

PRESS

# RELEASE



## 3D RADIOLOGY IN THE SERVICE OF ENDOSCOPY BRINGS NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR TREATING INTRA-ABDOMINAL DISEASES

16 March 2023 in Brussels – **This 16 March, teams from the Endoscopy Unit and the Erasmus Fund are inaugurating a new endoscopy room. This room contains new leading-edge radiological equipment permitting 3D reconstruction to be used for diagnostic and therapeutic examinations when treating intra-abdominal pathologies. This new investment will make it possible to develop high precision, non-invasive techniques for use in the most complex procedures to optimise the clinical care of patients, achieve research progress in this field and strengthen the quality of teaching at the Brussels University Hospital (H.U.B.), of which the Erasmus Hospital is a part.**

### *Developing techniques for complex intra-abdominal pathologies*

Since mid-January already, patients have been able to benefit from renovated facilities at the Endoscopy Unit. With the support of the Erasmus Fund, the unit has been able to acquire new endoscopy equipment that permits a 3D reconstruction of radiological images. This system makes it possible to obtain a depth of field in three dimensions and a realistic spatial display of organs. This 3D reconstruction can serve as a "GPS" in facilitating access to intra-abdominal structures percutaneously or by endoscopy.

Patients of the H.U.B. hospitals (Erasmus Hospital, Jules Bordet Institute and the Queen Fabiola University Children's Hospital) will be able to benefit from this progress.

This new investment in treating gastroenterological and hepato-pancreato-biliary diseases opens the door to developing new techniques for the improved treatment of complex cases.

### *Considerable benefits for teaching and research*

Connected to the system for retransmission for display on high definition screens in the endoscopy room, the integrated audiovisual equipment also makes it possible to transmit the procedure remotely to an auditorium or through streaming, thereby teaching young doctors and budding or more experienced gastroenterologists both basic and more advanced endotherapy techniques.

Two studies are also in progress to validate the contribution of this non-invasive, high precision technique in the most complex procedures in the framework of a clinical research activity, with the aid of the Clinical Research Unit and biomedical engineers from the University Laboratory of Experimental Gastroenterology.

### *An investment made possible with the support of the Erasmus Fund*

The investment in the new endoscopy room was made possible thanks to financial support from the Erasmus Fund for medical research through the Convention of the Edouard and Suzanne Jacobs Fund.

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## PRESS CONTACTS

Media Manager: Alexandra Cazan

E-mail: [alexandra.cazan@hubruxelles.be](mailto:alexandra.cazan@hubruxelles.be)  
communication@hubruxelles.be

Tel : +32 (0)2 541 38 89

Mob: +32 (0) 493 16 74 79

Media Officer: Gabrielle Vanhoudenhove

E-mail: [g.vanhoudenhove@hubruxelles.be](mailto:g.vanhoudenhove@hubruxelles.be)  
communication@hubruxelles.be

Tel : +32 (0)2 555 83 95

## ABOUT THE ERASMUS HOSPITAL

The Erasmus Hospital is situated on the Erasmus university hospital campus that includes the Faculty of Medicine (more than 3,500 students), the Faculty of Motor Sciences (more than 1,100 students) and the School of Public Health (around 600 students).

Opened in 1977 with a current capacity of 1,048 beds, the hospital welcomes between 25,000 and 30,000 hospitalised patients and provides between 350,000 and 400,000 consultations a year.

More than 4,000 staff exercising 80 different professions contribute daily in providing care characterised by ambition, excellence and commitment to patient well-being.

The Lothier Polyclinic and two external centres (Traumatology and Rehabilitation Centre – CTR and the Geriatric Rehabilitation Centre – CRG ) complete the care offer.

[www.erasme.ulb.ac.be](http://www.erasme.ulb.ac.be)

## ABOUT THE ENDOSCOPY UNIT

The Endoscopy Unit consists of 12 rooms, some shared between the Gastroenterology, Pulmonology and Urology Departments, equipped with the latest generation equipment. Four of them also include radiological sources making it possible to carry out combined endoscopic and radiological examinations. A new room for disinfecting endoscopes was built recently to modern standards ensuring compliance with the latest hospital hygiene regulations. One room is also equipped with a lithotripter making it possible to break up kidney, pancreatic or biliary stones. In the digestive field, the endoscopic expertise of the Gastroenterology Department focuses on the discipline as a whole, in terms of treatment of bilio-pancreatic diseases , complications of obesity surgery, the endoscopic treatment of obesity, the treatment of diverticulum of the oesophagus and functional diseases (endoscopic myotomy (POEM), diagnostic and therapeutic endoscopy, treatment of superficial tumours by mucosectomy or submucous resection, treatment of gastroesophageal reflux and its complications (Barrett's oesophagus) or treatment of inflammatory diseases of the digestive tube and portal hypertension.

[Gastroentérologie médicale | Hôpital Erasme \(ulb.ac.be\)](http://Gastroentérologie_médicale_|_Hôpital_Erasme_(ulb.ac.be))

## ABOUT THE BRUSSELS UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL (H.U.B)

The Brussels University Hospital (H.U.B) is the Academic Hospital of the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB) that, since 2021, has brought together the Jules Bordet Institute, the Erasmus Hospital and the Queen Fabiola University Children's Hospital (HUDERF).

As a reference centre at international level, located in the Brussels Region, the H.U.B proposes general, oncological and paediatric care of the highest quality.

The excellence of care, accessible to all, is enriched and fuelled by scientific research and training of the nurses of the future.

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In 2022, the H.U.B had more than 6,000 staff committed to the following values: the Patient's Interests, Respect, Commitment, Solidarity, Diversity and Inclusion and Free Inquiry.

[www.hubruxelles.be](http://www.hubruxelles.be)

## ABOUT THE ERASMUS FUND

Since 1982 the Erasmus Fund has been encouraging and supporting the development of research and medical progress at the Erasmus University Hospital, for the benefit of all:

- by encouraging research by young doctors and paramedics as well as groups of more experienced researchers
- by creating the conditions for research excellence

It is the research pole of the Erasmus University Hospital within the Université Libre de Bruxelles.

Thanks to the support of Erasmus Fund donors and testators, 50 research and/or equipment projects were carried out during the 2022-2023 academic year for an amount of €3,335,000 permitting more than 100 researchers to dare pursue their imagination.

We thank these benefactors for granting us the means to achieve progress in knowledge that gives new hope to many patients.