



## *Imelda Hospital (Imeldaziekenhuis)*





## *Imelda Hospital*

### **State-of-the-art general healthcare in a calm and green environment**

Imelda is one of the leading healthcare providers in the province of Antwerp and offers high-quality general and specialised treatments.

Imelda comprises the Imelda hospital, a care centre and two dialysis centres for patients suffering from renal failure.

The hospital is situated in a very peaceful and leafy environment in the Mechelen region between Brussels and Antwerp. Bonheiden city centre is walking distance from the hospital.

The hospital has approximately 600 beds, around 1,350 medical staff and some 115 doctors.

### **Statistics (2007)**

- Admissions for conventional hospitalisation: 21,392
- Admissions: 149,969
- Day-Case Admissions: 26,091
- Operations performed: 16,096
- Emergencies: 25,031
- Consultations: 123,790



### *Imelda Hospital*

Imeldalaan, 9  
B-2820 Bonheiden  
[www.imelda.be](http://www.imelda.be)

**Healthcare Belgium International Call Centre: +32 (0)2 773 61 54**  
**[internationalpatients@healthcarebelgium.com](mailto:internationalpatients@healthcarebelgium.com)**





## Highlights

### Investment

Recent (2007-2008) investment in new facilities:

- 12 new operating theatres
- A new day-care centre (70 beds)
- A new emergency department

### Research

Permanent research and innovation enables the highly specialised staff at Imelda to provide excellent care for a wide range of treatments.

## Centres of Excellence

- **Cardiology and Cardiovascular Surgery**
- **General Surgery**
- **Orthopaedic Department**





## Cardiology and Cardiovascular Surgery

The Imelda hospital is a key national centre for heart and vascular diseases and is also Belgium's only integrated heart and vascular care centre.

Patients are admitted to one of three different units, all staffed by cardiologists and surgeons, depending on their particular heart/vascular problem. Such an integrated system means that patients receive the best possible multidisciplinary treatment for a wide range of conditions. One of the units is reserved for short-term admissions (a few hours to two days). Each and every patient will be treated by a highly skilled surgeon and will be treated as an honoured guest throughout their stay with us.

### Electrophysiology Unit

Imelda's Electrophysiology Unit is renowned for its treatment of a whole range of rhythm disorders, with success rates equal to those of the best centres in the United States.

Most arrhythmias are treated by radiofrequency ablation during a 24-hour stay. We are a leading centre for the treatment of atrial fibrillation by radiofrequency ablation and four years ago, we developed a unique anatomic-functional technique.

Our results are among the very best in the world (as reported in international literature).

Defibrillator implantations, resynchronisation therapy and rhythm surgery are common practice.

Coronary revascularisation, valve surgery and peripheral vascular operations are performed every day with very high success rates and a range of new technologies is widely available.

### Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery

The Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery Department offers patients top-quality care for cardiac, vascular and thoracic surgery. We have four surgeons: Hervé Deferm, MD and Luc Haenen, MD specialise in cardiac surgery while Patrick Peeters, MD and Jürgen Verbist, MD perform vascular and thoracic surgery.

In terms of cardiac surgery, the Department performs both coronary bypass procedures and valve surgery as well as ablation for arrhythmia and implantation of pacemakers and AICDs.

As regards vascular surgery, we offer a full range of conventional arterial vascular surgical and endovascular procedures, including phlebology, a field in which we have focused on laser treatment of varicose veins in recent years.

Thoracic surgery within the Department entails pulmonary surgery and thoracoscopic procedures such as pulmonary biopsy, talkage and sympathectomies. Since Imelda has its own renowned Dialysis Centre, we also perform access surgery.







### Procedures Performed: Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery

- Carotid Artery Disease  
There are currently two ways to treat carotid stenosis:
  - surgical treatment by carotid endarterectomy (CEA)
  - endovascular treatment by dilation and stenting of the carotid artery (CAS)
- Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD)  
If the disease is more advanced (claudication/CLI):
  - surgical bypass
  - endovascular treatment



Cardiology Team (L-R)  
**John Roosen, MD**  
**Luc Janssens, MD, Head of Department,**  
**Philippe Debruyne, MD**  
**Bart Vankelecom, MD**  
**Filip Charlier, MD**  
Also part of the Cardiology Team: **Ector Bavo, MD**



Cardiovascular Team (L-R)  
**Hervé Deferm, MD**  
**Jürgen Verbist, MD**  
**Luc Haenen, MD**  
**Patrick Peeters, MD, Head of Department**



## General Surgery

In 1984, Dr Jean-Pierre Vanrykel began specialising in major abdominal procedures at Imelda hospital. In late 1989 it was one of the first hospitals in Belgium to start performing laparoscopic gall bladder operations. Dr Chris Aelvoet joined the team in 1991. He initially used the Lichtenstein procedure but soon switched to TAPP and laparoscopic procedures continued to be used more widely. Dr Tim Tollens joined the team in 2006, focusing on the Kugel patch and PHS. He is an expert in the UHS technique.

