



**GYM (Generate Your Muscle) Project meeting**  
**November 5, 2021, 15.00-17.45**  
**AINSI, Maastricht**



[www.generateyourmuscle.com](http://www.generateyourmuscle.com)

**GYM: Innovative stem cell therapy for muscle repair and regeneration**

Maintaining healthy muscles is essential for a healthy life, but genetic and non-genetic diseases make muscles lose their function during life. GYM aims to develop and commercially produce an innovative stem cell therapy for the treatment of patients with reduced muscle mass, muscle power and muscle energy. The roadmap of GYM consists of 3 major milestones. At first, we will define the safety and (partial) effectiveness of muscle stem cell therapy in a Phase I/II Clinical Trial. Next, we will determine the applicability and scope of our treatment for patients with genetic and non-genetic muscle pathology. Genetic editing strategies will be optimised to correct the genetic defect in genetically affected patients. Finally, the eventual medicinal product will be optimised with respect to culture conditions, energy capacity and specificity of the muscle stem cells, called mesoangioblasts, and engraftment in the affected muscles. This will pave the way for transferring the production to a company, which will be established as result of the project. The challenges the GYM project addresses, impact both the vulnerable population and the socio-economic status of the Euregio Meuse-Rhine. It will make the Euregio Meuse-Rhine a leader in stem cell therapy for muscle disease, as GYM builds on the synergy between academic researchers and the biotechnology industry in the Euregio Meuse-Rhine and on the profitable climate that has been created for regenerative medicine in this region.

The meeting will give an overview of the progress of the GYM project, how we reach out with the project to the scientific community and general public and how we contribute to the Euregio Meuse-Rhine. During the drinks, laptop pitches will make it possible to engage with young GYM scientists and get more detailed on knowledge on specific parts of the project

**The GYM project team**

- Clinical Genomics/Toxicogenomics, School MHeNS, University of Maastricht (Bert Smeets)
- Stem Cell Institute, University of Leuven (Maurilio Sampaolesi)
- Exercise Physiology and Sports Medical Center of Biomed, University of Hasselt (Bert Op 't Eijnde)
- Laboratory of Hematology for Cell and Gene Therapy, University of Liège (Yves Beguin)
- Dental Materials and Biomaterials Research, University Clinic RWTH Aachen (Horst Fischer)
- Scannexus, Maastricht (Kim Feron)
- Kenko International, Bosch en Duin (Ineke Rijnhout)

**GYM-Progress meeting**

15.00-15.15	Music	Stijn Kuppens, cellist
15.15-15.45	GYM Overview	Bert Smeets, project leader
15.45-16.00	GYM Impact	Bram Verbrugge, communication advisor/father patient
16.00-16.15	GYM in the EMR	Mark Vos, coordinator Interreg Euregio Meuse-Rhine
16.15-17.45	GYM laptop pitches and drinks	

**To register send an email before October 26 to Christa Graus ([c.graus@maastrichtuniversity.nl](mailto:c.graus@maastrichtuniversity.nl)).**

