

Prof Louis Bont

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Louis Bont is a paediatric infectologist at the Wilhelmina Children's Hospital in the University Medical Center Utrecht in the Netherlands. He leads the Utrecht RSV Research Group with the mission to decrease the global burden of disease caused by RSV infection. He is a member of several research networks. He is the founding chairman of ReSViNET and a member of RESCEU, TAILORED and RSV GEN.

His research focuses on the burden of RSV infection as well as its clinical, genetic, and immunological determinants. His research group has studied a number of large, well-defined RSV cohorts, including two randomised controlled trials, to provide insights into the immunopathogenesis of RSV infection. The ongoing GOLD study is a global observational study which aims to characterize children dying from RSV infection in all continents of the world.

In addition, Prof Bont has studied the relationship between RSV bronchiolitis and the development of long-term airway morbidity, including asthma. His basic research focuses on animal models and the role of neutrophils in RSV pathogenesis.

He has published more than 130 papers in peer-reviewed journals and has received several awards for his work, including the ESPID Fellowship Award. As a result of his strong interest in the education of talented young researchers, he founded the successful Training of Upcoming Leaders in Paediatric Science (TULIPS) career training program in the Netherlands. He has also served as Advisor to the World Health Organization (WHO), the European Parliament and the European Centre of Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC).



Publications

1. Blanken MO, Rovers MM, Molenaar JM, [Bont L](#). Respiratory Syncytial Virus and Recurrent Wheeze in Healthy Preterm Infants. *N Engl J Med* 2013
2. Van Houten CB, de Groot JA, Klein A, Sruogo I, Chistyakov I, de Waal W, [Bont L](#). A host-protein based assay to differentiate between bacterial and viral infections in preschool children: a double-blind multicenter validation study. *Lancet Infect Dis* 2017
3. Mazur NI, Martínón-Torres F, Baraldi E, [Bont L](#). Lower respiratory tract infection caused by respiratory syncytial virus: current management and new therapeutics. *Lancet Respiratory Medicine* 2015