On June 19th we had our annual meeting in the Rode Hoed (Amsterdam), which started with a discussion about the involvement of both AI&II directors in the research board of the newly formed Amsterdam UMC. The program was proceeded by interesting talks from various PI's from the three programs. A very impressive feature of the afternoon were the presentations by the AI&II postdoc 2017 stipend laureates. The laureates were very enthusiastic and were able to explain their research and especially the novelty in a very clear manner.
Both newly formed PhD and Postdoc committee members were introduced at the meeting and the Postdoc committee had invited Marijtje Jongsma (Radboud University) for a seminar on current bottlenecks in academic careers. A subject that clearly identified problems that will need to be addressed in the future and hopefully we as the AI&II can have a positive impact.

The official part ended with a quiz about AI&II and its role in Amsterdam UMC now and in the future. This led to a very open and lively discussion about how we can improve the AI&II governance and involve all researchers. The bouncing microphone was a very handy, sometimes a somewhat dangerous tool contributing to the discussion.

The meeting was closed with drinks and ‘bitterballen’, allowing the attendants to discuss the issues in detail.

The quiz has already had an impact on the next Annual Meeting. We have already started to organize the next Annual Meeting 2019 together with the PhD and Postdoc Committees, and the meeting will last one full day ending with a party. We are always open for suggestions on international speakers or party themes/DJs.

Grants & awards
AI&II Postdoc grants 2018

Fabrizio Chiodo (VUmc), Wouter Ouwerkerk (AMC), Björn Koel (AMC) and Famke Schneider (VUmc) were awarded the AI&II Postdoc grants 2018. This awarding took place at our AI&II Annual Meeting 2018.

A PPS-SGF-Immunology grant (funded by HealthHolland) has been obtained by the DC4Balance consortium headed by Jolanda de Vries (RadboudUMC) and Esther de Jong (Amsterdam UMC-AMC). In this consortium 8 Dutch research institutes and 12 companies participate. Together they aim to gain disease-overarching insight in DC modulating therapeutics, by developing a harmonised immunological toolbox to analyze the unique longitudinal patient samples present within the consortium from (recently) performed immunotherapy trials in different diseases, such as cancer, autoimmunity and allergy. In addition, the team aspires to devise smart nanosystems that can find, modulate and activate DCs inside the body, rather than modulating DCs outside the body. Involved researchers from Amsterdam UMC are Yvette van Kooyk, Elga de Vries, Juan Garcia Vallejo, Sander Tas, Ronald van Ree and Theo Geijtenbeek.

Marit van Gils, assistant professor at the department of Medical Microbiology at the AMC, received the Mathilde Krim Fellowship phase II (80.000 dollars) from the American Foundation for AIDS Research for the project “Vaccines through the eyes of B cells”. The project will provide a detailed picture of how B cells process different vaccine antigens and the subsequent T cell activation to better understand the ensuing neutralizing antibody response after vaccination. In addition, Marit has also received 75,000 euro from AIDS Fonds to develop superantibodies as a strategy for HIV care and cure. In this ‘high-risk high-gain’ project the Fc tail of broadly neutralizing antibodies will be adapted to enhance antibody mediated effector functions, so that these antibodies can not only block infection of host cells, but will also be able to kill already infected cells.
Ronald Derking used his AI&II Work visit grant to visit the laboratory of prof. dr. Max Crispin at the University of Southampton, in the United Kingdom. The project aims to resolve heterogeneity in glycan occupancy on HIV-1 Env trimers. The Crispin lab uses two highly specialist glycobiology techniques to study glycosylation on HIV-1 Env trimers. During this work visit, I could use these techniques to study site-specific glycan occupancy and composition of all glycosylation sites on a collection of Env mutants that I created. This resulted in the identification of a Env mutant that closely mimics glycan occupancy of that of the viral Env. This work visit also gave new insights in how we can improve glycan occupancy on current HIV-1 Env designs.

