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  **Amsterdam Infection & Immunity**



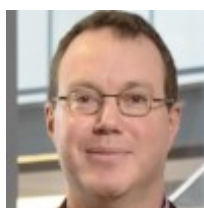
March 2018



Grants & awards



The **VUmc Profielprijs 2017** is granted to the team members from obstetrics & gynecology (Prof. Hanneke de Vries, Dr. Marjon de Boer, Dr. Carolien Abheiden), rheumatology (Dr. Irene Bultink, Prof. Alexandre Voskuyl, PhD student Birgit Schutte-Blomjous, Msc) and nephrology (Dr. Marc Vervloet, Dr. Muriel Grooteman, Dr. Joost van der Heijden, Dr. Azam Nurmohamed) who focuses on the guidance and monitoring of women with SLE. This price has been awarded due to excellent collaboration.



**Noam Zelcer**, professor of Medical Biochemistry, received 1.5 million euros from the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (**VICI grant**) for his research: SPRING and a RING in Lipid Metabolism. Our body needs cholesterol and fat, but in excess these are harmful and cause metabolic and cardiovascular disease. In this project, Zelcer and his team will study genes they discovered, SPRING and RING-finger-145, which regulate cholesterol and fat production. With these studies, his aim is to develop new treatments for lipid-related diseases.



**Rogier Sanders**, professor of virology, received 1.5 million euros from the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (**VICI grant**) for his research Training B Cells to Generate Broadly Neutralising HIV Antibodies: Most antiviral vaccines work by inducing protective antibodies. However, such antibodies have not yet been generated through vaccination against HIV. Sanders will use HIV-infected patients who make protective antibodies as the template for designing an HIV vaccine.



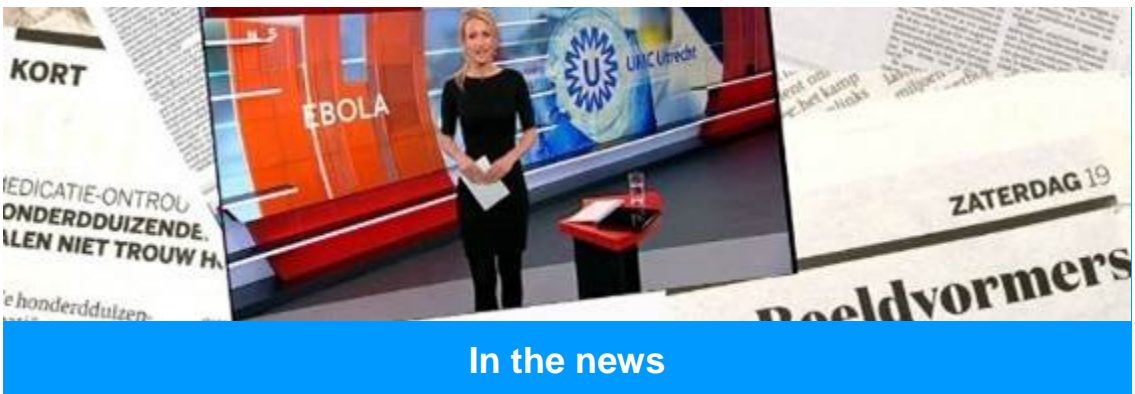
**Merlijn Kaaij** received the **Rheumatology grant 2018** from the NVR, the Dutch society for Rheumatology. This grant (20.000,-) can be used for his fundamental project about pathologic bone formation in spondyloarthritis and whether there is a contribution from angiogenesis.

