



Welcome to the latest CAPHRI newsletter. Here's what you can look forward to in this issue:

- Farewell Klasien Horstman: How do we make society healthy?
- New ZonMw project to develop a toolbox for midwives and maternal vaccination
- Bram de Boer wins Research Talent Award from Alzheimer Nederland
- ZonMw grants UNITY project for pandemic preparedness
- Rethinking dementia prevention: CAPHRI researchers look beyond the "University Bubble"
- Between stethoscope and science: Prof. Loes van Bokhoven on the future of General Practice
- Rehabilitation 2030 South Limburg
- CAPI Symposium - Spread the Science
- KNAW Report: Science is the Prescription
- FHML50: 50 years ahead in health
- Annual Science Day 2026: call for abstracts
- Upcoming funding opportunities, courses, events, inaugural and farewell lectures, and PhD defences

Dive in and get inspired by the latest from our community. Enjoy the read!



Farewell Klasien Horstman: How do we make society healthy?

[CAPHRI News](#)

How can we make society healthy beyond the hospital walls? Throughout her career at Prof. Klasien Horstman (HISP) has explored this question. From her early days as a PhD candidate at FHML to her upcoming retirement, she has been a driving force in shifting our focus from individual clinical care to the "healthy ecology" of

our cities and neighborhoods.

In her work, Klasien has consistently advocated for those whose voices are often missing in health policy, such as women and citizens with few formal diplomas. She has bridged the gap between philosophy, microbiology, and the arts, proving that transdisciplinary collaboration is essential for tackling modern health challenges like antibiotic resistance and social inequality.

A glimpse into her farewell lecture

On Friday 27 February, Klasien will deliver her lecture titled 'The sewage system, the snack bar and the care farm'. She argues that these three unlikely symbols perfectly capture our interdependence—reminding us that health is built through social connection and the way we care for our shared environment.

[Read the full story here](#)

New ZonMw project to develop a toolbox for midwives and maternal vaccination

CAPHRI News

Pertussis (whooping cough) is a life-threatening disease for newborn babies and poses health risks for pregnant persons. Vaccination during pregnancy protects both mother and baby, but uptake is too low. Midwives are often seen as key professionals in providing information about maternal vaccination, yet they often lack sufficient time, resources, and skills.

Therefore, together with midwives and pregnant persons, and in collaboration with colleagues from the GGD Amsterdam and GGD Rotterdam-Rijnmond, Dr. Veja Widdershoven and Prof. Christian Hoebe have received a 500,000 euro ZonMw grant to develop the “MiMa toolbox (Midwives & Maternal vaccination)”. This includes training for midwives, accessible videos for pregnant persons, and strategies to improve access to and referral for vaccination.

The initial focus is on maternal pertussis vaccination; however, materials and experiences will be designed to be applicable to other maternal vaccinations in the future. The toolbox will be implemented and tested in Rotterdam, Amsterdam, and South Limburg, aiming to make vaccination easier for pregnant persons and to better protect both mothers and their babies.

[More information about this project](#)



Bram de Boer wins Research Talent Award from Alzheimer Nederland

CAPHRI News

Dr. Bram de Boer (ALTC) is one of this year's winners of the Research Talent Awards. This award is dedicated to talented dementia researchers, offering them the opportunity to further expand their research.

The Research Talent Awards are aimed at dementia researchers in the early stages of their careers. Bram de Boer (Maastricht University) received the award in the category '5-8 years post-PhD', which includes a grant of €150,000.

A meaningful life with dementia

Bram is delighted with the award. "I am committed to providing people with dementia in nursing homes a meaningful daily life. This award gives my research a significant boost." He developed an app that provides insight into a resident's daily life, focusing on activities, the physical environment, social interaction, and emotional well-being.

With the prize money, he intends to further develop the app and improve its user-friendliness. This will allow healthcare professionals to use it to map out current situations and identify where improvements are possible. "Everyone wants their loved ones with dementia to have a meaningful life. You don't want that to stop when someone moves to a nursing home," De Boer explains. "I hope my research can ensure that."

ZonMw grants UNITY project for pandemic preparedness

CAPHRI News

ZonMw has granted the UNITY project to Christian Hoebe and colleagues from Erasmus MC. The project aims to develop a comprehensive integral assessment framework for pandemic preparedness and response. This framework will integrate insights from multiple disciplines, including epidemiology and socioeconomics, to provide actionable, evidence-based advice for policymakers.

The project addresses gaps in the current advisory systems, particularly in incorporating diverse scientific perspectives and engaging citizens. By creating an integrated tool for science-policy interaction, the project hopes to improve decision-making during pandemics and other health crises. The results will help ensure that vulnerable populations and societal impacts are considered in response strategies.

The project will involve collaboration among scientists, policymakers, and citizens, using simulations and practical testing to refine the framework for real-world application. Former PhD-representative of CAPHRI, Dr. Chrissy Moonen (HISP), is a post-doc on this project.