Famke Schneiders used her AI&II Work visit grant to visit the biomedical research unit of the Cornell University and also the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and Mount Sinai, all located in New York City. The main purpose of her visit was to setup a collaboration and to gain new theoretical insights at the laboratory of Radiation Oncology at Weill Cornell Medicine, and outpatient clinic of the department of Radiation Oncology at Weill Cornell Medicine. Since I was in New York City I had planned multiple visits with colleagues in the field of Radiation Oncology and Immunology, where we evaluated the current research projects and to explore the possibility for future collaborations.
Tiago Matos was awarded the **AI&II Travel Grant** in order to give an honorous plenary oral presentation at the IID congress. This leading scientific meeting for cutaneous investigation attracting the most prominent researchers from all over the world, which occurs only once every 5 years. Tiago showed how central memory T cells (TCM) were the most effective precursor cells of resident memory T cells in tissues in vivo. Their studies suggest that TCM can provide long lasting immunity in both the circulating and tissue compartments, making them an ideal candidate for adoptive immunotherapy for cancers and infections.

Marieke Heineke, lab of Marjolein van Egmond, MCBI, VUmc, won two awards at the Gordon Research Conference: Antibodies & Antibody Engineering 2018, Lucca, Italy (March 2018): the Antibodies Excellent **Young Researcher Award** and the **Poster Prize Gordon Research Conference**

Last October, Emma Birnie, PhD, Benjamin Visser, Lianne Cremers and Michele van Vugt started a project in Ethiopia for people with podoconiosis and have won the **Albert Schweitzer Prize**. Podoconiosis is a relatively unknown tropical disease that leads to painful, thick feet and is caused by walking barefoot on volcanic rocks. As part of the project, they are also working on a documentary about this disease, which will be released in November. A photo exhibition about the project to introduce interested parties to this unknown disease will be organised at the launching of a crowdfunding campaign in collaboration with the Amsterdam UMC (AMC) and other partners for a
study to improve the treatment of podoconiosis.

The **Dutch Cancer Society** has granted **Marjolein van Egmond** the unique high risk project KWF 11397: Are anti-EGFR monoclonal antibodies the magic bullets that remove circulating tumorcells in patients with non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC)? This two year project will be executed in collaboration with Dickhoff, de Langen, Hartemink (NKI). **Health~Holland** has granted **Marjolein van Egmond** the project: Neutrophils as potential targets to prevent tissue damage in chronic inflammation and autoimmunity, which will be conducted in collaboration with Bioceros for 2 years.

**Edgar Peters**, an internist-infectiologist and acute healthcare professional received the prestigious Roger **Pecoraro Award** at the ADA congress in Orlando for his contribution to research on the detection, treatment, and prevention of diabetic foot infections. View the content of this two minutes presentation at the VUmc in which he discusses the current approach to diabetic foot infections, the gaps in research and treatment in the future.

**Hanke Matlung** received a personal grant from **KWF, the Young Investigator Grant**. With the help of 500.000 Euro from KWF, she can initiate her own line of research. She will continue to investigate the mechanism by which cancer cells are capable to resist neutrophil-mediated cell death during antibody treatment. Hanke works in the group of professor Timo van den Berg.

**Thijs Crommentuijn** has been awarded a grant from the **Dutch Brain Tumor Foundation** for his proposal titled ”High-dimensional immuno-phenotyping and modulation of novel immune checkpoints in glioblastoma”. The project will analyze the expression of novel immune checkpoints in glioblastoma patient tissues, and investigate the effects of modulating these immune checkpoints in glioblastoma mouse models. A better understanding of the role of the immune system will hopefully lead to successful immunotherapeutic combinations against this brain tumor.

**Alex Cloherty** has been recently awarded an AMC PhD Scholarship. She will start her project on September 1st at the Department of Experimental Immunology in the AMC, in the research group of Carla Ribeiro. The project will focus on the recently discovered secretory branch of autophagy. Using DENV-2 and HIV-1, Alex aims to unravel the molecular mechanism of secretory autophagy and its function in virus-induced inflammation and viral transmission.
The Immune Cytomics research group (PI: Juan J. Garcia Vallejo) at the department of Molecular Cell Biology & Immunology has received a grant from the Hersentumorfonds to investigate the immune composition in gliomas. With this project, we expect to achieve a better understanding of the immune landscape in brain cancer and its correlates with peripheral blood immune responses, and we will generate actionable biomarkers for their implementation in the clinic to support clinical decision making, and follow up patients undergoing immunotherapy for brain cancer.

In the News

Recently, the AIDS conference (AIDS 2018) was held in Amsterdam. Prof. Dr. Theo Geijtenbeek, chair of department of Experimental Immunology at Amsterdam UMC location AMC, has been interviewed by At5 about 'finding the cure against HIV-1'.

