Impact of Early Lactation Somatic Cell Count in Heifers on Somatic Cell Counts Over the First Lactation. By De Vliegher et al., page 3672. More than 27% of all SCC measured between 5 and 14 DIM from 14,766 Belgian heifers were >200,000 cells/mL of milk, suggesting an elevated IMI rate around calving. Elevated SCC in early lactation resulted in elevated SCC throughout the rest of the first lactation, even in heifers with a second test-day SCC = 50,000 cells/mL of milk. The impact of an elevated SCC measured at 14 DIM was higher than that of an equally elevated SCC at an earlier DIM.