

An EU-Canada joint infrastructure
for next-generation multi-Study Heart research

'Data Sharing: *More Incentives, Better Science*' Virtual Workshop

29-30 September 2020 (14:00-18:00 CEST)

Speakers' bios



Dr Karim Lekadir

Director of BCN-AIM, Barcelona Artificial Intelligence
in Medicine Lab and Ramon y Cajal Senior Researcher
University of Barcelona
Barcelona, Spain

Karim Lekadir, Senior Researcher, holds a Master's Degree in Computer Science from University of Montpellier II (France) and a PhD in Medical Image Computing from Imperial College London (UK). As the director of BCN-AIM, Barcelona Artificial Intelligence in Medicine Lab, and Ramon y Cajal Senior Researcher he is part of the DataScience@UB research centre of the University of Barcelona, Dpt. Matemàtiques & Informàtica. He participated in several EU projects in the field of medical imaging and computational biomedicine. His software developed during his PhD for cardiac functional quantification has been CE marked and commercialised by CMRtools and is now used in more than 250 clinical centres worldwide. His current research focuses on the development of data science and machine learning approaches for the analysis of large-scale biomedical data, including medical images, radiomics and non-imaging data. He is coordinator of two H2020 projects, euCanShare and EarlyCause – and WP Leader in the H2020 LongITools project. He is Associated Editor of IEEE Transactions on Medical Imaging.





Prof. Pascal Borry

Professor of Bioethics
Center for Biomedical Ethics and Law
KU Leuven University
Leuven, Belgium

Pascal Borry is full professor of bioethics at the Centre for Biomedical Ethics and Law (University of Leuven, Belgium). His main research activities are concentrated on the ethical, legal and social implications of innovative technologies. He published among other issues on topics such as direct to consumer genetic testing, public health genomics, biobanking, research on human tissue, genetic testing, preconceptional and prenatal screening, neonatal screening, and anti-doping. He published more than 150 publications in international peer reviewed journals.

He is programme director of the Master of Bioethics and teaches medical ethics to medical students. He is member of the Flemish Commission on neonatal screening (2012-now), member of the Belgian Consultative Committee on Bioethics (2014-2018, 2019-2023) and expert of the Belgian Superior Health Council (2014-2020). Within the European Society of Human Genetics he was member of the Professional and Public Policy Committee (2009-2016) and elected member of the board (2012-2017). He is member of the Research Ethics Committee of UZ/KU Leuven (2018-2021). Since 2016 he is member of the Ethics Panel of the World Anti-Doping Agency.

He received various prizes. In 2006 he received the triennial prize for biomedical ethics 'Professor Roger Borghraef'. In 2014 he also received the Innovation Prize of the Dutch Association for Community Genetics and Public Health Genomics, and in 2015 the prize of the Dutch Society for Bioethics. In 2015 he also received the Science Communication Award of the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts. He was a visiting scholar at the Case Western Reserve University, the Université de Montréal, and the VU Medical Center Amsterdam .

Since 2009 he is Invited Scholar at the Center for Genomics and Policy of Mc Gill University and collaborates on various joint publications in the field of biobanking, direct-to-consumer genetic testing in children, and anti-doping.





Mr. Clemens Ammann

Doctoral Candidate

Experimental and Clinical Research Center, joint facility of
Charité - University Hospital Berlin and Max Delbrück
Center for Molecular Medicine
Berlin, Germany

My name is Clemens Ammann and I am a doctoral candidate and senior student of medicine at Charité - University Hospital Berlin. Coming from a medical background and bringing great technical interest with me I am currently looking into exciting advancements of machine learning to improve cardiac MRI post-processing at the ECRC. I started medical school after graduating from high school in Austria, where I participated in several mathematics competitions and also received the state award for a pre-scientific work in the field of natural science in 2015. Besides my studies I work at the university IT department and enjoy playing the clarinet, coding or hiking through the alps.



Mr. Alexander Bernier

Researcher

Centre of Genomics and Policy
Montreal, Canada

Alexander Bernier is a lawyer working at the Centre of Genomics and Policy in Montreal, Canada. Mr. Bernier completed two law degrees, a BCL and a JD, at McGill University. He is active in the European-Canadian Cancer Network's Internal Ethical Board, the Jewish General Hospital's Medical and Biomedical Research Ethics Board, and the International Cancer Genome Consortium's Data Access Compliance Office.

