Finally, Amsterdam UMC is a reality!

Some words from our AI&II directors Yvette van Kooyk en Theo Geijtenbeek: "As you all will know, on June 7th at 16.15 the Amsterdam UMC became a reality with the signatures by Hans Romijn en Wouter Bos, and introduced with our new Amsterdam UMC logo. What does this mean for our institute? The start of the Amsterdam UMC is very important for our institute, not only because we will adopt the new logo but we will also be involved in steering the research policy of our Amsterdam UMC. The directors of all Amsterdam UMC research institutes will form the new Research Board. The Research Board will advise the Board of Directors on matters involving
research such as Core facilities, professorships, fund allocations, talent development etc. Thus, next to stimulating the research within our own institute, we are also involved in the policy making. This is an important step forward and we will greatly depend on your feedback and support to create a lively and strong research environment for AI&II in our new Amsterdam UMC*

Grants & awards

Lisa van Baarsen has been awarded a VIDI grant by ZonMw for her research program "Fibroblasts direct rheumatoid arthritis development". She will investigate the function of mesenchymal stromal cells (MSC) in relation to the development of rheumatoid arthritis (RA). An in depth molecular and cellular analyses will be performed on human MSC derived from bone marrow, lymph node and synovial tissue biopsies obtained during the earliest (preclinical) phases of RA. This will lead to more insight into the development of autoimmune diseases and provide innovative preventive treatment strategies.

Carla Ribeiro has been awarded an NWO VIDI grant for her project entitled ‘The ins and outs of autophagy: pivotal role in antiviral immunity and inflammation’. The project aims to define the molecular mechanisms governing autophagy pathways, and how these mechanisms can be harnessed to enhance antiviral immunity to HIV-1 and control chronic inflammatory processes. Linking in vivo patient cohort studies to in vitro and ex vivo screening platforms will elucidate the therapeutic potential of targeting autophagy to intervene in chronic infections and inflammatory diseases.

Maria Prins has been awarded a grant from the Aidsfonds for her new project: Harm reduction revisited. Using data from the unique Amsterdam Cohort Studies and applying sophisticated statistical methods, the project aims to assess the causal effect of the Dutch approach towards people who inject drugs PWID on HIV and hepatitis C incidence in the Amsterdam setting. Next, Prins and her group will evaluate the generalizability of their findings using cohort data from settings with
different epidemics and availability of harm reductions programs.

**Edgar Peters**, has been awarded the **2018 Roger Pecoraro Award** for his scientific contributions and demonstration of an untried commitment to improve the understanding of the detection, treatment, and prevention of diabetic foot complications. Dr. Peters will present his Roger Pecoraro Award Lecture, “The Ghosts of Diabetic Foot Infection: Past, Present and Yet to Come” on Saturday, June 23.

**Famke Schneiders** has been awarded an **AI&I work visit grant** for her project that aims to identify patients that will benefit the most from combination treatment with radiotherapy and immune checkpoint inhibitors. The project will be performed in collaboration with the laboratory of Dr. Demaria and Dr. Formenti, Weill Cornell Medicine, New York, an experienced translational lab in the field of immuno-radiotherapy.

**Ronald Derking** has been awarded an **AI&I work visit grant** to visit the laboratory of prof. dr. Max Crispin of the University of Southampton, UK, which is a leading lab in exploiting glycan modifications. The project aims to resolve heterogeneity in glycan occupancy on HIV-1 envelope glycoprotein trimers to help in the design of an HIV-1 vaccine. The knowledge of the Crispin lab and the results that will be obtained during the visit, will help Ronald in the design of an improved HIV-1 vaccine immunogen.

**Kin Ki Jim** has been awarded with an **AI&I work visit grant** for his project that aims to understand the behaviour of both pathogen and host at the cellular level to develop new intervention strategies for invasive infectious diseases. He will visit the laboratory of Dr. Rego at Yale University, an excellent laboratory that focuses on advanced imaging tools to study and visualize host-pathogen interactions. Their innovative approach and expertise will allow him to learn these novel techniques to elucidate the mechanisms by which bacteria cause invasive disease.