The team of general surgeons at Imelda hospital comprises: Dr Jean-Pierre Vanrykel (Head of Department), Dr Chris Aelvoet and Dr Tim Tollens.

### Procedures Performed

- Laparoscopic Colectomy: 50 cases a year
- Laparoscopic Anti-Reflux Surgery: 20 cases a year
- Thyroid Surgery: 60 cases a year
- Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy: 220 cases a year
- Laparoscopic Colon Procedures: 150 cases a year
- Open Inguinal Hernia Repair (UHS – Ultrapro Hernia System procedures): approximately 350 cases a year; Other: approximately 50 cases a year.
- Laparoscopic Appendectomy: approximately 170 cases a year
- Laparoscopic Inguinal Hernia Repair: approximately 140 cases a year.



From left to right: Chris Aelvoet, MD, Tim Tollens, MD and Jean-Pierre Vanrykel, MD (Head of Department)

**Tim Tollens, MD**, a native of Belgium, specialised in General Surgery at the University of Louvain and started his career at the Imelda Hospital in Bonheiden. He has a great interest in different inguinal hernia repair techniques and is now a keen instructor in professional education for the UHS (Ultrapro Hernia System) with J&J. He frequently teaches training and practical courses on the UHS both at home and abroad.





## Orthopaedic Department

Imelda's Orthopaedic Surgery Department has a team of four surgeons: Dr Bart De Munnynck (Head of Department), Dr Leo Beckers, Dr Hans Casteur and Dr Antoon Van Raebroecx.

### Procedures Performed

- Knee Surgery
  - Arthroscopies: 638 cases a year
  - Arthroscopic cruciate ligament repair with or without selective arthrotomy: 68 cases a year
  - Total Knee Arthroplasty: 144 cases a year
- Hip Surgery
  - Total Hip Arthroplasty: 172 cases a year
  - Osteosynthesis: 125 cases a year
- Shoulder Surgery
  - Shoulder Arthroplasty: 308 cases a year
  - Arthroscopic cuff repair: 126 cases a year

Recent developments in shoulder surgery have brought about distinct benefits for all kinds of treatment. The arthroscopy of the shoulder has a diagnostic as well as a curative value. A patient's shoulder can be examined thoroughly and treatments such as acromioplasty, cuff repair, instability correction, AC-joint resection or reconstruction and nerve release can all be performed during a single procedure. Large screens and computer assistance in the operating theatre now mean surgeons can operate with much greater precision. Postoperative pain control can be managed more carefully and patients have been extremely satisfied with the aesthetic aspects of their surgery.

Shoulder surgery is performed by a multidisciplinary team comprising colleagues from the Radiology and Rehabilitation Departments as well as our own orthopaedic surgeons. Following developments in shoulder surgery at the Imelda Hospital, many visiting surgeons have been trained to operate arthroscopically.



**Bart De Munnynck, MD**, Head of Department



**Antoon Van Raebroecx, MD**, specialised in orthopaedic surgery at the University Hospital of Pellenberg/Leuven. He sub-specialised in arthroscopic shoulder surgery at The Alp Shoulder Institute with Dr Lafosse in Annecy, France. Following a visiting fellowship in the USA, he joined the Imelda Hospital as a shoulder surgeon. Dr Van Raebroecx has represented the Department at many international conferences, giving lectures and performing live surgery.









## *Leuven University Hospitals (UZ Leuven)*





## Leuven University Hospitals

The Leuven University Hospitals is a network of hospitals on campuses at Gasthuisberg, Lubbeek, Pellenberg, Sint-Pieter and Sint-Rafaël.

