

# ■ SARAH-MARIA FENDT

*Tackling Cancer Metastasis as a Metabolic Disease*

## **CV + Achievements:**



Sarah-Maria Fendt is an associate professor in the Department of Oncology at KU Leuven and a principle investigator in the Center of Cancer Biology at VIB. Sarah studied biochemistry at the TU Munich, Germany. Subsequently, she performed her PhD in molecular systems biology at ETH Zurich, Switzerland. Sarah continued her research as a postdoctoral fellow in cancer metabolism at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA. In 2013, Sarah moved to Belgium to start her independent laboratory with focus on metastasis metabolism.

The research of Sarah and her team has contributed to a paradigm shift in our understanding of metastasis formation. They have discovered that metastasizing cancer cells require specific small molecules called metabolites and that inhibiting the use of these metabolites is effective in preventing metastasis formation. With the Baillet Latour grant, Sarah and her team will expand their research to metabolites that are prevalent in diet. In particular, they will dissect how dietary fat and other nutrients promote metastasis formation and they will develop novel therapeutic strategies against metastasis formation based on their research findings. The work of Sarah and her team has been published in top journals such as Nature. Sarah has received numerous awards such as the Conquer Cancer Now Award and a European Union ERC Consolidator Grant. Finally, Sarah is internationally recognized as an expert for cancer and metastasis metabolism, she speaks at multiple conferences per year and has organized several meetings on this topic.