Rheumatologist Sander Tas and Conny van der Laken were interviewed for the AMC magazine about their collaboration under the umbrella of EATRIS to develop new imaging methods for various inflammatory diseases. AMC Magazine September 2018.

Het Kankerboek; hét nieuwe boek over kanker

Prof.dr. Marjolein van Egmond published the article: ‘Feiten en fabels over kanker’ in the August 30th issue of Libelle, in which she explains the main reason for the increase in cancer incidence for the Dutch general public. She also launched the website: hetkankerboek.nl
On July 11th, Rogier Sanders was interviewed by the NOS about the publication of the APROACH study in The Lancet by Janssen Vaccines & Prevention. This interview was shown in the eight o’clock NOS news broadcast.

The Vectra Polaris was installed at the Department of Molecular Cell Biology & Immunology (O2 Lab Building) it is now ready for use. The Vectra Polaris is a fantastic instrumentation for the study of the tumor immune infiltrate or for the spatial characterization of multiple immune subpopulations in lymphoid organs. For more information, training and reservations, contact Marko Popovic (m.popovic@vumc.nl) at MCBI; Amsterdam UMC, loc. VUmc.

On July 23th, Rogier Sanders was a guest in the talkshow M on NPO1 because of the International AIDS Society meeting held in the RAI from the 21-27th of July.

In recent weeks there has been news items published in the media about ‘predatory journals’, fake journals in which researchers can publish for a fee without a review process or quality control.
Based on an initial analysis of the AMC and VUmc output, this problem seems to occur only to a very limited extent. It is just as important to be alert to this. Additional information:

- The [Directory of Open Access Journals](https://doaj.org) (DOAJ) provides an overview of trusted journals.
- Check a [copy of Beall's list of predatory publishers & journals](https://scholar.google.com/scholar?hl=en&q=beall%27s+list+of+predatory+journals).
- Use the checklist on the [thinkchecksubmit](https://thinkchecksubmit.com) website to see if your journal meets the requirements of a trusted journal.

### About O2Flow:

O2Flow, the cytometry core facility at the Amsterdam UMC, loc. VUmc, dept of Molecular Cell Biology & Immunology, has installed the cytek Aurora, an spectral analyzer. Next to this, O2Flow has set up a collaboration with ThermoFisher to host their flagship instrument, the Attune Nxt V6, a 4 laser instrument equipped with autosampler. Finally, we invested in a Dolomite Nadia instrument, a single cell encapsulation platform. O2Flow is open to all interested scientists in AI&II, for more information, training, and registration in our instrument scheduling software, please contact Juan J. Garcia Vallejo ([jj.garciavallejo@vumc.nl](mailto:jj.garciavallejo@vumc.nl)).

### About the Vectra:

![Image of flow cytometry data]
The Vectra Polaris was installed at the Department of Molecular Cell Biology & Immunology (O2 Lab Building, room 11E83) during the summer and it is now ready for use. This instrument was purchased with the help of the Amsterdam TCS fundraising campaign of the CCA and joined investments of the departments of Molecular Cell Biology & Immunology, Anatomy and Neurosciences, and Head & Neck Surgery. The Vectra Polaris is an automated high-throughput multispectral imaging system that allows whole slide, brightfield, and up to 7 color fluorescence imaging. Next to this, also the InForm software is available for use, which enables the multiplexing capability of the Vectra Polaris for the identification and quantification of multiple biomarkers and revealing spatial context within a digital workflow. Therefore, this is a fantastic instrumentation for the study of the tumor immune infiltrate or for the spatial characterization of multiple immune subpopulations in lymphoid organs. For more information, training and reservations, contact Marko Popovic (m.popovic@vumc.nl) at MCBI (Amsterdam UMC, loc. VUmc)

Update Your Personal PURE Page

All researchers at Amsterdam UMC are requested to update their PURE profile pages. If you do not quite know how to go about it, watch this (English language) clip for tips and inspiration: Youtube

Top publications


van Bilsen WPH, Zaaijer HL, Matser A, Hurk KVD, Slot E, Schim van der Loeff MF, Prins M, van de Laar


Publication in press:

**Affiliation Amsterdam UMC**
The Board of the Amsterdam University Medical Center kindly requests to use these affiliation addresses:
**Location Meibergdreef:** Amsterdam UMC, Univ(ersity) of Amsterdam, department(s), research institute(s), Meibergdreef 9, Amsterdam, Netherlands
**Location Meibergdreef:** Amsterdam UMC, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, department(s), research institute(s), de Boelelaan 1117, Amsterdam, Netherlands

**Appointments**
Niek de Vries has been appointed professor of rheumatology, in particular the immunopathogenesis of rheumatoid arthritis and other autoimmune diseases. Until now, he has been a UHD in the Department of Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology.