The forward-looking infrastructure at the Gasthuisberg campus provides a fitting environment for high-tech medicine. The centre was designed along the lines of a revolutionary new concept: the complex itself was built around the various functions it was to perform, rather than vice versa and as such integrates all manner of medical and paramedical disciplines seamlessly. In this way, the building complex seamlessly integrates all medical and paramedical disciplines.

### Statistics (2006)

- Patient days: 536,478
- Admissions: 63,795
- Day-case admissions: 98,579
- Consultations: 577,852
- Number of beds: 1,894
- Number of employees: 8,477



### UZ Leuven

Herestraat, 49B  
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## Highlights

The 1,894 beds at the Leuven University Hospitals make it the largest hospital in the country.

### Patient Care, Research and Training

- Leuven University Hospitals sees its role as caring for patients, conducting research and providing academic training. So many diseases are identified, studied and treated that it has built up a genuine wealth of expertise and knowledge. The reason for its success is its continual flow of ideas, innovation and scientific research at the highest level.
- Leuven University Hospitals provides treatment in all fields of medicine. Comprehensive care is available at all times in the fields of prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation and both outpatients and inpatients receive a high level of medical and paramedical care thanks to our caring staff and innovative research and equipment.
- Top-quality care also entails ongoing critical analysis and testing. Doctors take refresher courses throughout their careers, their training never ends.

### International Reputation

Leuven University Hospitals constantly strives to be a leading international centre in terms both of structure and provision of care. Its focus on Europe helps it to expand and broaden its expertise and thereby offer the highest-quality treatment to all patients.

## Centres of Excellence

- **Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery**
- **Fertility Centre**
- **Paediatrics and Paediatric Surgery**
- **Treatment of Liver and Biliary Diseases**





## Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery

The Departments of Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery at Leuven University Hospitals together form the largest Heart Centre in Belgium. With 33 intensive care beds (post-operative and ICCU), 15 medium care beds and four wards with 152 beds, the Centre offers state-of-the-art management of various cardiovascular diseases and is considered as a centre of excellence by *Circulation*, journal of the American Heart Association.

The close cooperation between cardiologists, cardiac surgeons, intensivists, nursing staff, physical therapists, exercise physiologists and registered dieticians ensures that cardiac patients benefit from an integrated programme of care from the moment they are admitted right through until they are discharged (or, where necessary, referred for outpatient treatment). The high volume of patients and the availability of the most cutting-edge devices and diagnostic techniques enable physicians to build up a wealth of clinical and technical experience.

Cardiac surgery has been well established at Leuven University Hospitals since 1957.

It is the largest cardiac surgical unit in the country performing more than 1,200 open cardiac procedures annually. The hospital's clinical activities also benefit from ongoing development and scientific progress achieved via the Centre for Experimental Cardiac Surgery.

### Cardiology

A large number of patients have been treated invasively over the last 30 years:

- Coronary Heart Disease: Percutaneous Coronary Interventions: > 31,000
- Valvular Heart Disease: Percutaneous Interventions: Mitral Stenosis > 250, Aortic Stenosis > 100
- Congenital Heart Disease: Percutaneous Interventions: > 4,000
- Arrhythmia: Ablations: > 2,600, Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillators: > 700  
Cardiac Resynchronisation Therapy: > 90

### Cardiac Surgery

- Coronary Artery Bypass Grafting (CABG): the Department is an international reference and training centre for off-pump CABG under the guidance of Professor P. Sergeant. The Leuven CABG database contains data on more than 20,000 procedures and is an invaluable source for medical literature.
- Valve Surgery: the team of valve surgeons (Professor Dr W. Flameng, Professor P. Herijgers and Professor B. Meuris) has also specialised in specific areas such as: endocarditis, minimally invasive access procedures, reconstructive aortic surgery and reconstructive mitral surgery. Activities in these fields have been widely reported in various publications.
- Congenital Heart Surgery: the Department's extensive experience in congenital surgery (250 cases treated annually) has enabled it to build up a comprehensive database; our team also works closely with interventional paediatric cardiologists.
- Pulmonary Thromboendarterectomy: the Department adopts a multidisciplinary approach to these complex procedures - an approach which has ensured a high degree of success to date (15 cases annually).
- Heart Failure: Cardiac transplants are performed on an ongoing basis; the ventricular assist device (VAD) programme provides multidisciplinary treatment, including home care.



