

Programme and Speakers information



17th NRS Young Investigator Symposium - YOU ARE WHAT YOU (BR)EAT(HE)

*Hotel Casa 400, Eerste Ringdijkstraat 4
1097 BC Amsterdam, Amsterdam (near train station Amsterdam, Amstel).*



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NRS 17th Young Investigator Symposium
28 November 2025
Hotel CASA Amsterdam. Eerste Rijndijkstraat 4

Programme

09:15-09:45	Arrival and registration	
09:45-10:00	Welcome	<i>Room: UVA 1-2</i>
10:00-10:30	Lecture I <i>Professor Ramon Langen</i> <i>Maastricht University</i> "No time to waste: targeting skeletal muscle atrophy in COPD and lung cancer"	
10:30-11:00	Lecture II <i>Dr. Paul Brinkman</i> <i>University of Amsterdam</i> "Exhaled Metabolite Analysis from Lab to Living Room"	
11:00-11:15	Short break	
11:15-11:45	Lecture III <i>Dr. Odilia Corneth</i> <i>Erasmus MC</i> "Microplastics as triggers of lung inflammation"	
11:45-12:15	Network activity	
12:15-12:45	Career Session <i>Dr. Willianne Hoepel</i> (LUMC, member of the NRS YIB) and <i>Dr. Jules Derks</i> (Erasmus MC, past member of the NRS YIB)	
12:45-13:45	Lunch	
13:45-15:45	Masterclasses	
13:45-15:45	Workshop " <i>Writing a Narrative CV</i> " <i>Marieke Hohnen (MSc)</i>	
15:45-17:00	Group photo, Award and Borrel, Closing	

NRS Young Investigator Board,
Dr. Mieke Metzemaekers (chair), Erasmus MC
Dr. Willianne Hoepel, LUMC
Dr. Bahar Arik, UMC Utrecht
Fenneke Zwierenga, MD, UMCG
Dr. Rosanne Beijers, Maastricht University
Dr. Stefania Principe, MD, Amsterdam UMC
Laure Nicolai, MD, Amsterdam UMC
Merel van Oorschot, UMCG





Get to know our speakers



Professor Ramon Langen

Department of Respiratory Medicine, NUTRIM Research Institute, Faculty of Health, Medicine and Life Sciences, Maastricht University Medical Center+

Professor Langen (1972) studied Biochemistry at Avans University of Applied Sciences, and received his PhD in 2003 at Maastricht University for his thesis 'Modulation of skeletal muscle plasticity by inflammation', on a project conducted in collaboration with the University of Vermont, US. He has worked as a post-doctoral fellow (2003-2007), Assistant Professor (2007-2016), and Associate

Professor (2016-2024) at the Department of Respiratory Medicine of Maastricht University. Since 2024 he has been appointed as Professor in Skeletal muscle biology in Lung pathology.

His research aims at deepening the understanding of the molecular and cellular basis of skeletal muscle plasticity in health and disease, to provide a foundation for interventions to restore muscle homeostasis and prevent or reverse muscle atrophy in lung disease, with the ultimate goal to halt or even reverse disease progression and improve treatment outcomes for patients.

To this end, detailed molecular and cellular analyses of skeletal muscle biopsies are combined with clinical and functional characteristics of patients suffering from lung cancer and COPD-associated muscle wasting. Complex *in vitro* and novel relevant *in vivo* models have been developed in his group to elucidate the intra- and inter-cellular signaling underlying muscle atrophy and impaired muscle homeostasis, and to test potential intervention strategies. These experimental models are subject to constant optimization by integrating the latest technological developments in AI-based (non-invasive) image analyses, bioinformatics, and Organ on Chip approaches, with continuous attention to their translational potential.



Dr. Paul Brinkman

Assistant Professor & Principal Investigator, Amsterdam UMC, University of Amsterdam

Paul Brinkman is a biomedical engineer and researcher at the Department of Pulmonary Medicine, Amsterdam UMC. With over 15 years of experience at the intersection of technology and clinical research, his work focuses on developing innovative diagnostic tools and home-monitoring technologies in the field of

respiratory health care. His research spans both adult and pediatric pulmonary medicine and extends into biomarker discovery projects in endocrinology and dermatology, aiming to improve early diagnosis and disease monitoring.