DISSERTATIONS

Vanessa C. Harris has defended her PhD thesis titled "The role of the intestinal microbiome in rotavirus vaccine immunogenicity – An exploration from correlation to causation" on April 25, 2018 at the UvA. Promotores: Prof. Dr. Joost Wiersinga & Prof. Dr. Michiel Boele van Hensbroek.

Marijne Heeren has defended her PhD thesis titled "Translating immune characteristics of metastatic tumors into therapeutic targets for cervical cancer" on September 19, 2018 at the Aula, VU university, Amsterdam. Affiliation: departments of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Medical Oncology, Amsterdam UMC location VUMC. Promotores: Prof. Dr. G.G. Kenter and prof. Dr. T.D. de Gruijl. Co-promotor: Dr. E.S. Jordanova.

Lisanne van Leeuwen has defended her PhD thesis titled "Tuberculous meningitis at the host-pathogen interface" on September 20, 2018 at the Aula of the Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam. Affiliation: department of Medical microbiology & Infection control and department of Pediatric infectious diseases & Immunology, Amsterdam UMC. Promotores: Prof. Dr. W. Bitter and prof. Dr. A.M. Tutu-van Furth. Co-promotores: Dr. A.M. van der Sar and Dr. M. van der Kuip.
Nynke de Vrieze will defend her PhD thesis titled “Lymphogranuloma venereum among men who have sex with men” on October 30, 2018 at the Agnietenkapel, University of Amsterdam. Promotor is Prof. Dr. H.J.C. de Vries and co-promotor is Dr. M.F. Schim van der Loeff.

Alessandra Tammaro will defend her PhD thesis titled "Immune-mediated mechanisms of (mal)adaptive renal tissue repair " on November 9, 2018 at the Agnietenkapel (UvA), Amsterdam. Affiliation: departments of Pathology, Amsterdam UMC location AMC. Promotor: Prof. Dr. S. Florquin. Co-promotors: Dr. M.C. Dessing and Dr. J.C. Leemans.


Marcel Jansen will defend his thesis titled: "The role of platelets in acute kidney disease" on December 14, 2018. His project was under the supervision of promotor Prof. Sandrine Florquin and co-promotor Dr. Joris J.T.H. Roelofs.


Marian van Beers-Tas will defend her PhD thesis titled “Symptoms and biomarkers for predicting rheumatoid arthritis” on January 10, 2019 at the Agnietenkapel. Affiliation: Amsterdam Rheumatology & Immunology Center. Promotors: Prof. dr. D. van Schaardenburg, Reade and Amsterdam UMC, Univ Amsterdam. Co-promotors: Dr. M. Nielen, NIVEL and Prof. dr. N. de Vries, Amsterdam UMC, Univ Amsterdam.
Charlotte van de Veer will defend her PhD thesis titled “Vaginal microbes in sexual health and disease” on January 11, 2019 at the Agnietenkapel, University of Amsterdam. Promotor is Prof. Dr. H.J.C. de Vries and Prof. Dr. R. Kort (VU University Amsterdam) and co-promotores are dr. R. van Houdt (VU University Amsterdam) and dr. S.M. Bruisten.

Ivo Hansen will defend his PhD thesis titled “Fc receptor activation controls cytokine production by human antigen-presenting cells.” on January 18, 2019 at Agnietenkapel. Affiliation: Department of Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Department of Experimental Immunology, Amsterdam UMC location AMC. Promotor: Prof. Dominique Baeten, Co-promotor: Dr. Jeroen den Dunnen.

For PHD-Students

PhD retreat 2018  Registration open now! Amsterdam Infection & Immunity Institute

Thursday and Friday, 25th & 26th of October

What: Annual AI&II PhD retreat
Who: All AI&II PhD students
Where: Stayokay Heemskerk, Heemskerk, Netherlands

Please join us for this two-day programme full of networking, scientific presentations (both oral and poster), social activities and a party.