**Frans Van de Werf, MD, PhD, FESC, FACC, FAHA**, Head of the Cardiology Department. The division is renowned for its pioneering work on thrombolysis. Professor Van de Werf treated the first 5 patients in the world at the Leuven University Hospitals. He sits on the board of the European Society of Cardiology and is the editor-in-chief of the *European Heart Journal*.



**Bart Meyns, MD, PhD**, Head of Cardiac Surgery





## Fertility Centre

The Leuven University Fertility Centre (LUFC) has played a pioneering role in various fields; Belgium's first IVF baby was born in 1984.

The LUFC has achieved very high pregnancy rates since 1999: approximately 30% implantation rate per embryo and 35-40% clinical pregnancy rate per embryo transfer (transferring 1-2 embryos only).

The LUFC and the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology are world famous for their clinical and research programmes in endometriosis, including laparoscopic surgery of advanced endometriosis of the bowel and ureter.

The LUFC also runs an internationally renowned centre for research related to stress and infertility.

More than 1,000 new infertile couples are seen every year. The Centre performs approximately 500 infertility-related procedures (mostly endometriosis surgery) and 1,400 IVF cycles per year, including embryo transfers after cryopreservation and thawing of embryos and cycles of preimplantation genetic diagnosis/screening. In addition, about 400 cycles are performed annually for controlled ovarian stimulation with or without intrauterine insemination.



The Leuven University Fertility Centre constantly strives to improve the quality of patient care and research and was the first centre for reproductive medicine in the Benelux region to be awarded ISO 9001-2000 certification in recognition of the high quality of care offered to patients with fertility problems.



**Thomas D'Hooghe, MD, PhD:** Dr D'Hooghe is a Professor at Leuven University, Director of Leuven University Fertility Centre and Serono Chair for Reproductive Medicine at Leuven University (2005-2009).

He is also a gynaecologist/translational investigator in the area of endometriosis.

Professor D'Hooghe has published more than 100 papers in international peer-reviewed journals and is currently a sponsor or co-sponsor of 13 PhD students in Leuven, Karolinska and Budapest. He has received numerous prizes for his work from international organisations such as the American Society of Reproductive Medicine, the International Society of Gynecological Endoscopy and the International Federation of Fertility Societies.

His research has been funded by Belgian research organisations, Harvard Medical School, the EU, NATO, NIH and the Wellcome Trust.

Professor D'Hooghe is also a founding board member of the World Endometriosis Research Foundation.

[www.endometriosisfoundation.org](http://www.endometriosisfoundation.org)





## Paediatrics and Paediatric Surgery

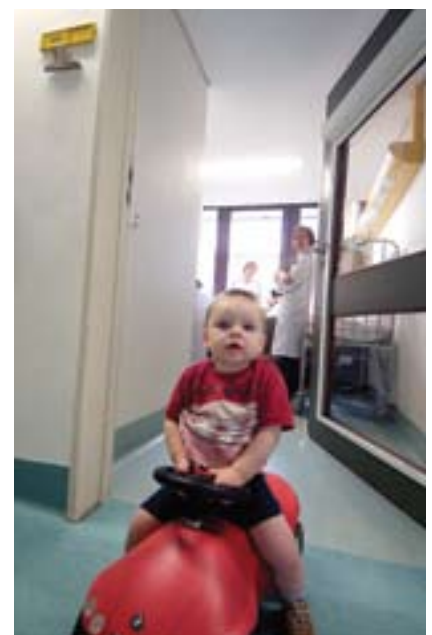
At Leuven University Children's Hospital we aim to provide children with a comprehensive range of high-quality care through cooperation with local, regional and international care providers and community dialogue.

We provide a complete range of care programmes offering high-quality treatment for newborns right through to adolescents, with special emphasis on age-specific needs and longitudinal counselling. These care programmes are also supported by specialised research programmes and offer contextual education with continuous professional training. They are inspired by ethical values, checked for social relevance and meet high-quality standards.

- Haematology and Oncology
- Child Gastroenterology- Hepatology
- Child Immune Deficiencies (CID)
- Diabetes
- Child Neurology
- Metabolic Disorders
- Paediatric Surgery
- Child Cardiology
- Child Nephrology



**Christel Van Geet, MD, PhD.**  
Head of Department







## Treatment of Liver and Biliary Diseases

All patients are offered a multidisciplinary programme of treatment and all benefit from the very latest diagnostic and therapeutic developments thanks to the close interaction between the different physicians involved in their care. Our team comprises hepatologists, hepatobiliary surgeons, transplant surgeons, an interventional radiologist (G. Maleux), a medical intensivist (A. Wilmer), a histopathologist (T. Roskams) and a virologist (M. Van Ranst). Physicians within the Hepatobiliary Unit belong to one of the three main departments below.