**Emma Birnie** has been awarded with an **ESCMID Research Grant** for her project ‘In search for melioidosis in Nigeria, an environmental, clinical and sero-epidemiological surveillance of Burkholderia pseudomallei’. These grants help young outstanding investigators pursue groundbreaking research in the fields of clinical microbiology and infectious diseases. The maximum amount granted per project is EUR 20,000.
The H2020 Marie Curie ITN-ETN network ‘OrganoVIR’, coordinated by Dasja Pajkrt and Katja Wolthers has just been selected by the EU for granting. We are proud that our project received a score of 98.2, ranking fourth in the section Life Sciences. With OrganoVIR we teamed up 15 international experts in the field of virology, organoid technology, ethics, policy, business, education, and communication, to combine knowledge on stem cell-derived human 3D models of organs, i.e. organoids, which have quickly become an essential tool for basic and translational biology.....

.....With this network we aim to establish human organoids as superior models for viral pathogenesis studies and antiviral testing, thus replacing animal models and reducing animal use. We have designed a novel pre-MBA programme for training 15 next generation early stage researchers (ESRs) to innovate virus research in the EU. This entails a combinatorial, intersectoral approach that integrates multiple disciplines (bioengineering, virology, bio-business, policy, and ethics) to develop, validate, standardize, use, and disseminate complex organoid models for virology.

MyOwnResearch:
A substantial grant from SGF/Health-Holland has recently been obtained to set up the MyOwnResearch consortium to study homogeneous subgroup identification in fatigue management across chronic immune diseases through single subject research design (start 1 September 2018). The consortium, existing of 11 partners, will be led by Dr. Anje te Velde, Tytgat Institute for Liver and Intestinal Research.
Awarded AI&II Travel Grants

- **J. Koetsveld (Joris)**, Center for Experimental and Molecular Medicine: Gordon: Research Seminar, Biology of Spirochetes, Ventura LA, USA.
- **S.A.B.M. Aarts (Suzanne)**, Medical Biochemistry: Keystone ‘Organ Crosstalk in Obesity and NAFLD’, Keystone Resort, Keystone, Colorado, USA.
- **Y.F. van Lier (Yannouk)**, Hematology/ Exp. Immunology: American Society of Hematology (ASH) – Annual meeting, Atlanta, USA.
- **G.A.S. van Asten (Saskia)**, Sanquin, Immunopathology: Keystone Symposia: Translational Systems Immunology, Utah, USA.
- **F. M. Behr (Felix)**, Sanquin, Hematopoiesis: Immunological Memory: Innate, Adaptive and Beyond, Keystone Symposium, Austin, Texas, USA.
- **M. H. Heineke (Marieke)**, Molecular Cell Biology & Immunology: Gordon Research Conference: Antibody Biology and Engineering (GRC), Lucca, Italy.
- **B.W. Haak (Bas)**, Center for Experimental Molecular Medicine: Keystone symposia on Molecular and Cellular Biology, Fairmont Banff Springs, Banff, Alberta, Canada.
- **D. van Rees (Dieke)**, Sanquin, Blood Cell Research: Keystone symposium: Antibodies as drugs: Translating Molecules into Treatments, Whistler, Canada.
- **S.A. Ingelse (Saranke)**, Pediatric Intensive Care: ISICEM March-23, 2018 Brussel, Belgium.
- **A. Ravi (Abilash)**, Experimental Immunology: American Thoracic Society, San Diego, USA.
- **M.L.M. Schepens (Maysa)**, Clinical microbiology: 28th European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, Madrid, Spain.
- **Li, Eveline**, Molecular Cell Biology & Immunology: 15th International Symposium on Dendritic Cells, Aachen, Germany.
- **T.R. Matos (Tiago)**, Department of Dermatology: IID 2018 (International Investigative Dermatology), Rosen Shingle Creek Resort, Orlando, Florida, USA.
- **J. Verhoeff (Jan)**, Molecular Cell Biology & Immunology: CYTO2018, Prague.
• **R.R.C.E. Schreurs (Renee),** EXIM: Chair Bright Spark BSI congres, Brighton, GB.
• **J. Koopsen (Jelle),** Medical Microbiology: International Liver Congress 2018, Paris.
• **D.S. Koenis (Duco),** Medical Biochemistry: Keystone Symposia “The Resolution of Inflammation in Health and Disease”, Dublin, IR.
• **J.W. Hoepel (Willianne),** EXIM: Cell Symposia Translational immunometabolism, Basel.
• **A.W.D. Edridge (Arthur),** Medical Microbiology: 5th International One Health Congress, Saskatoon, Canada.
• **L. Krabbendam (Lisette),** Experimental Immunology: NK2018; The 17th meeting of the Society for Natural Immunity, San Antonio, Texas, USA.
• **S. Meinderts (Sanne),** Sanquin, Departement of Blood Cell Research: International society of blood transfusion (ISBT), Toronto, Canada.
• **J. Ursinus (Jeanine),** Center for Experimental and Molecular Medicine: 15th International Conference on Lyme borreliosis and other Tick-Borne Diseases, Atlanta, USA.
• **M.E. (Ewoud) Baarsma,** Center for Experimental and Molecular Medicine: 15th International Conference on Lyme borreliosis and other Tick-Borne Diseases, Atlanta.
• **J.J. (Julian) Freen-van Heeren,** Sanquin, Hematopoiesis: Translation UK 2018, organized by the Biochemical Society, Manchester, United Kingdom.

