

Minutes NRS General Members meeting

April 11th, 2018, “De Heerlijkheid”, Ermelo, room Markgraaf 2

12.00 – 13.00 hrs

1. Welcome

NRS chair Annemie Schols started by thanking NRS board members Gerard Koppelman, Gert-Jan Braunstahl, Anne-Marie Dingemans and Astrid Aardenburg-van Huisstede for their term in the NRS board.

2. Minutes NRS General Members meeting April 12, 2017 were approved.

3. Proposal new NRS board members

The new members of the NRS Board are introduced; Joachim Aerts and Harm Jan Bogaard will join the NRS board. Nienke Vrisekoop will replace Astrid Aardenburg-van Huisstede as president of the Young Investigator board. Because Gerard Koppelman was not able to remain in his role of vice-president, Anke-Hilse Maitland-van der Zee will become vice-president and eventually president of the NRS board later this year. There is one more vacancy, important to have an enthusiastic, basic scientist who will also be involved in the organization of the ‘Longdagen’. Suggestions are very welcome, please contact Annemie.

4. NRS activities 2017 – 2018

There have been quite some activities last year. Regular NRS activities such as courses and symposia, but also quite some activities within the context of the National Program Lung research. Several workshops and formal meetings to build the national program together. This was a very dynamic year where many things have been initiated, which have to be seen through in the coming years. 2018 and 2019 will be challenging but hopefully exciting years.

For 2018, specifically for the NRS we now have these regular meetings such as the Longdagen, organized along with the other partners, the NRS National Lung Course which will be held this year for the 2nd time, the Animal Symposium and the Young Investigator Symposium. These activities now have a firm place in the respiratory field which is important to stimulate and facilitate research and research collaboration, but also education and networking among the young scientist is very important.

5. Update National Program Lung Research

Starting from the five focus areas there was a meeting last year in Vaals, with a number of follow-up meetings. It was decided to continue to build on three pillars. One really focusing on prevention of asthma → Healthy Lungs for Life, the HALO initiative, chaired by Gerard Koppelman together with Hermelijn Smits. Second the P4O2 initiative, chaired by Harm Jan Bogaard together with Anke-Hilse Maitland. And third Fatigue in Chronic Diseases which is chaired by Annemie Schols. The progress of these three initiatives was further illustrated;

HALO → Novel Asthma prevention consortium. The idea is to set up a large, multi-modal intervention study. To realize this in a public-private context, patients need to be involved, which has been realized. The initiative is now in the stage to start involving private-partners. The Lung foundation has also stressed that they find this important and that they want to provide their assistance.

P4O2 → A document has been prepared by a working group describing the initiative. Many different researchers/doctors throughout the country have been given the opportunity to comment on this document. June 22nd there was a meeting where the program was presented to several different stakeholders, to see which (private) partners would be interested in the initiative. Already letters of intent from 4 of the 5 larger pharmaceutical companies. Now the working group is talking to individual private partners. Generally, they suggest making the proposal very concrete so they know in what part of the initiative they invest in.

Fatigue → There is now a project plan for a Knowledge agenda 'Fatigue in chronic disease', which is being prepared together with ZonMW and the 'Samenwerkende gezondheidsfondsen'.

6. Financial annual report and draft budget 2019 (attachments 2&3)

NRS treasurer Gerry Wagenaar presented the financial report: annual account for 2017 and budget for 2019 (sent in advance to members). The take-home message is that we have enough money in the bank account to finance all the NRS activities in the coming year. The NRS is financially healthy.

7. Finance controller committee

Financial member audit committee (Gert Folkerts and Mirjam Kool) checked the annual account and budget and gave their approval.

8. NRS Young Investigator activities 2018 (YIS and National Lung Course)

Nienke Vrisekoop, the new chair of the Young Investigator Board reminds the NRS members about the possibility to apply for the NRS travel grant which enables young researchers to visit conferences outside the respiratory field. Last year, 15 Travel grants were awarded. Last year the YIS was organized for the 9th time. The topic was "Biomarkers in pulmonary disease" and there were 50 participants. We are now recruiting a new member for the YI board to replace Astrid Aardenburg. This year the YIS will be organized on November 16th. More information will be on the NRS website soon.

Hermelijn Smits tells about the National Lung Course which was held for the first time in 2017. It is a 3-day course, together with two 1-day programs at the annual Young Investigator Symposium. All universities have agreed to accreditation. The course consists of lectures about the different pulmonary diseases, workshops and discussion groups. There is also focus on career development activities. Among the participants, there is a good mix in basic and clinical scientists.

9. NRS Grants and Awards

An overview of the different awards is presented. The award winners of 2018 will be announced during the award ceremony on Wednesday.

10. Closing remarks

The NRS general members meeting was not mentioned on the 'Longdagen' program. Maybe add it to the program next year.

11. Closing

Meeting closed by the chair at 13.00 hrs.