### Hepatology

The Department of Hepatology at Leuven University Hospitals is a separate unit within internal medicine and treats patients with liver, biliary and pancreatic diseases. Our internationally renowned unit was founded in 1963 and is one of the longest-established liver centres in the world. An integrated approach combining day-to-day medical care and translational research ensures that patients receive some of the most ground-breaking drugs and therapies available. Over the past 10 years, over 100 clinical trials have been approved by the hospital's Ethics Committee and in the last five years alone, details of the Hepatology Department's clinical research have been cited in 150 PubMed publications.

The unit has 32 specialist beds for patients with liver and biliopancreatic diseases with a mean severity-of-illness score of seven (mean severity-of-illness score for internal medicine is five).

### Hepato-Biliopancreatic Surgery

The HPB (hepato-pancreato-biliary) surgical team has a long tradition and continues to achieve excellent results in the field of HPB cancer (tumours), including laparoscopy where required.

- Minimally Invasive Laparoscopic Surgery: Following the first laparoscopic cholecystectomy in Belgium in May 1989, laparoscopic surgery developed considerably during the 1990s. Today, laparoscopic liver and pancreas resections are performed where required: please visit [www.kulas.be](http://www.kulas.be) for further details.
- Hyperthermic ablation of liver lesions, combined with partial liver resection.

The multidisciplinary team includes oncologists, radiotherapists, radiologists and pathologists and the Department itself has been considered a tertiary reference centre for major HPB surgery for several decades.

### Abdominal Transplantation Surgery (Liver, pancreas, intestine, multivisceral transplantation)

Liver transplantation has become the standard treatment for liver failure. Leuven University Hospitals runs an internationally recognised transplant programme and performs approximately 60 liver transplants annually.

Living-donor liver transplantation is also used as a treatment for liver failure.

Leuven University Hospitals is the only centre in Europe currently performing living-donor intestinal transplantation in patients with intestinal failure.



**Frederik Nevens, MD, PhD.**

Coordinator: Head of Hepatology Department







*Monica General Hospital Antwerp  
(AZ Monica)*





## Monica General Hospital, Antwerp

AZ Monica is a medium-sized hospital located across two sites in Antwerp. We offer outstanding clinical expertise and customer-focused patient care.

Our doctors are internationally renowned for their skill in orthopaedic, maxillofacial and varicose surgery and at both our sites patients receive one-to-one care and a personal touch.



### *AZ Monica Antwerp*

Harmoniestraat 68  
B-2018 Antwerp  
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### *AZ Monica Deurne*

Florent Pauwelslei, 1  
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## Highlights

### Personal Approach

We adopt a personal approach to patient care. Our doctors and other staff maintain personal and individual contact with their patients and personal commitment is highly valued in our organisation. A hospital stay can be a very confusing experience, especially when you are far from home. We cater to the specific needs of international patients and pledge to provide the most appropriate and very latest equipment in all our departments.

### Centres of Excellence

- **Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery**
- **Orthopaedic Surgery**
- **Rehabilitation Centre**
- **Varicose Vein Day-Case Surgery**







## Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

The Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Department was founded by doctor Herman Vercruysse in 1981. He trained at the University of Ghent and in Aachen, Germany, under Professor Koberg and specialised in osteotomy surgery. He worked as the Head of Department at the Antwerp University Hospital from 1983 to 1996 and is now a member of the European Board of Oro-Maxillo-Facial Surgery.

### Procedures Performed

- Osteotomy Surgery
- Trauma and Tumour Surgery (tongue cancer)
- Implants
- Schisis

The Department's team comprises Dr Bruno Vanassche, Dr Nasser Nadjmi, Dr Joel Defrancq, Dr Noorman van der Dussen and Dr Van de Perre.



Joel Defrancq, MD



On the right: Nasser Nadjmi, MD



## Orthopaedic Surgery

The Orthopaedic Surgery Department was founded over 25 years ago by Professor Marc Martens and Professor Jozef Verstreken.

Today, all the Department's 20 surgeons are specialists in a specific sub-discipline.

