Mr. Mattias Van Heetvelde, Belgium

Mattias Van Heetvelde is a senior postdoctoral researcher and bioinformatician at the Center for Medical Genetics (CMGG) at Ghent University (UGent) and Ghent University Hospital (UZGent) in Gent, Belgium. Here, Mattias acts as the data manager and analysist for two research groups: the Ophthalmic and Developmental Genetics Lab, and the Cancer Predisposition and Precision Oncology Lab. He also supervises a PhD student developing novel statistical methods for RNA-sequencing applications. He is a bioscience engineer (2013) by training and holds a PhD in Health Sciences (2019), in which he researched the attenuation of BRCA1 and BRCA2 expression by small non-coding RNAs and their potential in synthetic lethality. Currently his main professional interests are databases, pipeline tooling, and Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence in the context of rare diseases.

For the Cardiovascular Round Table Mattias will represent the European Society of Cardiology Patient Forum (ESCPF). He joined the ESCPF in 2021 after being nominated by prof. Julie De Backer, his former cardiologist, specialized in congenital heart defects. Mattias is a transplant patient since 2018 and former Fontan patient. His primary focus within the ESCPF is advocating for emotional wellbeing in the context of cardiovascular disease.