Rethinking dementia prevention: CAPHRI researchers look beyond the "University Bubble"

[CAPHRI News](#)

To prevent dementia, we are often told to stay socially active and mentally challenged. But how do you measure "social and cognitive activities," and do these definitions work for everyone?

CAPHRI researchers Dr. Jeroen Bruinsma and PhD candidate Giselle Menting (PHPC) traveled to the Parkstad region to find out. Their insights were recently featured in an interview with De Limburger (published mid-February).

Current research on lifestyle and dementia often suffers from a "bubble" effect. "Researchers, frequently white, highly educated and relatively rich, tend to study people similar to themselves," Bruinsma explains. However, dementia risk factors are more prevalent among lower-income groups and those with migration backgrounds. To bridge this gap, the duo interviewed residents in Heerlen, Hoensbroek, and Geleen, including those facing financial hardship. Menting illustrates "we visited people at home who had limited furniture and were dependent on the food bank. They have other things to worry about than brain health".

Challenging the status quo

The study revealed that "cognitive activities" are entirely subjective. While an experienced musician might play on autopilot, a beginner requires intense concentration. "As long as it requires focus and you can't think of anything else, it counts," says Bruinsma. Menting adds "A new and challenging hobby seems a good way to prevent cognitive decline or dementia".

The researchers also found that standard questionnaires often miss the mark. For people struggling to afford groceries, "picking up a new hobby" is a luxury they cannot prioritize.

Furthermore, the definition of social contact is evolving, with participants citing interactions with pets or even AI as meaningful connections.

A call for customization

Bruinsma and Menting conclude that standard surveys lack the nuance needed for diverse populations. They urge colleagues to step out of the lab: "Go to people's homes. To understand brain health, we need a tailored approach that looks beyond the university gates."



Between stethoscope and science: Prof. Loes van Bokhoven on the future of General Practice

[CAPHRI News](#)

The Province of Limburg recently published a feature on CAPHRI researcher Prof. Loes van Bokhoven (PHPC), highlighting her pivotal role in bridging the gap between clinical practice and scientific innovation. As both a practicing GP in Elsloo and Chair of the Department of Family Medicine at Maastricht University, her dual perspective is a strategic advantage. "In practice, I see what patients encounter; in science, I investigate why," she explains.

A Dutch "best practice"

The Dutch GP system consistently ranks among the global top, resolving roughly 90% of all health queries. This efficiency is rooted in a strong gatekeeper function and evidence-based standards. However, Van Bokhoven notes that regional challenges in Limburg, such as an aging population and socio-economic health disparities, require constant alertness.

Impact in the consultation room

The department publishes approximately 150 scientific articles annually with tangible impact. A key example is the CRP rapid test, validated in Maastricht and implemented nationwide to reduce unnecessary antibiotic prescriptions.

Key current initiatives include:

1. *HORIZON*: A Living Lab for primary care in Southeast Netherlands, bridging the gap between regional questions and scientific research.
2. *Shared Decision-Making*: Implementing tools to involve patients more deeply in their own care.
3. *Interprofessional Learning*: Projects where students learn to see the person behind the patient.

"The era of the solo doctor is over," van Bokhoven concludes. While AI and digitalization offer efficiency, the "human measure" remains the core of general practice.

[Read the full article \(in Dutch\)](#)



Rehabilitation 2030 South Limburg

CAPHRI News

Rehabilitation 2030 South Limburg is a newly launched regional consortium in South Limburg, in which hospitals MUMC+ and Zuyderland, rehabilitation organizations in primary and secondary care, higher education institutions, and an insurance company collaborate to strengthen rehabilitation care and support in our region. The consortium has recently started and aligns with the Rehabilitation 2030 vision of the World Health Organization, which promotes integrated, accessible, and sustainable rehabilitation services worldwide.

Rehabilitation 2030 South Limburg connects rehabilitation organisations across healthcare and the social domain in our region with a shared goal to support people with chronic conditions/physical impairments to live as independently as possible and to continue participating actively in society. It connects with regional prevention strategies. Consortium partners collaborate in innovation and interdisciplinary education in the field of rehabilitation in the South Limburg region according the Rehabilitation 2030 vision. CAPHRI's Academic Living labs for Rehabilitation and Aging and Longterm care initiated this partnership.

Read the position paper
Rehabilitation 2030 South
Limburg here



CAPÍ Symposium - Spread the Science

CAPHRI News

On Tuesday, January 27, a large delegation from the department of Social Medicine's Living Lab Public Health Mosa attended the yearly CAPÍ Symposium in 's Hertogenbosch. Among them was PhD student Jorg van Beek (HISP), who won the Spread the Science Award for his pitch on the co-creation of an infection prevention toolbox for general practice care. National funding body ZonMw also spotlighted the project as a highlight of the grant round.

About the project

Developed by GGD Zuid-Limburg in collaboration with Maastricht University and regional partners, the toolbox translates lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic into practical tools for managing respiratory infections in general practice care. It was built on qualitative interviews with GPs and assistants who expressed a need for adaptable guidelines that prioritize professional autonomy and clear communication.