### Procedures Performed

- Prosthesis Surgery
- Endoscopic Surgery
- Sports Medicine
- Hand and Foot Surgery
- Children's Orthopaedic Surgery
- Spinal Surgery

All our doctors attend national and international symposia on their particular disciplines and are involved in researching and developing innovative new techniques in orthopaedic surgery.

The Department's staff have been treating foreign patients for many years, have an excellent command of English, French and German and are used to working with foreign insurance companies and administrations.



Jozef Michielsen, MD, Spinal Surgeon. Head of Department.







## Rehabilitation Centre

The Apra Rehabilitation Centre was founded in 1908. We offer rehabilitation programmes for in- and outpatients.

The Centre is well equipped and offers a swimming pool for hydrotherapy, fitness rooms and a park for outdoor activities.

### Types of rehabilitation

- Oncological Rehabilitation: special multidisciplinary programme fit@move
- Fibromyalgia
- Back and Neck Centre: Apra Move, multidisciplinary programme for back rehabilitation
- Motricity
- Neurological Rehabilitation
- Amputation
- Other Multidisciplinary Programmes: slim@move for obesity, Back-Injury Prevention Centre.



**Greet Peeters,**  
Kinesiotherapist

Physiotherapists:  
**Chantal van der Heijden, MD**  
**Geert Vende Vyver, MD**







Gutwirth, MD,  
Head of Department

## Varicose Vein Day-Case Surgery

In 1984, Dr Gutwirth (see right) founded the Vascular Surgery Department in Monica. Today, nine surgeons work in the department and treat patients from all over Belgium and abroad.

This Department comprises a large day hospital, a vascular lab, a cathlab for peripheral vascular surgery and an angiology department. Surgeons assess all aspects of a patient's condition; they may decide that surgery is unnecessary and that a less invasive solution is appropriate.

The Monica General Hospital's Vascular Surgery Department also offers varicose vein day-case surgery.

### Quality

We treat over 500 cases a year and achieve excellent clinical and cosmetic results. The particular surgery technique used is carefully selected according to each individual case. If you have varicose veins on both legs, a minimum of two days' rest is required between operations. Local and regional anaesthesia ensure that patients remain comfortable and pain-free both during and after their operation(s); blood-loss, too, is virtually nil. Surgical wounds are very small and are closed using intradermal sutures and adhesive strips so there are no stitches to be removed afterwards.

### Day-Case Surgery

Patients will spend a total of six to eight hours with us (day hospital, vascular lab and operating theatre). When discharged, walking and general activity are encouraged and on the following day, a little sightseeing is perfectly possible. We recommend a brief check-up by your GP 10 days after surgery.









*OLV Hospital  
(Onze-Lieve-Vrouwziekenhuis Aalst)*



**O.L. Vrouwziekenhuis**  
Campus Aalst - Campus Asse  
Medisch Centrum Ninove



## OLV Hospital

The OLV Hospital is a combined hospital located across three campuses. The main campus is located in the city of Aalst between Ghent and Brussels.

Foreign patients are generally treated in Aalst by a highly skilled team of approximately 200 physicians and 1,000 nurses.

Providing high-quality care is our top priority and as such we continually invest in new technology and equipment and in further education and training opportunities for our staff.

Our dedication has made us one of the best-known hospitals in Belgium.

### Statistics

- Sixth-largest hospital in Belgium (excluding university hospitals)
- 844 beds
- 95 day-care beds
- 40,200 operations per year
- 2,500 employees
- 270 physicians



