja

Saliva in exercise science

Dr. Manuel Jiménez is a professor and researcher at the International University of La Rioja (Spain), specialising in sports science, neurophysiology, and psychophysiology. He holds a PhD and has extensive experience in monitoring over 400 professional elite athletes using salivary biomarkers, with expertise in stress physiology, injury prevention, and performance optimisation. He was an Honorary Research Fellow at University College London in 2019 and 2024. His academic work combines cutting-edge scientific research with applied methodologies in high-performance sports, public health and inclusive initiatives.



Elsa Lamy
University of Evora

Saliva as a Key Player in Eating Behavior

Elsa Lamy is Researcher at the Mediterranean Institute for Agriculture Environment and Development, of the University of Evora. She holds a PhD in Animal Sciences (2009), during which she studied salivary proteomics to understand animal food choices. Understanding that the potential of saliva in food choices and nutrition is not limited to animals, extending to humans, she started to go deeper on salivary proteome of obese people, during her master studies in Metabolic Diseases and Eating Behaviour. Since then, Elsa Lamy is leading the Laboratory of Oral Biology and Salivary proteomics (University of Evora), where different studies are being performed with the focus in getting deeper understanding about saliva related with food ingestion, from 2 complementary point-of-view: 1) by analysing the influence that food signals (pre-ingestive, ingestive – taste and astringency, and post-ingestive/metabolic) have in changing saliva composition; 2) by searching how salivary proteome modulates food oral processing (including in-mouth sensory perception and subsequent nutrient bioavailability).





**Anne Marie
Lynge Pedersen**
*University of
Copenhagen*

Glycans and Sjögren's disease

Anne Marie Lynge Pedersen is a professor and head of oral medicine and pathology at the section of Oral Biology and Immunopathology, the Department of Odontology, Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, University of Copenhagen. She graduated as a dentist (DDS) from the Royal Dental College in Copenhagen in 1992 and obtained her PhD at the University of Copenhagen in 1997 with her thesis entitled 'Salivary gland dysfunction in patients with primary Sjögren's syndrome'. Her research covers histological, physiological (cell signalling), biochemical, immunological, clinical, and therapeutic aspects salivary gland dysfunction in autoimmune diseases (e.g. Sjögren's syndrome, type 1 diabetes), but also related to medication intake and cancer therapy, and identification of salivary biomarkers. Furthermore, her research has focused on oral mucosal diseases and the interaction between oral and system diseases. She has published more than 180 publications and 25 book chapters on salivary gland dysfunction and xerostomia, and on various oral mucosal diseases.



**Daniel Midjord-
Belstrøm**
*University of
Copenhagen*

Saliva diagnostic with microbiome

DDS in 2009, PhD in 2014, and dr. odont in 2018 from University of Copenhagen. Currently holds a position as Professor at Department of Odontology, Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, University of Copenhagen in section for Clinical Oral Microbiology. Primary research area is to use contemporary molecular methods for characterization of the oral microbiome and the host response in oral and general health and disease. The aim is to evaluate the potential of using salivary biomarkers for identification of oral and systemic diseases at pre-clinical stages of disease.



Walter Siqueira
*University of
Saskatchewan*

Proteins, Pellicle, and Precision Health: Decoding the Proteome of Saliva

Saliva is more than a diagnostic fluid; It is a gateway to precision health. Over my career, I have focused on unraveling its proteome, with special attention to the acquired enamel pellicle, a dynamic protein layer that protects teeth and influences oral ecology. Advances in proteomics have redefined our understanding of pellicle function, biomaterials interactions, and saliva's role as a biomarker for oral and systemic conditions. This presentation will explore the scientific trajectory of salivary proteomics, its translational impact, and its promise for shaping personalized and preventive oral health care.