We have invited two excellent key-note speakers:

- Dr. Gernot Grömer is a researcher at the University of Innsbruck in the field of human Mars exploration and Astrobiology and President of Austrian Space Forum. Dr. Grömer
led more than 10 Mars expedition simulations and leads the development of the experimental spacesuit simulator Aouda.X.

- **Dr. Matthijs Kox** from Radboud University investigated the Iceman (Wim Hof) and his purported ability to influence his autonomic nervous system – a skill commonly deemed impossible by the medical community. He studies the human immune response, mainly in ICU patients, to help reduce the mortality of critically ill patients.

For information please contact promovendi@amsterdam-infection-and-immunity.org.

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**New PhD management system for PhD-students VUmc.** Hora Finita, the digital system to administer and track PhD trajectories at the VUmc, is live as from July 19th. All information about PhD trajectories is now available online for those involved: PhD students, (co)promoters, dean and supporting staff. Many standard procedures have been automated and in time we will also be able to say goodbye to all paper files.

**All important info.**
Log in: [https://horafinita.vu.nl](https://horafinita.vu.nl) (with VUmc log in account and password).
Manuals: [http://www.vu.nl/en-horafinita](http://www.vu.nl/en-horafinita) (also for F.A.Q and contact details)

**Are you about to defend your thesis?** PhD students who are about to complete their PhD trajectory do so in the old way. In order to avoid unnecessary duplication of work Hora Finita will not be used for these projects.

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**EpidM courses for PhD-students Amsterdam UMC (VUmc and AMC).** EpidM organizes courses in epidemiological and advanced statistical methods and a Master’s Program in Epidemiology (including international Winter Courses). The courses can provide important support in the design and analysis of your research. The Winter Course program is completely in English. The dates of the courses for 2018-2019 are now available and from now on you can register, see our website: [www.epidm.nl](http://www.epidm.nl).

**Master’s program in Epidemiology.** If you are interested to follow the entire Master’s program in Epidemiology, I advise you to make an appointment with our coordinator: Marjolein Stuij. The first opportunity to join the Master is September 2019 (September 2018 is already full). For information: epidm@vumc.nl.

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**For Postdocs**

Does your temporary contact end in 2019? Prepare for the next career step now!
Do you have a strong preference to pursue your career outside academia? Would you like to explore your options but do not know where to start or how to narrow down to the ones that suit you? Do you want to learn how to increase your professional attractiveness to non-academic employers?
A successful transition out of academia requires solid preparation. How can you make yourself professionally attractive outside academia. The PCDI course Employability outside Academia is developed to support you in this preparative phase. Take part into the upcoming edition on 28 September, 19 October, and 16 November in central Utrecht.

For information about the programme and how to fund your participation, please visit the PCDI website. Maximum number of participants is limited, so be quick to avoid disappointment and register now.

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**Events**

**Save the date for the AI&II events:**

- **25-26 October:** AI&II PhD Retreat
- **10 December:** AI&II seminar Inflammatory Diseases
- **6 June:** AI&II Annual meeting 2019

**September**

- **28:** VUmc Science Exchange Day, Amstel Lecture Theatre, VU University Medical Center.

**October**

- **25-26:** Annual AI&II PhD Retreat, Stayokay, Heemskerk

**November**
5: Seminar Virtual and Augmented Reality for Research: VARR out!, SURF Utrecht
21-23: Joint German-Dutch Vascular Biology, Amsterdam
28: Symposium en Oratie Gender and sex differences and Scientific Research, Auditorium VU

December
5: Seminar & Masterclass by Dr. Marco Demaria, ERIBA UMCG, department Pathology, loc. AMC
10: AI&II seminar Inflammatory Diseases, Auditorium 0/2 VUmc

Everything Medical Data Science by the Right Data Right Now

Do you like medicine, data science, pizza or all of those? Sounds interesting? Join the Everything Medical Data Science by the Right Data Right Now consortium and attend the Data plus Pizza meetings with Paul Elbers, department of intensive care medicine, Amsterdam UMC, location VUmc, Rob Bosman, department of intensive care medicine, OLVG Oost, Mark Hoogendoorn, department of computational intelligence, VU University. The Right Data Right Now consortium includes Amsterdam UMC, OLVG, VU University, Pacmed and the Amsterdam Economic Board

Grant opportunities
AI&II Work visit grant 2018 - deadline 15 October 2018

To stimulate young talent within the Amsterdam Infection & Immunity Institute to visit a research facility important within the field of Infection & Immunity to actively build their CV and network while also obtaining new knowledge (techniques, samples, data, competences etc.) valuable to AI&II.

