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## Campus Research Talks info sheet

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Title: Human pluripotent stem cells as disease models

Date: 22 February 2019

### Principal Investigator



Full name: Karen Sermon

Research Group: [Reproduction and genetics](#)

[ORCID](#) [PURE](#)

**Karen Sermon** trained as an MD and received her PhD in medical sciences at the VUB. As an FWO postdoctoral fellow her main interest was on preimplantation genetic diagnosis for monogenic diseases, which she helped develop at the UZ Brussel. Later her interests have veered towards human embryonic stem cells and especially those stem cells that carry a monogenic disease and can be used as disease models. Her group has contributed to the stem cell field with several papers in high impact factor journals. Recently, she also researched the origin of chromosomal abnormalities in IVF embryos.

### Doctoral Candidate



Full name: Silvie Franck

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**Silvie Franck** graduated from University Antwerp and obtained her master in Cell and System Biology from the UA in 2015. Afterwards she started a PhD under supervision of Professor Karen Sermon in the REGE lab in 2015. She now studies the myotonic dystrophy type 1 disease by using human pluripotent stem cell models.