Mr. Bernier holds key roles in the development of data governance and policy deliverables for international health research consortia including euCanSHare and the Human Cell Atlas.





Dr Rodrigo Costas

Senior researcher

Centre for Science and Technology Studies (CWT)

Leiden, the Netherlands

Senior researcher. Rodrigo's research focuses on the development of new social media metrics (altmetrics), new scientometric applications at the individual-level and the study of funding acknowledgements.



Prof. Matthias Friedrich

Chief, Cardiovascular Imaging

McGill University Health Centre

Montreal, Canada

Matthias G. Friedrich earned his MD at the Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen/Nuernberg, Germany. He completed his training as an internist and cardiologist at the Charité University Medicine Center, Humboldt University in Berlin.

After appointments with the University of Calgary and the Montreal Heart Institute, he is currently Full Professor and Chief, Cardiovascular Imaging at the McGill University Health Centre, with the Departments of Medicine and Diagnostic Radiology. He has a strong interest in novel imaging techniques using MRI to diagnose heart disease and leads a team of close to 20 scientists.

He authored or co-authored more than 200 peer-reviewed publications, with over 16,000 citations (current h index: 57). He was the Founding President of the Canadian Society for Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance and is Past President of the Society for Cardiovascular MR (SCMR). Dr. Friedrich is the Scientific Director of the Courtois Cardiovascular Signature Program.



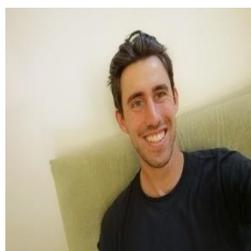


Dr Josep Ll. Gelpi

Team Leader

Barcelona Supercomputing Center & Univ. of
Barcelona
Barcelona, Spain

PhD in Chemistry (1990, U. Barcelona) Senior Lecturer in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. Dept. of Biochemistry. Univ. of Barcelona. Director of the Computational Bioinformatics node of the Spanish National Institute of Bioinformatics, hosted by the Life Science Dept. at the BSC. Author of over 100 peer-reviewed scientific papers in the field of bioinformatics and computational biology (H-Index =41, 8,057 citations). Main research interests: protein structure to function relationships, protein flexibility, and advanced methods for biomolecular simulation. Solutions for data integration in biology, including web-services, database management and integration in HPC environments. Dr Gelpi's group has participated in the management of data in large genomics initiatives like CLL-ICGC, and PCAWG, and participates in EC projects like, MuG, ELIXIR-Excelerate, EucanShare, EuCanImage, and the BioExcel Center of Excellence in biomolecular simulation.



Mr. Thomas Hadler

PhD Student, BIOphysical Quantitative
Imaging Towards Clinical Diagnosis and
Experimental and Clinical Research Center,
Joint facility of Charité - University Hospital
Berlin and Max Delbrück Center for Molecular
Medicine, Berlin, Germany

My name is Thomas Hadler and I am a doctoral candidate at the Medical Faculty Charité. I am a computational scientist, specialized in software development and machine learning and enjoy using my skills to contribute to the medical advances in cardiovascular magnetic resonance (CMR) at Buch. I initially graduated the Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz in Computer Science with a Bachelor's Degree. Here I participated in several programming contests such as the German Collegiate Programming Contest in 2016. I graduated the Freie Universität Berlin in 2020 with a Master's Degree in Computational Sciences.

I took a doctoral candidate position at the Charité after writing my Master's thesis with Prof. Jeanette Schulz-Menger as a supervisor. I am deeply intrigued by the current



developments in deep learning in CMR and the tight constraints medical staff put on automation. In my free time I enjoy different sport activities such as bouldering, kayaking and latin dance.



Dr Katharina F Heil

Project Manager
Universitat de Barcelona
Barcelona, Spain

Katharina completed her undergraduate studies in Wuerzburg, Germany and Buenos Aires, Argentina, where she obtained a BSc in Biomedical Sciences. She got an MSc in Biomedicine and Bioinformatics, from Universitat de Barcelona and Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona.

In 2017 she obtained her PhD joint degree from University of Edinburgh and KTH, Stockholm.

Katharina is the project Manager of the euCanSHare and EarlyCause project. She also overlooks the overall functioning of the longITools project.

