

WASOG Conference 2023

Stockholm, Sweden, 19-21 June 2023

Karlijn Groen, St. Antonius Hospital Nieuwegein

From all over the world, researchers and clinicians from the field of interstitial lung diseases gathered together in Stockholm for the WASOG conference.

This year's topic was Big Data and how this may help us on the way to precision medicine. Of particular interest to me were the presentations on the potential of AI-enabled HRCT analysis in the diagnosis and progression of pulmonary fibrosis. Interestingly, Logan Harper and others compellingly argued the importance of taking ancestry, ethnicity and self-declared race into account, as these factors have social implications and may affect clinical phenotypes.

I was given the opportunity to present a poster on our work that confirmed that pathogenic variants in the *ZCCHC8* gene are associated with pulmonary fibrosis and short telomere disease. I greatly enjoyed the discussions with fellow researchers and clinicians, especially because this gene is not yet well-known and thus not commonly included in clinical gene panels for these diseases. I hope that, while our manuscript is still in the process of publication, other groups have now also included this gene in their panels.

Lastly, attending the WASOG was a truly informative and wonderful experience and I would like to gratefully acknowledge the NRS for their financial support.