

## **Promotor**

---

### **Prof. dr. Y. Vandenplas**

Universitair Kinderziekenhuis Brussel  
Vrije Universiteit Brussel

## **Copromotor**

---

### **Prof. L. Nespoli**

Department of Pediatrics  
Clinica Pediatrica, Università dell'Insubria  
Varese, Italy

## **Leden van de examencommissie**

---

### **Prof. dr. A. Staiano**

Department of Pediatrics  
University of Naples, Italy

### **Prof. dr. M. Benninga**

Department of Pediatrics  
Emma Children's Hospital  
AMC, The Netherlands

### **Prof. dr. M. Van Winckel**

Departement Pediatrie, UZ Gent  
Universiteit Gent

### **Prof. dr. G. Veereman-Wauters**

Kindergastroënterologie, UZ Brussel  
Vrije Universiteit Brussel

### **Prof. dr. F. Mana**

Gastroënterologie, UZ Brussel  
Vrije Universiteit Brussel

### **Prof. dr. D. Urbain**

Gastroënterologie, UZ Brussel  
Vrije Universiteit Brussel

### **Prof. dr. A. Malfroot, voorzitter**

Universitair Kinderziekenhuis Brussel  
Vrije Universiteit Brussel



Vrije Universiteit Brussel

FACULTEIT GENEESKUNDE EN FARMACIE

## **Doctoraat in de Medische Wetenschappen**

Academiejaar 2010-2011

## **UITNODIGING**

Voor de openbare verdediging van het  
doctoraatsproefschrift van

**Silvia SALVATORE**

woensdag 27 april 2011

## Situering van het proefschrift

---

U wordt vriendelijk uitgenodigd op de openbare verdediging van het proefschrift van

**Silvia SALVATORE**

**'The role of esophageal impedance in the diagnosis of gastro-esophageal reflux in infants and children'**

The topic of this thesis focuses on clinical aspects of physiologic gastro-esophageal reflux (GER) and reflux disease (GERD), and concentrates on different diagnostic possibilities. There is increasing evidence that the clinical presentation of GERD in infancy is peculiar as crying, regurgitation, feeding, sleeping and respiratory problems are commonly reported by parents both in normal and GERD infants. In the first months of life, lack of verbal expression, care-giver interpretation and anxiety make the diagnosis of GERD challenging. Cow's milk allergy has overlapping presentations. No current validated question(naire) predicts the results of endoscopy, pH-monitoring and multiple intraluminal esophageal impedance in combination with pH metry (MII-pH) or the response to treatment. MII-pH allows the identification, quantification, and localisation of acid, weakly acidic and alkaline reflux. The definition of MII- GER is inadequate for small infants and subjects with low baseline impedance. Our data confirm that non-acid reflux episodes are frequent in early infancy, in meal and postprandial periods, are undetectable by pH-monitoring but are associated with symptoms and present in patients with esophagitis. Crying is not more associated than cough with acid or weakly acid reflux in the first months of life. Empirical acid inhibitors treatment (for any kind of presentation) in infancy is not supported by MII-pH results. No investigation may actually be considered as a "gold standard" diagnostic technique of GERD although MII-pH seems to approach this best.

Op **woensdag 27 april 2011** om **16.30 uur**  
in auditorium **P. Brouwer** van de  
Faculteit Geneeskunde & Farmacie  
Laarbeeklaan 103, 1090 Brussel

## Curriculum Vitae

---

Silvia Salvatore, born on 27/6/1968, is appointed as University Researcher in Paediatrics at the University of Insubria in Varese (Italy) since August 1999. She works as a Paediatrician in the Paediatric Department of the "F. Del Ponte" Hospital in Varese since December 1997. She obtained a Medical Degree at the University of Pavia in July 1992 and was recognised in the Specialty of Paediatrics at the University of Pavia in October 1996. She obtained a post-graduate Certificate in Paediatric Gastroenterology at the UCL in London (UK) in December 1997. She acquired professional experiences abroad, as a Visiting Doctor at the Paediatric Department of the Hospital Infantil La Paz in Madrid in August 1992. She had a Honorary Contract in the Paediatric Department of Gastroenterology in London (Royal Free Hospital) from December 1996 to December 1997. She spend several periods as visiting doctor with continuous research collaboration with Prof. Yvan Vandenplas at the UZ Brussel of the VUB since June 2001. Her fields of interest and research are gastro-oesophageal reflux, coeliac disease, pro/prebiotics, food allergy. Today, she published 31 papers in PUBMED (and 5 letters published on the web site of the BMJ) and 14 papers are not in PUBMED (5 in International Journals); 6 chapters of books; 66 abstracts (51 published in International Journals) . She also gave 53 presentations in Italian Meetings and 17 in International Meetings. She is reviewer for different International Pediatric Journals.