



Virtual Local Chapters Meeting – Thursday March 4<sup>th</sup> 2021  
25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting of the CRS Germany Chapter  
Inauguration Meeting of the BeNeLux& France CRS Chapter



## Welcome Note

Dear CRS members, Dear colleagues and friends,

We hope you are doing well. And we would like to thank you very much for having signed up to participate in our virtual CRS Local Chapters meeting.

In 2019, we had great plans for an on-site meeting in Aachen in 2021. To celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the CRS Germany Chapter, and joining forces with the new and very visible CRS BeNeLux & France Chapter, for which this would have served as the inauguration event. We planned to host a meeting for 3 days, instead of the usual 2 days, with 100+ drug delivery scientists present on-site, and with a number of high-end invited lectures, special sessions and engaging evening events. But then there was COVID, and then we had to rethink.

Because it became rapidly clear that a full-size on-site meeting would be impossible, we initially thought of organizing a hybrid event. With 40 to 50 people physically present in Aachen, and with everybody else joining in via Zoom or Teams, or any of the other video-conferencing tools we have all become very acquainted with in 2020. But alas. Because of the relentlessly high infections rates, also that turned out to be impossible.

We ended up embracing the notion that only a virtual meeting would be possible. And we gradually realized that there was actually a possibility of turning this challenge into opportunity, making it an even bigger event. We now likely have many more abstracts and participants than we would have had at an in-person meeting. Distributed over 3 sessions, we will have 3 invited lectures from eminent scientists in the field, 11 oral presentations based on submitted abstracts, and 58 flash talk presentations. There will be multiple recognitions, incl. 5 awards for the best oral talks and 6 public vote prizes for the best flash presentations. The best oral talks will win CRS membership plus registration for the 2021 main CRS Virtual Annual Meeting, which will take place from July 25<sup>th</sup> until July 29<sup>th</sup>, and which will certainly be great.

Last but not least, please already mark the virtual coffee break from 15:15 until 16:00 in your agenda. Via Zoom breakout rooms (3 sessions of 15 minutes; 6-8 participants per room), this will provide ample opportunity for networking, for seeing old friends and for getting to know new people. Junior and senior, from various different nationalities. Make sure to be there!

Wishing you an enjoyable and successful meeting, and looking forward to seeing you in the virtual coffee break. Kindest regards, on behalf of the whole organizing committee,

Twan Lammers



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