**In the news**

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**EBOLA**

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**MEDICATIE-ONTROU**

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**ZATERdag 19**
A professional jury of scientists and science communication professionals chose UvA PhD candidates Natalie LeCouffe and Alba Torrents de la Pena as the winners of the Amsterdam heat of FameLab on YouTube.

KWF Researcher of the week Joke den Haan: "If you activate the immune system correctly, it can recognise cancer cells and kill them". More info: KWF website


New members

As of April, 2018, Richard van der Mast works as a research technician at the department of Molecular Cell Biology and Immunology in the group of Marjolein van Egmond. He is involved in several projects related to mucosal immunology. The common aim of these projects is to investigate the role of the human IgA Fc receptor FcαRI.

In May, 2018, Abhijeet Nayak started as a Post-Doctoral Researcher in the group of Prof. Dr. J.W.R. Hovius, in the Center for Experimental and Molecular Medicine. His research project will focus on Development of a new diagnostic assay for Lyme borreliosis infection in Europe. He obtained his PhD in Biology at Valneva Austria GmbH/University of Vienna, which focused on development of a multivalent and broadly protective OspA based vaccine for protection against Lyme borreliosis.
As per July first, **Anno Saris** is going to start as a Post-Doctoral Researcher in the group of Prof. Dr. Tom van der Poll, on a project funded by ZonMW/TTW (NACTAR program) entitled “MDR-Phage - Small molecules that promote bacterial killing in phagocytes”. In this project a new class of compounds (derived from macrolides) that can activate bacterial killing by granulocytes will be evaluated for their ability to kill respiratory pathogens and to treat pneumonia by using a translational approach entailing cellular studies and mouse models of respiratory tract infection using human pathogens.

**Tom Reinders** is going to start his PhD on July first in the group of Prof. Dr. Tom van der Poll, in the Center of Experimental & Molecular Medicine (AMC) on the same project as Anno Saris and Lonneke van Vught.

**Lonneke van Vught** also is going to start on July 1 as a Post-Doctoral Researcher in the group of Prof. Dr. Tom van der Poll, on on the same project as Anno Saris in which they will use a translational approach entailing cellular studies and mouse models of respiratory tract infections using human pathogens.

**Sanne Verberk** started her PhD in May 2018 in the group of Prof. Dr. Jan van den Bossche at the MCBI department. Her research project is funded by the Netherlands Heart Foundation and focusses on macrophage metabolism with the final aim to find new targets for the treatment of atherosclerosis.

**Daniela van Santen** is appointed as the post-doc researcher who coordinates the aforementioned new project: Harm reduction revisited of Maria Prins from the GGD on the causal effect of the Dutch approach towards people who inject drugs on infection risk. She started working on the project in Amsterdam and now moved to the Burnett Institute, Melbourne, Australia, where she will continue to work on the project. The project will include data from the unique Amsterdam Cohort Studies and from the SuperMix cohort from Melbourne.