Paul obtained his PhD at the AMC-UvA under the supervision of Prof. P.J. Sterk and Prof. A.H. Maitland-van der Zee, where he investigated non-invasive breath analysis for respiratory diseases. His expertise lies in method development for sample collection and analysis, including chemical sensor and mass spectrometry-based technologies. These methods are applied in outpatient clinics, hospital wards, intensive care units, mobile settings and in vitro.

Currently, Paul leads ONELAB, a 22-partner EU Horizon project that develops next-generation modular mobile laboratories for rapid disease detection and pandemic preparedness. He also founded PHEASANT, a pioneering initiative focused on chemical sensor-driven tools for at-home monitoring of exhaled volatiles.



Dr. Odilia Corneth
Assistant Professor, Erasmus MC

Dr. Odilia Corneth is an assistant professor at the department of Pulmonary Medicine at the Erasmus MC in Rotterdam and leads the translational research team studying interstitial lung disease (ILD).

She performed her PhD in rheumatology, studying B-T cell interaction in mouse models of autoimmunity. Here she developed a keen interest in the immune mechanisms driving chronic inflammatory conditions and, vice-versa, how a chronic inflammatory environment reshapes the immune system. As a postdoc and group leader at the department of Pulmonary Medicine, she optimised phospho-flowcytometry allowing sensitive measurement of intracellular signalling in B and T cells. Using this technique she showed that intracellular signalling is rewired in these cells in autoimmune disease patients, increasing their susceptibility to stimulation. In recent years, she moved into the field of ILD, studying the role of immune cells in the onset and progression of sarcoidosis and pulmonary fibrosis. As part of this research line, she studies how environmental exposure to microplastics can activate the immune system to cause pulmonary inflammation.



Dr. Jules Derks
Pulmonologist, Erasmus MC

Dr. Jules Derks is a pulmonologist with a staff position at Erasmus MC (since 2025) and a translational researcher. This dual background allows him to connect new scientific insights with practical improvements in clinical care.

He focuses on lung cancer, particularly rare types such as large-cell neuroendocrine carcinoma (LCNEC), lung neuroendocrine tumours (LNET) and driver-mutated non-small-cell lung cancer (NSCLC). His research aims to improve diagnostic accuracy and to develop better treatment options for advanced disease by integrating molecular findings. He has led and contributed to projects supported by organisations such as the Dutch Cancer Society, Hanarth and the Neuroendocrine Tumor Research Foundation (NETRF).





Dr. Derks was a visiting student at the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC, 2017) and obtained his PhD *cum laude* (2017, Maastricht University Medical Centre). He has received several recognitions, including the Daniel den Hoed Award (2024) for work on translational models and new treatment targets in LNET/LCNEC, the NETRF Mentored Grant (2022) for biomarker research in metastatic lung carcinoid and the Vera Bonta Prize (2019) for excellence in lung-cancer research. Other scientific awards include the ESMO Best Poster Award (2023), the MCCR Innovative Protocol Award (2023) and multiple ENETS prizes, including First Prize for Best Oral Presentation (2023), Best Clinical Poster (2015) and a Young Investigator Award (2021). Key scientific contributions include the molecular characterisation of LCNEC with predictive biomarker evaluation (CCR 2018, [10.1158/1078-0432.CCR-17-1921](https://doi.org/10.1158/1078-0432.CCR-17-1921)) and the use of immunohistochemical markers to define molecular subtypes of LNET (JTO 2025, [10.1016/j.jtho.2024.11.018](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jtho.2024.11.018)), with an H-score of 18 and 1,579 citations. His goal is to continue improving clinical outcomes for patients with rare and difficult-to-treat lung cancers.



Dr. Willianne Hoepel
Principal Investigator, Leiden UMC

Willianne Hoepel did her PhD at the AMC studying the mechanisms of antibody-dependent inflammation. Then during the COVID-19 pandemic she unraveled how antibody glycosylation of severely ill COVID-19 patients induced hyperinflammation. In 2021 she moved to the Clatworthy Lab in Cambridge (UK) with a ZonMw Rubicon grant investigating the role of IgA in kidney infections. In 2023 she started in the LUMC her own research line focusing on the inflammatory capacity of antibodies during respiratory infections. Therefore, she obtained a VENI grant and a Longfonds Junior investigators Grant.

The workshop "Writing a Narrative CV" is provided by **Marieke Hohnen**.

Marieke Hohnen (MSc) is a physicist specializing in science communication and in coaching and training scientists. Since 2016, she has been helping researchers prepare and write funding proposals and get ready for funding interviews.