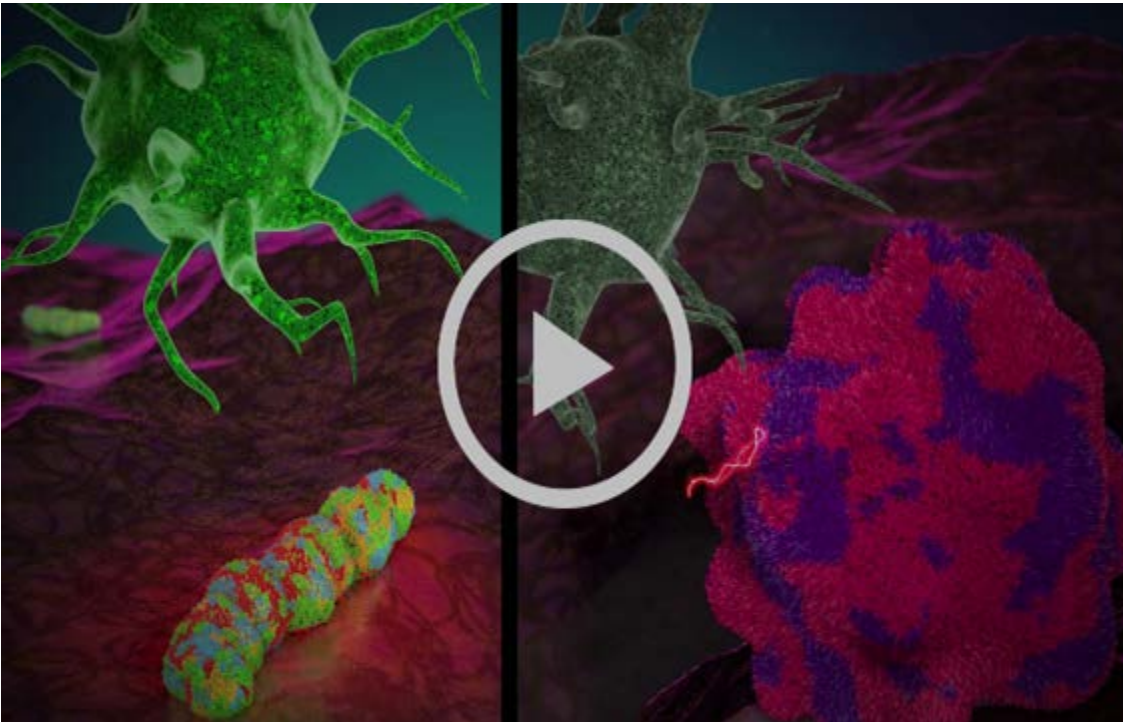


**Dr. Carla Ribeiro** received the **Joep Lange & Jacqueline van Tongeren Junior Investigator Award** for outstanding work in the study of HIV. Timothy Brown and Peter Reiss presented the award at the closing session of the Netherlands Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Epidemiology, Prevention and Treatment (NCHIV) on 21 November 2017.



**Marit van Gils** has been awarded the **AMC Fellowship** to start her own research group at the department of Medical Microbiology of the AMC. Marit will focus on the underlying immunology behind vaccination, in particular the elicitation of antibody responses by vaccines to guide the design of novel or improved immunogens. The AMC Fellowship spans a five-year period and consists of € 750,000 covering the salary of the fellow, the salary of a PhD student and their bench-fees.





**Nature publication and international film award for VUmc cancer immunology research.** The video that accompanies the Nature paper of E Rodriguez, STT Schetters & Y van Kooyk (MCBI, VUmc) won the Global Short Film Award, which will be awarded at the international **Cannes film festival** on May 19.



**Alba Torrents de la Pena won FameLab Amsterdam.** Alba is a PhD candidate at the Experimental Virology Lab of the Department of Medical Microbiology at the AMC and did her pitch about a new method to keep vaccines alive in extreme circumstances.





The short film of **Marieke Heineke** on **'Scientist Wanted'** can be viewed at the online platform for young scientists. Marieke works as a PhD student at the dept. MCBI at VUmc. With this film she promotes her work for the general public.



The **ZonMW Meer Kennis Minder Dieren** project "Virus research in human models: let's show some guts!" (**PI Katja Wolthers**, **postdoc Adithya Sridhar**) has been promoted by Stichting Proefdiervrij (Dutch Society for Replacement of Animal Testing) by a crowdfunding campaign.



**Prof. Theo Geijtenbeek and Dr. Carla Ribeiro** were invited to discuss their recent findings in the field of HIV research and the impact of new HIV therapies during the “[Power of Love](#): De leukste dag van het jaar om hiv te hebben” with researchers, clinicians and patient groups at **Koninklijk Theater Carré**.



**ogier Sanders and Marit van Gils** have appeared on Dutch national TV. “De Buitendienst” is an educational program for children in the age of 9-12 years. They made a show on “how to defeat a virus”. For those people interested, click [here](#) to view the episode.



## Top publications

Ivo S. Hansen, Lisette Krabbendam, Jochem H. Bernink, Fabricio Loayza-Puch, Willianne Hoepel, Johan A. van Burgsteden, Elsa C. Kuijper, Christianne J. Buskens, Willem A. Bemelman, Sebastiaan A.J. Zaat, Reuven Agami, Gestur Vidarsson, Gijs R. van den Brink, Esther C. de Jong, Manon E. Wildenberg, Dominique L.P. Baeten, Bart Everts, and Jeroen den Dunnen. [FcaRI co-stimulation converts human intestinal CD103+ dendritic cells into pro-inflammatory cells through glycolytic reprogramming](#). **Nat Commun.** 2018 Feb 28;9(1):863. doi: 10.1038/s41467-018-03318-5.

Ernesto Rodríguez, Sjoerd T. T. Schettters & Yvette van Kooyk. [The tumour glyco-code as a novel immune checkpoint for immunotherapy](#). 2018 Feb 5; Paper published in **Nature** as an advance online publication.