**Cristoforo Grasso** started recently his PhD in the group of Dr. van Baarsen at the department of Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology. The PhD project aims to characterize the lymph node stromal cells in rheumatoid arthritis. Results generated during this study will translate into the clinic for the development of new treatment and a better understanding of current treatment.
**LOGO:** As of this moment, with the start of the Amsterdam UMC, you should use NOT the old AI&II logo anymore but use the new Amsterdam UMC logo

**AFFILIATION:** the new affiliation address will follow soon.

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**Dissertations**

**Ewurama Owusu** has defended her PhD thesis titled "Malaria, HIV and sickle cell disease in Ghana: towards tailor-made interventions" on Wednesday 30 May, 2018 at the Agnietenkapel, University of Amsterdam. Promotor Prof. Dr. M.P. Grobusch, co-promotores Dr. M. Mens and Prof. Dr. C.A. Brown, University of Ghana.

**Nina Hertoghs** has defended her PhD thesis titled "Molecular Mechanisms Controlling Dendritic Cell Functions in HIV-1 and EbolaVirus Infection" on May 31, 2018 in the Agnietenkapel, University of Amsterdam. Prof. Dr. T.B.H Geijtenbeek and Dr. S.I Gringhuis, promotor and co-promotor, respectively, are affiliated with the University of Amsterdam.
Janny Elizabeth Lommerts has defended her PhD thesis titled “Coloring the spots. Diagnosis, measurement instruments and treatment in vitiligo” on June 5, 2018 at the Agnietenkapel at the University of Amsterdam. Affiliation: Netherlands Institute of Pigment Disorders, Department of Dermatology. Promotores: Prof. Dr. R.M. Luiten and Prof. Dr. M.A. De Rie. Co-promotores: Dr. A. Wolkerstorfer and Dr. M.W. Bekkenk

John Veluchamy has defended his thesis on “Natural Killer cells from Umbilical Cord blood stem cells: a novel immunotherapy platform for solid tumors” on June 6, 2018. Promotores: Prof. Dr. T.D. de Gruijl, Prof. Dr. H.M.W. Verheul, co-promotores: Dr. J.J. van der Vliet, Dr. J. Spanholtz


Dorith Claushuis will be defending her thesis “The Role of platelets in sepsis” on June 15, 2018 the Agnietenkapel at the University of Amsterdam. Promotor: Prof. Dr. T. van der Poll, co-promoter: Dr. A.F. de Vos en Dr. C. van ‘t Veer.

Durga Chandrupatla will defend his PhD thesis titled "Novel experimental therapeutics and PET imaging of activated macrophages in rheumatoid arthritis" on June 18, 2018 at the VU University Medical Center Aula, VU University, Amsterdam. Promotor: Prof. dr. A.A. Lammertsma. Co-promotores: Dr. G. Jansen, Dr. C.F.M. Molthoff, Dr. C.J. van der Laken

Teysir Halaby will be defending his PhD on June 20th 13:45, at the Aula Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. The title of his thesis is: Multidrug-resistant Bacteria in Clinical Practice. Promotor: Prof. Dr. Christina Vandenbroucke-Grauls, co-promotor: Dr. N. Al Naiemi
Teysir Halaby will defend his thesis on “Multidrug-resistant bacteria in clinical practice” on June 20, 2018 at the VU University Medical Center Aula, VU University, Amsterdam. Promotor: Prof. Dr. Christina Vandenbroucke-Grauls, Co-Promotor: Dr. N. Al Naiemi

Alba Torrents de la Peña will defend her PhD thesis entitled “Structure-based stabilization of HIV-1 trimer vaccines” on 29 June 2018 in the Aula of the University of Amsterdam, Singel 411. Promotores are prof. dr. B. Berkhout and Prof. Dr. R.W. Sanders.

Liane Cremers will defend her thesis on “TB Truths. Patients’ experiences with tuberculosis and healthcare in sub-Saharan Africa” on June 26, 2018 at the Agnietenkapel, University of Amsterdam. Prof. Dr. M.P. Grobusch (UvA), Prof. Dr. A.P. Hardon (UvA), Co-promotor Dr. R.P.M. Gerrets (UvA)

Daphne Mourits will defend her thesis on “Cosmetic outcome and complications of enucleation in retinoblastoma patients” on July 2, 2018 at the VU University Medical Center Aula, VU University, Amsterdam. Promotores: Prof. Dr. A.C. Moll, Prof. Dr. H. Tam, Co-Promotor: Dr. D.T. Hartong

Duco Koenis will defend his PhD thesis titled “Nuclear receptors and their co-factors in hematological and inflammation-driven disorders” on July 6, 2018 at the Agnietenkapel, University of Amsterdam. Affiliation: department of Medical Biochemistry, Amsterdam UMC. Promotores: Prof. Dr. C.J.M. de Vries and prof. Dr. N. Zelcer. Co-promotores: Dr. V. de Waard and Dr. S. Huveneers.