Her role extends to the one of the group manager. As such she is in charge of ensuring the well functioning of projects, internal processes and external representation.

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/katharinafheil/>

Twitter: @Ka_Heil



Prof. Kari Kuulasmaa

Research professor
Emeritus Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL)
Helsinki, Finland

Having my background in mathematics and statistics, I became the head of the Data Centre of the WHO MONICA Project for Multinational MONItoring of trends and determinants in Cardiovascular disease in 1987. MONICA involved 32 collaborating centres in 21 countries.



euCanSHare is funded by the European Union's H2020 Framework under Grant Agreement 825903. All Canadian project partners have been funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and the Fonds de recherche du Québec-Santé.

Since 1998 I have headed the Data Centre of the MORGAM (MONica Risk, Genetics, Archiving and Monograph) Project. I am currently also the coordinator of the project. So far, MORGAM has harmonized data from 28 population based cohort studies from 15 countries for joint analyses. Between 2001 and 2012, I was the Leader of several EU/DG SANCO projects for developing and coordinating the European Health Examination Survey (EHES) for standardizing national health examination surveys in Europe.



Dr Michaela Th. Mayrhofer

Head of ELSI Services and Research
Biobanking and Bio-Molecular resources Research
Infrastructure —
European Research Infrastructure Consortium
Austria

Michaela Th. Mayrhofer is a political scientist and historian by training. She was educated in Vienna, Louvain-la-Neuve, Essex and Paris. In December 2010, she earned her PhD from both the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales and the University of Vienna. Her academic career led her to various positions and stays at the Centre de Recherche Médecine, Sciences, Santé et Société, the University of Vienna, the Institute of Technology and Society Studies at the Alpen-Adria-Universität Klagenfurt/Vienna/Graz, the Technical University of Vienna, the Fondation Brocher and the Medical University of Graz. Since 2018, she leads the Code of Conduct for Health Research initiative, which aims at developing a code along Article 40 of the EU GDPR, considering the specific features of processing personal data in the area of health. She has been working for BBMRI-ERIC since 2013, where she serves as Head of ELSI Services and Research since 2019 and Co-Interim Director General (Feb-Aug 2020). She is involved in several international research projects in both expert and leadership positions, among them EOSC-life CINECA, EUCAN-Connect, and EUCAN-image.





Dr Vaclav Papez

Research Associate
University College London
London, United Kingdom

I have worked in the fields of health and neuro informatics for more than seven years now. I have spent the last four years as a research associate at the Institute of Health Informatics at the University College London. Previously, I worked as a junior researcher at the Department of Computer Science and Engineering of the University of West Bohemia in Pilsen, Czech Republic, where I also obtained my PhD with a thesis on Archetype-based approach for modelling of electroencephalographic/event-related potentials data and metadata.

Having a professional background as a computer scientist and software engineer, my primary interest is in data models, database technologies (relational as well as non-relational) and linked data / semantic web.



Prof. Gerard Pasterkamp

Professor and manager of the division LAB UMCU
Medical Scientific Division manager division LAB UMCU
Netherlands

Prof Dr Gerard Pasterkamp, MD, is manager of the division LAB within the UMCU. He acts as principal investigator in the laboratory of clinical chemistry. His research interests are in the field of cardiovascular biology and innovation in biomarkers and drug targets. The research group houses the largest atherosclerotic plaque biobank worldwide: Athero Express including >4000 patients. This biobank has generated new insights into determinants of plaque destabilisation. The laboratory also invests in the excavation of genetic determinants of atherosclerotic plaque characteristics. He coordinates national and EU based consortia with the aim to unravel biomarkers and mechanisms of atherosclerotic disease. His translational profile is noted in the private public consortia he is involved in. He is supervising three public private grants that have been rewarded with the aim to develop novel biomarkers and imaging technology to detect cardiac ischemia and endothelial dysfunction. In 2018 he obtained a LeDucq grant together with Prof G Owens (Virginia University) on the role of smooth muscle cell plasticity in the atherosclerotic plaque.





