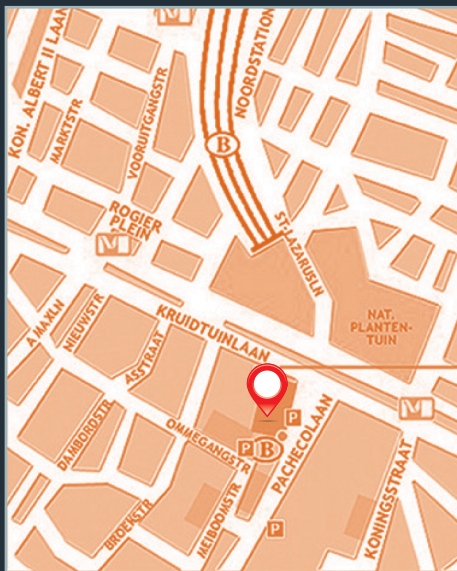


- Simultaneous translation FR/NL
- Accreditation requested
- Documents available on:  
[www.health.belgium.be/bioeth](http://www.health.belgium.be/bioeth)

#### PLACE

Brussels 44 Center  
Boulevard du Jardin Botanique  
Passage 44  
1000 Brussels



#### ACCESS

- Train: Brussels-North
- Metro: Botanique or Rogier (line 2)

#### FREE ADMISSION REGISTRATION REQUIRED

via:

- [www.health.belgium.be/bioeth](http://www.health.belgium.be/bioeth)
- [secr.bioeth@health.belgium.be](mailto:secr.bioeth@health.belgium.be)
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# PRECISION MEDICINE: A NEW STORY?

Brussels 44 Center

BELGIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON



## Bioethics

**18**  
APRIL  
2018

# PRECISION MEDICINE: A NEW STORY?

## PROGRAM

- 08.30** Welcome
- 09.00** **Introductory speech**  
Paul Schotsmans, Committee Chairman
- 09.10** **Are new targeted therapies less toxic?**  
09.10 Dominique Bron, MD, PhD, member  
of the Committee  
09.30 Jean-Pascal Machiels, MD, PhD
- 09.50** **Clinical challenges**  
a multidisciplinary approach to two clinical  
cases, involving students from:  
• the "ULB", Brussels: faculties of medicine,  
sociology and philosophy  
• "Erasmushogeschool", Brussels: nurses  
(3rd year bachelor students)
- 10.30** **The challenge to the health economy**  
Lieven Annemans, Ph.D University of Ghent
- 11.00** Break
- 11.30** **The challenges for the patient**  
Wannes Van Hoof, scientific collaborator of  
the Cancer Centre, Scientific Institute of Public  
Health
- 12.00** **Discussion with the public**
- 12.30** **The ethical challenge**  
Elodie Giroux, Lecturer in philosophy of  
science and medicine, Jean-Moulin University  
Lyon 3 (France)
- 13.00** **Closing word from the students**
- 13.20** **Close**  
Marie-Geneviève Pinsart, Vice-Chairman  
of the Committee
- 13.30** Lunch

Do the developments of the last decades in the areas of genome sequencing, DNA and protein analysis, molecular diagnosis etc., in combination with the development of supercomputers which can process huge amounts of data ("big data") very quickly, lead to a new sort of medicine, so-called precision medicine, also known as personalised medicine?

But what exactly is precision medicine? Is it a new method for making a diagnosis? A new method of treatment? Or are we dealing here with a much broader concept, one which encompasses a new approach to health and prevention?

And is precision medicine so different to the current way of doing medicine? More effective? More reliable? To what extent does it turn the doctor-patient relationship upside down, a relationship which goes back to the Hippocratic Oath, whereby the doctor declares that he/she will care for his/her patients, promote their health and alleviate their pain?

What are the risks of precision medicine? Is it affordable for our healthcare system which relies on solidarity? Will it eventually result in changes to our vision on the human person?

The Belgian Advisory Committee on Bioethics invites everyone to reflect on these questions in this burgeoning domain, together with local and foreign medical specialists and experts. As was the case in previous conferences, the Committee will involve students from various disciplines (ethics – medicine – sociology) in this topic. The students will give their vision on this issue on the basis of two clinical cases.

This new approach to medicine carries with it many implications for our society. For this reason, the Committee wishes to explore this complex subject and open the discussion, a discussion which also involves citizens and the government.