The AMC Young Talent Fund 2019 is now open for applications.

The AMC Young Talent Fund provides young excellent AMC PhD candidates the unique opportunity to follow a course or an internship at one of the top international research institutes. In 2019 new grants will be awarded after an assessment of the applications by a selection committee. The AMC Young Talent Fund is made possible by private donations to the AMC Foundation and offers a grant of €5,000,- maximum per candidate. The deadline for application is November 13th 2018. More information is available on the website of the AMC Graduate School.

Grants support and services AMC/VUmc: research funding support is offered to AMC researchers and VU or VUmc researchers at their respective grant offices.

- **Personal grants**: depending on the employment institution of the applicant, the relevant office must be contacted, i.e. Grants Desk VU/VUmc (E: supportprogrammes@vu.nl) for personal
grants only) or AMC Research Office (E: researchoffice@listserv.amc.uva.nl) to enter the support group trajectory.

- **Collaborative projects**: depending on the legal entity registered in the application (AMC, VUmc or VU), applicants are advised to inform their respective research support offices to enter the support trajectory such as the EU grants support trajectory, i.e. AMC Research Office (E: researchoffice@listserv.amc.uva.nl), or VU/VUmc (E: subsidiedesk@vumc.nl).

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**India-EU Call for Proposals: Next Generation Influenza Vaccine**

The EU Horizon 2020 framework has launched a 30 M€ call together with India on influenza vaccine development; deadline 16 April 2019. The call is aimed at research, pre-clinical trials and vaccine development. EU-India consortia may be formed during the project preparation events in August and September 2018 in India. [More information](#)
New members

My name is **Martin Baumdick** and I am a new guest employee at Experimental Immunology. I am working as a postdoc at the Heinrich Pette Institute in Hamburg in the group of Madeleine Bunders. In my project I will investigate the crosstalk between intestinal stem cells and intestinal T cells. Once in a while I will visit the Amsterdam UMC, loc. AMC and work together with Madeleine and Renee Schreurs from the Host Defense group on the isolation and culturing of intestinal stem and immune cells.

My name is **Romain Leboux** and I am a new guest-employee at Experimental Immunology. I am a PhD student at the department of BioTherapeutics in the LACDR (Leiden). In my project (funded by NWO-TKI) I do an attempt to develop an improved immunotherapy for (birch pollen) allergy based on liposomes as adjuvant and as vehicle to administer allergens by subcutaneous injection. During my work at Amsterdam UMC, loc. AMC I will evaluate these liposomes in the mouse model for birch pollen allergy and immunotherapy that was developed in the Allergy Group by Leonie van Rijt.

My name is **Dornatien Anang**, a new PhD candidate in the group of Prof. Niek de Vries and, I’ll be involved in characterizing BCR/TCR clones in RA. I have a background in Biochemistry and Molecular biology (Bsc.) from Cameroon and my master’s in biomedical sciences (Clinical molecular sciences) from Hasselt University, Belgium. I am quite excited in joining the department and it’s been quite amazing for my first days and can’t wait to meet/work with everybody as time goes on.

My name is **Maaike Waasdorp** and I am a new postdoc in the group of Sue Gibbs (MCBI, Amsterdam UMC, loc. VUmc). My project is focused on comparing the microenvironment and local immune response in skin and oral mucosa. Using organotypic skin and oral mucosa tissue equivalents, we aim to find host-microbiome interactions that contribute to ‘superial’ oral wound healing and to identify therapeutic targets for promoting optimal healing of burn wounds.
My name is **Tineke de Jong**, today, August 1, I will join the group of Lisa van Baarsen as a PhD student. The next four years I will study the function of stromal cells in relation to the development of rheumatoid arthritis.

**Alex Schuurman** here, I'm 25 and I've started this week as a PhD'er of both Joost Wiersinga and Tom van der Poll. I will be working on pneumonia and the microbiome, specifically by setting up a new clinical study (REMAP) on probiotics after pneumonia and combining this with lab-experiments. Earlier this year I finished my medical degree.

**Lieve van der Donk** has started as PhD student on September 1st at the Department of Experimental Immunology in the research group of Jeroen van Heijst. Her project will focus on regulatory mechanisms in T cell receptor signaling, with a particular emphasis on understanding the molecular basis of ligand-induced TCR downregulation.