Elske Marra will defend her PhD thesis titled "Anal HPV infection & disease: common, easy to prevent, hard to treat" on September 7, 2018 at the Agnietenkapel, University of Amsterdam. Promotores are Prof. Dr. H.J.C. de Vries and Prof. Dr. J.M. Prins. Co-promotor is Dr. M.F. Schim van der Loeff.
19 June: AI&II annual meeting

June
3-7: EUROPIC 2018, Egmond aan Zee. EUROPIC is the word-leading conference on picornavirus research.
10-14: DC 2018, 15th International Symposium on Dendritic Cells, Aachen, Germany.
12 & 28: Postdoc training "Leadership in science", AMC
19: AI&II annual meeting

July
September
2: ECI 2018, 5th European Congress of Immunology, Amsterdam.
18: CCA/AI&II Cancer Immunology seminar, Fonteilnzaal AMC, Amsterdam

2018 PHD RETREAT
THURSDAY and FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25 & 26, 2018
What: Annual AI&II PhD Retreat
Who: AI&II PhD students
Where: Stayokay Heemskerk
Heemskerk, The Netherlands

Grant opportunities

HFSP Postdoctoral Fellowships – registration deadline 9 August
The HFSP offers 3-year Long Term Fellowships and Cross Disciplinary Fellowships for postdocs in basic life sciences research. The proposed work must extend the frontiers of life sciences, and may range from molecular and cellular level to complex biological systems including higher cognitive functions and ecosystems. Proposals must have the potential to be transformative: they will introduce the applicant to new fields, theory and methodology. Eligible candidates are within 3 years of obtaining their PhD, and have at least one first-authorship paper. There is obligatory mobility to an HFSP country; the third year may be spent back at the home country. The deadline for registration is 9 August, and for proposal submission 23 August. More information can be found here.

NWA call for proposals: Nationale Wetenschapsagenda – Pre-proposals deadline 11 September
The deadline for the completed applications is on 18 December 2018. The call for proposals for a
second financing round is expected at the start of 2019. Together with the VU/VUmc grants desk the AMC Research Office is working on annotated templates. More information about consortium and eligibility criteria are available here. If you are planning to submit a proposal in the first call round, contact: researchoffice@amc.nl or subsidiedesk@vumc.nl

MSCA Individual Fellowship – deadline 12 September
The MSCA Individual Fellowship (IF) provides opportunities to attract talented researchers located outside the Netherlands to continue their scientific career at the Amsterdam UMC. Fellows may come from all over the world and need to have at least four years of full-time equivalent research experience. These fellowships stimulate the fellow to attain new skills and diversify individual competencies through advanced training, international and intersectoral mobility.

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation - deadline 22 June.
*Ending the pandemic threat – a grand challenge for universal influenza vaccine development*: this supports pilot projects that focus on transformative concepts leading to the development of universal influenza vaccines. Awards for pilots are worth up to USD 2 million for two years with a chance for a full award worth up to USD 10 million for further studies.

Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research - deadline 13 September.
*NWO Refugees in Science*: the aim of this new pilot programme is to fund one-year appointments for academics who have fled their home country and wish to continue their scientific career in the Netherlands. Candidates must hold a master's degree or a doctorate and must have been granted refugee status in the Netherlands.

For more Grant opportunities see our website

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Vacancies

Postdoctoral researcher on prediction of treatment induced late adverse effects
For more vacancies see our website

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We highly appreciate your input and welcome any news to make this newsletter more informative. Please e-mail your content (in English) as a word file with separate photo's or illustrations as JPEG files to: info@amsterdam-infection-and-immunity.org
The AI&II newsletter will appear four times a year.

Research code VUmc - AMC
Amsterdam Infection and Immunity