NRS National Lung Course 2026

-course on lung diseases and lung research for those early in their careers

Short description:
The main target audience of the course is formed by PhD students (or Master students who are likely to start a PhD in the respiratory field in the next year) and postdoctoral fellows early on in their trajectories with either a clinical, translational and / or basic science background. There are no further restrictions as to the admission. The aim of the course is to understand the larger field of pulmonary research better, and to get to know each other better by establishing a national professional network.

Teaching goals:
At the end of the course the participant has knowledge about:

1. The structure and function of the lung.
2. The pathogenesis and pathophysiology of pulmonary diseases, including asthma, COPD, interstitial lung disease, lung infections and lung cancer.
3. The impact of these lung diseases on healthcare and quality of life of the patient.
4. The use of advanced *in vitro* models in research in the field of respiratory medicine
5. The pharmacological and non-pharmacological treatment of these lung diseases.
6. Career perspectives in science in the Netherlands and abroad.

Teaching methods:
Lectures, interactive workshops.

Education Load:
The course is organized annually and has two components. The first component is a basic course in lung diseases and research, of which the lectures are concentrated in three days with a total of 24 contact hours. Preparation for the lectures by means of going through relevant literature is required. Participants are also required to prepare a group presentation centered around one manuscript (Journal Club). The focus will be an in depth analysis of structure and methodology of the manuscript as well as interpretation of the results and conclusion. All 5 different manuscripts will be discussed during the NLC.
Collectively, this course and preparatory aspects are estimated to take a total of 70 hours.

As for the second component, the candidates are expected to attend at least two one-day NRS Young Investigator Symposium (YIS) meetings. The teaching load for this component is estimated at 40 hours. Together, this provides a teaching load of 134 hours or 5 ECTS.

Day 1 (Monday 9 March Feb.): Introduction in Respiratory Medicine & Research

Chairs of the day: Marcel Veltkamp, Jurjan Aman, Corry-Anke Brandsma

9h15 - 9h45 Arrival, registration and coffee/tea

09h45 - 10h Welcome and introduction (Marcel Veltkamp)

10h-10h30 Introduction round groups

Session 1: General lung development, lung structure and physiology

Chair: Marcel Veltkamp and Corry-Anke Brandsma

10h30 – 11h15 Lung structure, physiology and development (Mieke Zwager, UMCG)

11h15 – 11h30 Coffee and tea break

Session 2: Tools for respiratory research

Chair: Corry-Anke Brandsma and Esther Pompe

11h30 – 12h00 Lab models in respiratory research (Anne van der Does, LUMC)

12h00 – 12h30 Clinical tools in respiratory research (Marcel Veltkamp, Antonius ZH)

12h30 – 13h25 Lunch

Session 3: Radiology

Chair: Marcel Veltkamp and Corry-Anke Brandsma

13h30 – 14h30 Imaging in respiratory research (Esther Pompe, Meander MC)

14h30 – 14h45 Coffee and tea break

Session 4: Journal Club Preparation

Chair: Jurjan Aman and Marcel Veltkamp

14h45 – 15h30 Preparation in groups for Journal Club

15h30 – 16h00 Check-in room/prepare for social activity

16h00 – 17h30 Social activity

18h00 - 20h00 Dinner at the Brasserie

Day 2 (Tuesday 10 March): Diverse landscape of respiratory disease (except oncology) & Journal Club-Article 1

Session 1: Acute and chronic lung infections

Chair: Corry-Anke Brandsma and Niki Reynaert

9h00 – 9h40 Bas Haak (AUMC & Cambridge) (Pneumonia + bacteria/host interaction)

9h40 – 9h45 Stretch break

9h45 – 10h25 Evelien van der Hout (UMCU) (Bronchiectasis + Cystic Fibrosis)

10h25 – 10h45 Coffee and tea break

Session 2: Obstructive lung diseases

Chair: Jurjan Aman and Padmini Khedoe

10h45 – 11h25 Reinoud Gosens (UMCG) (Basic science COPD + Asthma)

11h25 – 12h05 Maarten van den Berge (Clinical COPD +Asthma)

12h05 – 13h05 Lunch

Session 3: Interstitial lung disease & vascular lung disease

Chair: Corry-Anke Brandsma and Niki Reynaert

13h05 – 13h45 Jurjan Aman (AUMC) (vascular lung disease)

13h45 – 14h25 Marcel Veltkamp (Antonius ZH) (Sarcoidosis basic + clinical)

14h25 – 14h30 Stretch break

14h30 – 15h10 Jelle Miedema (EMC) (fibrosis/ILD basic + clinical)

15h10 – 16h00 Preparation in groups for Journal Club

Session 4: Journal Club-Part I

Chair: Jurjan Aman and Corry-Anke Brandsma

16h00 –17h00 Journal Club Article 1

17h00 –18h45 free time

17h45 – 18h30 career talk: M.Veltkamp & N.Reynaert & P.Khedoe

18h30 – 20h00 Dinner at the Brasserie

Day 3 (Wednesday 11 March): Patient Participation, Lung cancer & Journal Club- Article 2

Session 1: Patient participation in respiratory research

Chair: Jurjan Aman & Padmini Khedoe

9h00 – 9h55 Elly Jans and Dr. Susanne Vijverberg

9h55 – 10h00 Stretch break

Session 2: Lung cancer

Chair: Jurjan Aman & Padmini Khedoe

10h00 – 10h40 Marieke Fransen (Amsterdam UMC) (Basic Science Lung Oncology)

10h40 – 11h20 Joop de Langen (AVL) (Clinical Lung Oncology)

11h20 – 11h35 Coffee and tea break

Session 3: Lung Transplantation

Chair: Jurjan Aman & Padmini Khedoe

11h35 – 12h55 Tji Gan (UMCG)

12h55 - 13h55 Lunch

Session 4: Journal Club-Part II

Chair: Jurjan Aman & Padmini Khedoe

14h00 – 15h00 Journal Club Article 2

15h00 - 15h15 Evaluation + closing remarks