Prof. Steffen Petersen

Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine

Queen Mary University of London

London, UK

Steffen Petersen is a Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine at the William Harvey Research Institute, Queen Mary University of London and a Consultant Cardiologist and Clinical Director for Research at Barts Heart Centre, Barts Health NHS Trust. He is also the Cardiovascular Programme Director of UCLPartners Academic Medical Centre. He is Vice President of the European Society of Cardiology's (ESC) European Association of Cardiovascular Imaging (EACVI) and chair of the Cardiovascular MRI section. He is the chief specialty editor of Frontiers in Cardiovascular Medicine's Cardiovascular Imaging section. He holds an MBChB and MDRES equivalent (Dr med.) from Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Germany, a DPHIL (OXON) from the Department of Cardiovascular Medicine, University of Oxford, an MPH from Harvard School of Public Health and an MSc in Health Economics, Outcomes and Management in Cardiovascular Science from the London School of Economics. He is level 3 certified for cardiovascular magnetic resonance (CMR). He has been actively involved in cardiovascular magnetic resonance since 1998 and he reports over 1000 cardiac adult MRI scans each year.



Dr Kostas Repanas

Policy Officer

European Commission, DG Research & Innovation, Open
Science Unit

Brussels, Belgium

Kostas Repanas is a policy officer at the Open Science Unit, in the Directorate General Research and Innovation of the European Commission. Kostas is mainly involved in the data and interoperability aspects of the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC), the development of the European COVID-19 Data Platform and in advancing the Open Science agenda of the Commission. He is a long-standing advocate for Open Access, Open Data and Open Science, having previously worked for EMBL Heidelberg, the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A-STAR) in Singapore, and the EU ESFRI landmark project ELIXIR. He holds a PhD in Biochemistry and Crystallography from the Netherlands Cancer Institute (NKI) in Amsterdam and the Erasmus University of Rotterdam.





Prof. Mahsa Shabani

Assistant Professor
Ghent University
Ghent, Belgium

Mahsa Shabani is Assistant Professor in Privacy Law at Faculty of Law and Criminology at Ghent University in Belgium. Her research focus is on personal data protection, health privacy and data sharing. She has extensively published her work in scientific journals with a broad readership in the fields of data protection, medical law, bioethics, genomics and bioinformatics. In the recent years, she has been collaborating with various international and European projects such as the Regulatory and Ethics Working Group of Global Alliance for Genomics and Health initiative, EUCeLLEX and euCanSHare projects. Currently, she is a member of the Ethics advisory board of various European Commission (EC) and IMI funded projects (Konfido, RHAPSODY, BEAT-DKD, and HEADSpAcE projects).

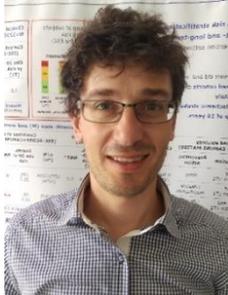


Prof. Stefan Söderberg

PI for NSW MONICA, Department of Public
Health and Clinical Medicine
Umeå, Sweden

Professor in internal medicine and senior consultant in cardiology. Research area – cardiovascular epidemiology nationally and internationally. Principal investigator for the Northern Sweden MONICA study.





Prof. Giovanni Veronesi

Professor in Biostatistics

University of Insubria, Research Center in Epidemiology
and Preventive Medicine

Varese, Italy

I was trained in biostatistics and epidemiology in Milan, University of Milano-Bicocca, and in Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, US. My main field of applied research is the epidemiology of chronic-degenerative diseases, and in particular of cardiovascular diseases, mainly using data from observational cohort studies. Among my research lines are absolute risk modelling from a combination of clinical, behavioural and work-related risk factors, and bio-markers; and the study of determinants and mechanisms of social inequalities in cardiovascular diseases. I participate to large international consortia, including the MORGAM (MONica Risk, Genetics, Archiving and Monograph) and the BiomarCaRE (Biomarker for Cardiovascular Risk Assessment across Europe) projects.



Mr. Darian Steven Viezzer

Doctoral student and scientific employee

Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin

Berlin, Germany

After my dual Bachelor studies in electrical engineering, I decided to attend to computational sciences for my Master studies. I took the chance to write my thesis in the field of 4D Flow within the working group for cardiovascular MR (CMR) at the ECRC – a joint institution of Charité and MDC in Berlin-Buch. In parallel, I worked as a student employee for Siemens Healthineers with a focus on database applications. Since 2019, I am a doctoral student and scientific employee in the CMR working group at the ECRC. While my research is focused on the post-hoc standardization of quantitative CMR methods, my work mainly affects project and technical support for our working group.

