



# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

## YOUNG ONSET DEMENTIA

### 18 SEPTEMBER 2024, BRUSSELS

#### Keynote

### Young onset dementia: with the courage of an explorer

**Jurn Verschraegen** (*Center of expertise on Dementia,  
Flanders, Belgium*)



*We welcome you to this first international conference on young onset dementia. We hope that you will be joining us for the conference that is held as a vital gathering of minds and hearts. Your unwavering dedication to those affected by young onset dementia inspires us all and here we will learn from each other and share good practices.*

*When you are faced with a diagnosis of dementia at a young age, you are at a stage of life when you do not expect it. You are still working, your children still need attention and financially you are struggling to pay for care and support in addition to your mortgage. Flanders has some particularly wonderful initiatives for people with young onset dementia. Many of them were created by people who have been confronted with it themselves. During these two days of conference, we hope to feel the pulse of those dealing with the issue. I myself had the honour of organising two wonderful expeditions with the Brain Adventure Team. I learned from their agility, their willpower and, above all, their positive outlook. The participants and their family caregivers were one with their 'companions'. Strong together. Meanwhile, the Flemish government has already chosen to pay extra attention to this specific group, inspired by the voice of many of them.*

*This conference is a testament to our shared commitment to improving care and support for young individuals facing this condition. Together, we will explore innovative strategies, share knowledge, and build a stronger community of support.*

*Thank you for your compassion, expertise, and tireless efforts. Let's make this conference a beacon of hope and progress.*

**Jurn Verschraegen**  
**Director Center of Expertise on Dementia Flanders, Belgium**