

## **MOLECULAR IMAGING CENTRE ANTWERP**

The Molecular Imaging Centre Antwerp (MICA), founded in 2010, is a joint initiative by the University of Antwerp and the University Hospital Antwerp (UZA). The research group is led by Prof. Dr. S. Stroobants and consists of a radiopharmacy team, a preclinical imaging laboratory (Prof. S. Staelens) and a clinical department.

### **Research axes & Expertise**

MICA is housed in a custom-built facility with state-of-the-art equipment. The radiopharmacy has a cyclotron, ten hot cell units and a QC lab (GMP-certification is applied for). The preclinical laboratory has two preclinical  $\mu$ PET/CT cameras and one of the world's first simultaneous  $\mu$ PET/ SPECT scanners. In addition to SPF animal facilities, a laboratory for in vitro validations is available as well. Clinical research is performed on integrated dual headed SPECT/CT and a ToF PET/CT system.

### **Application fields**

The radiopharmacy team develops and optimizes radiotracers for oncology and neurosciences applications. The oncology team uses various orthotopic animal models combined with chemo- and/ or radiotherapy for tracer validations. Further, the neurosciences team focuses on imaging of neurodegeneration, neuroinflammation and neuromodulation. Advanced kinetic models are often used for quantification.

### **Major projects/partnerships/collaborations**

MICA is involved in multiple national and international collaborations with both academic and industrial partners. Collaborations involve: EORT C trials, IMI trials, Hercules3 PET-MR, IWT - funded programs, contract research with large pharma, etc

### **Key figures**

Scientific staff: >30 researchers (including 5 certified N-M specialists and 2 radiopharmacists). Capabilities: cyclotron, radiopharmacy & QC, preclinical in vivo / in vitro imaging lab, nuclear medicine department

### **Contacts**

- Address:-
- Website: [www.egami.be](http://www.egami.be) or [www.uantwerpen.be/en/rg/mica/](http://www.uantwerpen.be/en/rg/mica/)
- Contact persons:
  - Sigrid Stroobants (director of MICA), [sigrid.stroobants@uantwerpen.be](mailto:sigrid.stroobants@uantwerpen.be)
  - Pieter-Jan Guns (coordinator of EGAMI), [pieter-jan.guns@uantwerpen.be](mailto:pieter-jan.guns@uantwerpen.be)
  - Dominique Vanderghinste (head of radiopharmacy at UZA), [dominique.vanderghinste@uza.be](mailto:dominique.vanderghinste@uza.be)
- Phone: +32 32652784