Seijkens TTP, van Tiel CM, Kusters PJH, Atzler D, Soehnlein O, Zarzycka B, Aarts SABM, Lameijer M, Gijbels MJ, Beckers L, den Toom M, Slütter B, Kuiper J, Duchene J, Aslani M, Megens RTA, van 't Veer C, Kooij G, Schrijver R, Hoeksema MA, Boon L, Fay F, Tang J, Baxter S, Jongejan A, Moerland PD, Vriend G, Bleijlevens B, Fisher EA, Duivenvoorden R, Gerdes N, de Winther MPJ, Nicolaes GA, Mulder WJM, Weber C, Lutgens E. [Targeting CD40-Induced TRAF6 Signaling in Macrophages Reduces Atherosclerosis](#). **J Am Coll Cardiol.** 2018 Feb 6;71(5):527-542.



## Appointments



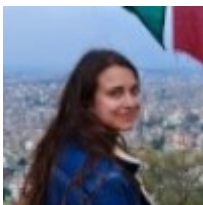
**Prof. dr. M. van Vugt**, Chair: Internal Medicine, in particular community centered control or tropical infections. With my position the AMC will develop a community centered control of tropical infections. To unearth the determinants of a sustainable reduction of tropical infectious diseases, we will engage local communities. With this new knowledge from within the communities, we aim to develop effective intervention strategies. Those strategies will then be tested for regional, national, and international up-scale. And by focusing on integrating (existing?) measures, we aim to effectively contain tropical diseases in the future



## New members



March 1, 2018, **Joanna Kaczorowska** has started her PhD research in the Virus Discovery Group of Lia van der Hoek (Laboratory of Experimental Virology, Dept. of Medical Microbiology, AMC); she will be studying "Orphan Viruses".



Februari 1, 2018, **Emma Reiss** has started her PhD research in the group of Rogier Sanders, Laboratory Experimental Virology, Dept. of Medical Microbiology, AMC); she will take part in the project : SOSIP Clinical Trial



February 1st, 2018, **Caroline Binda** has started as a post-doc in the Laboratory of Experimental Virology (Dept. of Medical Microbiology, AMC) headed by Ben Berkhout. Her research will focus on the use of the CRISPR-Cas9 system to target HIV-1.



## Dissertations



Alba Torrents de la Peña will be defending her PhD on June 29th at 11h at the Aula of the University of Amsterdam. The title of her thesis is: Structure-based stabilization of HIV-1 trimer vaccines.



## Events

### Save the date for the AI&I events:

[29 May: AI&I seminar Infectious Diseases](#)

[19 June: AI&I annual meeting](#)

#### April

**5-6:** [NVVI](#), Regulating immune responses in autoimmunity: balancing activation and suppression, Lunteren.

**15-19:** [Keystone](#) Symposia on HIV and Co-Infections, Canada.

#### May

**24-26:** [The European Symposium on Platelet and Granulocyte Immunobiology](#), Ede.

**29:** AI&I seminar Infectious Diseases

#### 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.



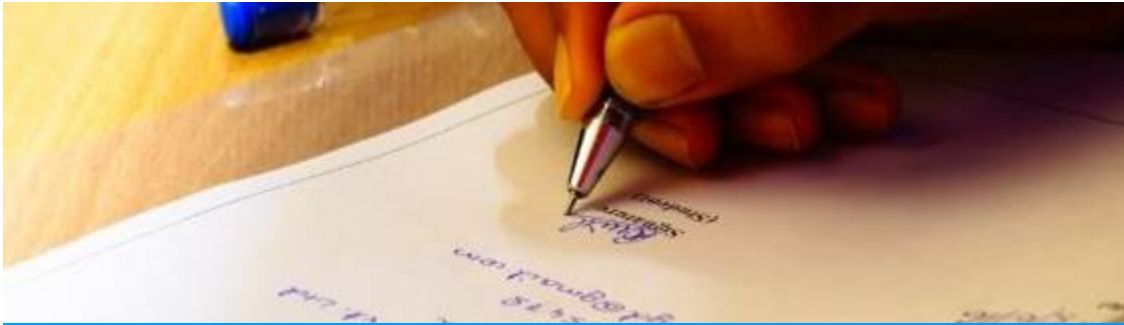
19: AI&I annual meeting

July

23-27: [AIDS2018](#) , Amsterdam.

September

2: [ECI 2018](#), 5th European Congress of Immunology, Amsterdam.



Grant opportunities



**What:**

€ 80.000,- to do research and strengthen your CV.

**Why:**

To support postdoctoral talent towards successful future grant applications.

**Who:**

AI&I postdocs less than 6 years after PhD.

**When:**

The deadline is May 1st 2018.

[Info and details at AI&I website](#)





## Vacancies

- [postdoc-or-masters-microbiologyimmunology-amc.htm](#)
- [phd-candidate-3-bringing-mycobacterial-secretion-inhibitors-to-vumc.htm](#)
- [2-phd-students-characterisation-of-the-immunomodulatory-effect-of-stromal-cells-in-health-and-diseas-vumc.htm](#)

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.

[Research code VUmc - AMC](#)

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