This past year the group of Professor Constance Schultsz has expanded with several new team members strengthening our group. Most recently **Thomas Roodsant**, Masters of Molecular Life Sciences from Wageningen University, joined our forces. During his PhD he will study host-pathogen interaction in an organoid model, focusing on the zoonotic potential of *Streptococcus suis*. This work is part of the PIGSs consortium.

**Alex Cloherty** has been recently awarded an AMC PhD Scholarship. She will start her project on September 1st at the Department of Experimental Immunology in the Amsterdam UMC, loc. AMC, in the research group of Carla Ribeiro. The project will focus on the recently discovered secretory branch of autophagy. Using DENV-2 and HIV-1, Alex aims to unravel the molecular mechanism of secretory autophagy and its function in virus-induced inflammation and viral transmission.

**Jelle Koopsen** has started his PhD in the Amsterdam UMC, loc. AMC, department of Medical Microbiology in December 2017 to investigate the HCV epidemic among MSM. His research under the supervision of Prof. Colin Russell, Dr. Janke Schinkel, and Dr. Marc van der Valk, will be using phylogenetic and phylodynamic methods the describe the history of the epidemic and to monitor it in real time.
**Suzanne de Vroom** recently started as a PhD student at the Department of Infectious Diseases in the Amsterdam UMC, loc. AMC, in the research group of prof. dr. Suzanne Geerlings. The project is in close collaboration with dr. Reinier van Hest and prof. dr. Ron Mathôt of the Department of Pharmacy. The aim of her research project is to prospectively validate current recommendations of dose reduction of antibiotics in patients with renal impairment.

**Marita van de Kerkhof** started her PhD in June 2018 in the group of Prof. Dr. Maria Prins at the Department of Infectious Diseases at the GGD Amsterdam. Her research project is funded by ZonMw and focusses on the prevention of hepatitis C virus reinfection in men who have sex with men. The aim of the study is to evaluate interventions aimed at reducing risk behavior.

September 1st, **Mathieu Claireaux** has started as a post-doc in the group of Marit van Gils, department of Medical Microbiology, Amsterdam UMC, loc. AMC. He will study the importance of Tfh cells in the development of potent neutralizing antibody responses against HIV.

September 15th, **Marlon de Gast** has started her PhD research in the group of Marit van Gils, department of Medical Microbiology, Amsterdam UMC, loc. AMC. She will study how B cells will process vaccine antigens and present them to T cells.

September 15th, **Tom Caniels** has started his PhD research in the group of Rogier Sanders, Laboratory of Experimental Virology, department of Medical Microbiology, Amsterdam UMC, loc. AMC. He will take part in the project to train B cells to generate broadly neutralising HIV antibodies.

October 1st, **Mitch Brinkkemper** will start his PhD research in the group of Rogier Sanders, Laboratory of Experimental Virology, department of Medical Microbiology, Amsterdam UMC, loc. AMC. He will work on stabilizing soluble proteins from several viruses as vaccine immunogens.
November 15th, **Rik Stuart** will start his PhD research in the group of Marit van Gils, department of Medical Microbiology, Amsterdam UMC, loc. AMC. He will study the antibody mediated effector functions after HIV infection.

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**Vacancies**

**Amsterdam Rheumatology and immunology center | Reade** is looking for a PhD candidate for a project in the rheumatology with common grounds in the immunology and pharmacology.

**Project:** In this project, as a PhD candidate, you will study the two main strategies for optimizing the current biological treatment for rheumatoid arthritis patients. This study is a randomized multicenter trial, which aims to compare disease activity guided interval prolongation with therapeutic drug monitoring, drug concentration guided interval prolongation.

**Requirements:** You have obtained a master’s degree in medicine and are registered in BIG registry. Since it is a multicenter study in the Netherlands, it is essential that you are fluent in Dutch.

For questions, or if you want more information about this position, please contact ms Jill Ruwaard PhD student at Reade; 020-2421802; [j.ruwaard@reade.nl](mailto:j.ruwaard@reade.nl), or dr. Gertjan Wolbink, principal investigator and rheumatologist at Reade 020-2421000; [g.wolbink@reade.nl](mailto:g.wolbink@reade.nl).

**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 as a word file with separate photo's or illustrations as JPEG files to: [info@amsterdam-infection-and-immunity.org](mailto:info@amsterdam-infection-and-immunity.org)

The AI&II newsletter will appear four times a year.