### *Onze-Lieve-Vrouweziekenhuis, OLV Hospital*

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## Highlights

### International Reputation

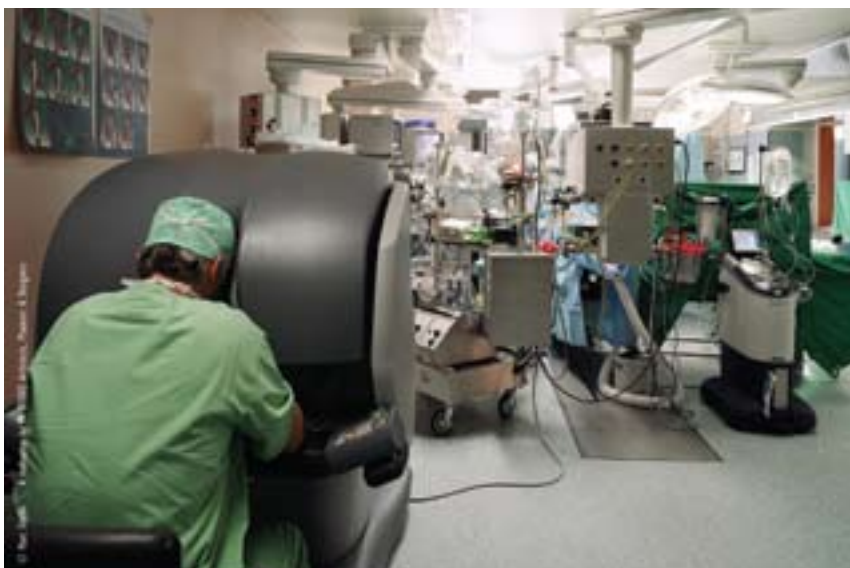
- Through its long-standing tradition of research and innovation, the OLV Hospital has gained an outstanding national and international reputation, primarily in the fields of cardiology, cardiovascular surgery, urology and neurological surgery.
- The hospital is extremely active in teaching, including at international level, and every year a number of scientific fellows and trainees are given the opportunity to work with us and build up their skills and knowledge. A Phase 1 research centre is linked to the hospital and research is conducted and publications produced in several medical disciplines with the support of study nurses.

### Investment

- A new 40,000-m<sup>2</sup> wing on the Aalst campus is to be opened in late 2009, thereby enabling the hospital to cope more easily with the rising number of short-stay and day-care patients.
- Ongoing investment also means that our doctors always have access to the very latest technology (brain lab, phlebo lab, robotic surgery, medical imaging, etc.).

## Centres of Excellence

- **Cardiology - Cardiovascular Surgery**
- **General Surgery**
- **Neurosurgery**
- **Urology**





## Cardiology and Cardiovascular Surgery

### Cardiology

The Cardiology Department conducts considerable scientific research and has been recognised for its work by the Belgian government. Numerous cardiologists from all over the world train here too. To support its research activities, the Department has its own Cardiac Research Fund (sponsored by the King Baudouin Foundation), and several of the Department's staff are key opinion leaders, running courses and both chairing and speaking at many international conferences.

### Procedures Performed

Treatment performed yearly: 9,000 diagnostic procedures and 3,000 operations

- Electrophysiological Study and Radiofrequency Ablation
- Electrophysiological Study and Pacemaker Implantation
- Electrophysiological Study and Biventricular ICD Implantation
- Heart Catheterisation and Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (with drugs)
- Eluting Stent Implantation
- Percutaneous Closure of Atrial Septal Defect

### Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery Unit

The Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery Unit was founded in 1980 by Dr Vanermen (see right). Today, five surgeons perform approximately 1,300 heart operations, 700 vascular operations and 180 lung operations each year.

### Procedures Performed

Endoscopic Mitral and Tricuspid Valve Surgery: 1,500 endoscopic valve procedures have been performed since 1997.

- Endovascular Aortic Stent Grafting: more than 300 procedures so far
- Minimally Invasive and Percutaneous Aortic Valve Surgery
- Minimally Invasive Coronary Bypass Surgery (CABG)
- Minimally Invasive Heart Rhythm Surgery



**Erik Andries, MD**, Founder and Chairman of the OLV Hospital's Cardiology Department.

Dr Andries has steered the Cardiovascular Department towards its current position as a centre of excellence enjoying an international reputation in clinical and interventional cardiology, electrophysiology and cardiac rehabilitation.



**Hugo Vanermen, MD**, Founder (1980) and Head of the OLV Hospital's Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery Unit. Dr Vanermen (named a Baron in 2006 by Belgium's King Albert II) has introduced new technologies in the field of cardiac surgery and has also been a pioneer in wholly endoscopic cardiac surgery techniques. He is a member of the American Association for Thoracic Surgery, the International Society of Minimally Invasive Cardiac Surgery and the European Association of Cardiothoracic Surgery.





## General Surgery

The OLV Hospital's Department of General Surgery has enjoyed an excellent reputation for more than a century and countless general surgeons from all over Belgium have trained here over the years.

The Department is one of the leading centres of its kind in Europe, having performed approximately 2,000 laparoscopic colorectal resections (including 430 cases of colorectal cancer) to date.

Over 100 colorectal surgeons from Belgium and across Europe have attended live demonstrations within our Department; we also have considerable experience in performing laparoscopic upper gastrointestinal (GI) surgery (gastrectomy, antireflux surgery, splenectomy and adrenalectomy).

### Procedures Performed

- Laparoscopic Colorectal Surgery
- Laparoscopic Antireflux and other Upper GI Surgery
- Hepatobiliary Surgery (laparoscopic and open)
- Thyroid Surgery
- Hernia Surgery



Frontrow, from left to right: **Koen Vermeiren, MD** and **Yves Van Molhem, MD**, back row, from left to right: **Philip Hofman, MD**, **Steven De Gendt, MD** and **Jean-Pierre Gillardin, MD**

Also part of the General Surgery team: **Marc Krick, MD**

**Jean-Pierre Gillardin, MD**, has been a general surgeon at the OLV Hospital since 1977 and replaced Dr Jean Cuvelier as Head of Department in 1991. In 1990 he performed the first laparoscopic cholecystectomy and since then the Aalst hospital has built up a respected reputation in this field. Dr Gillardin now focuses on oncological, breast and hernia surgery but primarily on thyroid and parathyroid surgery, a field in which he is one of Belgium's main authorities.

**Philip Hofman, MD**, joined our team in 1983 after completing additional training in hepatobiliary surgery.

**Yves Van Molhem, MD**, joined the Department in 1996 and has since developed its laparoscopic surgery techniques substantially; he is considered an authority on laparoscopic colorectal procedures in particular.







## Neurosurgery

Neurosurgery has changed rapidly over the past 10 years due to ongoing research and medical imaging, endoscopic techniques and radiation therapy and the OLV Hospital's Neurosurgery Department has followed, supported and implemented these new developments.

We treat most forms of spinal pathology and are primarily involved in high-tech surgery such as implantation of lumbar and cervical disc prostheses and partial nucleus replacements using the DASCOR device.

### Procedures Performed

- Endoscopic Discectomy
- Complete Lumbar Disc Prosthesis
- Partial Disc Replacement
- Cervical Disc Prosthesis (BRYAN)
- Minimally Invasive Arthrodesis (TLIF)
- Stereotactic Radiotherapy
- Brain Tumour Resection using Neuronavigation

Ongoing training and education enable our multidisciplinary team to treat neurological and spinal conditions using innovative and highly effective techniques.



**Michel Van Vyve, MD**, Chief Surgeon. Dr Van Vyve founded the OLV Hospital's Neurosurgery Department in 1990 along with Dr Frederic Martens and was named a Baron by HM King Albert II of Belgium for his achievements in neurosurgery.



**Frederic E. Martens, MD**, has earned an honoured reputation in the development of minimally invasive spinal surgery. He has been a pioneer in the treatment of brain tumours and specialises in stereotactic radiotherapy and neuronavigation techniques.



## Urology

The Urology Department was founded in 1965 by Dr Vincent Morelle; he was later joined by Dr Etienne Fonteyne (current Head of Department), Dr Paul Carpentier, Dr Alex Mottrie and Dr Peter Schatteman.

In 1996, our Department was one of the first in Europe to perform urological laparoscopy. We now routinely use this minimally invasive technique for nephrectomy, colpopromontofixation and lymphadenectomy among others.

We were also one of the first departments in Europe to introduce the Da Vinci robotic system in 2002 and the latter is currently used for several laparoscopic urologic procedures, primarily laparoscopic radical prostatectomy, partial nephrectomy and cystoprostatectomy. We have considerable experience in robotic surgery and are therefore recognised as a pioneer in robotic urology. Two robotic systems are currently available.

Our Department plays a central role in education and training for residents and established urologists alike. As well as providing general training for Belgian residents, we offer clinical fellows from across the world special training in laparoscopy and robotic surgery. We also train urology teams planning to launch a robotic-surgery programme.

The Urology Department treats all urological conditions:

- Prostate Clinic
- Paediatric Urology
- Urological Oncology
- Urinary Incontinence
- Stone Disease
- ESWL: Extracorporeal Shock Wave Lithotripsy using the Dornier Lithotripter

### Procedures Performed

Robot-assisted surgery:

- Laparoscopic Radical Prostatectomy
- Laparoscopic (partial) Nephrectomy
- Laparoscopic Cystoprostatectomy + Neobladder
- Brachytherapy



From left to right: Etienne Fonteyne, MD, Peter Schatteman, MD, Paul Carpentier, MD and Alex Mottrie, MD