The following CAPHRI researchers contributed to the development of the toolbox: Dr. Famke Houben (HISP), Dr. Casper den Heijer (HISP), Dr. Eefje de Bont (OPC), and Prof. Dr. Christian Hoebe (HISP).

How the toolbox works

The toolbox anticipates fluctuating infection pressures using four color-coded scenarios. Each scenario corresponds to a specific "Zorgblad" (care sheet) containing:

- *Adaptive recommendations*: Measures that scale up or down based on regional surveillance data (e.g., Infectieradar and NIVEL).
- *Practical tools*: Material checklists for stock management and background documents for deeper clinical context.

- *Communication support:* Posters for waiting rooms and specialized cleaning instructions for staff.

The project team is currently seeking professional feedback on whether the scenario coding aligns with daily practice.

[More about the project can be found here](#)

SCIENCE IS THE PRESCRIPTION
WHY SCIENCE MATTERS FOR APPROPRIATE
PHARMACEUTICAL CARE



KNAW Report: Science is the Prescription

[CAPHRI News](#)

Prof. dr. Jako Burgers (PHPC) has served as a committee member for the recently published KNAW advisory report: Science is the prescription – Why science matters for appropriate pharmaceutical care.

Science is essential for future-proof pharmaceutical care. An ageing population, the growing incidence of chronic diseases, staff shortages, and rising costs have put significant pressure on the Dutch healthcare system. In this new advisory report, the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) demonstrates how scientific research—conducted throughout the entire life cycle of a drug, from initial development to patient use—is crucial for making the right clinical and policy choices.

The report emphasizes that evidence-based decisions are vital to serve the interests of both individual patients and society at large, ultimately contributing to more affordable and sustainable healthcare.

[Read the full report here](#)



FHML50: 50 years ahead in health

FHML News

In 2026, FHML celebrates its 50th anniversary. A moment to reflect on where we started and to look ahead to the future of health.

Throughout the year, we will share inspiring stories from our past and present. Visit the [FHML50 website](#) and keep an eye on UMPLOYEE for anniversary updates and stories from across our community. You are also warmly invited to share your own memories and photos on UMPLOYEE.

Let's celebrate 50 years of FHML together!



New course!

IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE IN CARE & PUBLIC HEALTH

Starting up new implementation research?
Our brand-new *postgraduate implementation science course* is exactly what you need.

- **Learn to design, conduct and evaluate your implementation study**
— through interactive lectures, workshops, peer learning sessions and microlearnings
- **Get personal guidance and expert feedback**
— for successfully setting up your implementation study
- **Strengthen your implementation science competencies**
— to conduct high-quality, impactful research

Practical details

- 📅 March – December 2026
- 📍 Live (VUmc/VU campus area) & online
- 📄 Certificate for ± 6 EC
- 🗣️ Taught in English
- 👥 Limited spots: max. 20 participants
- 💰 Course fee of 1000 euros



AmsCIS
Amsterdam Center for Implementation Science

New course: Implementation science in healthcare and public health

Course

Implementation science in healthcare and public health, by the Amsterdam Center for Implementation Science.

[This postgraduate course](#) is designed for anyone who is currently working on implementation research or planning to start!

In this course, you will work hands-on on your own implementation research plan, guided by experienced implementation researchers.

Interested? Don't wait too long to register; we only have a few spots left.

👉 [You can sign up here](#)



CAPHRI Funding

Streamlined access to research funding opportunities

Researchers can access an extensive overview of national and European fellowships, health funds, and mobility grants on Umployee. For tailored searches, Research Connect is available through individual UM/MUMC+ accounts. To stay up to date with calls, deadlines, and training opportunities, join the [FHML/MUMC+ Research Funding Support group](#) on Umployee. This group provides weekly updates, ensuring you never miss relevant funding news.

[Visit the Umployee Funding Page](#)

This is your Call

Upcoming funding opportunities

ZonMw: Zwangerschap en geboorte: Pre- en neonatale screening

This call for proposals focuses on the further development of existing prenatal and neonatal screening programs.

Research must align with the ambitions of the 'Ontwikkelagenda bevolkingsonderzoek' and focus on one of the following themes:

1. Theme 1: Accessibility
2. Theme 2: Evaluation and Optimization
3. Theme 3: Innovation and Expansion

Deadline: 7 April 2026

[Weblink](#)



ZonMw: Expected calls for funding from Prevention, Health Protection and Exercise: Bicycle Safety First

Cycling offers benefits for health, mobility, and sustainability. However, the number of serious and fatal cycling accidents is increasing. With this program, the focus is on cycling safety through concrete applications and innovations for practical use. With the "Bicycle Safety First" program, ZonMw aim to improve cycling safety in the Netherlands through practice-based research, innovation, and collaboration between policymakers, practitioners, businesses, and researchers. The goal is to reverse the rising trend in bicycle accidents.

Bicycle Safety First focuses on:

- (Further) developing knowledge and interventions
- Facilitating implementation and scaling up
- Strengthening the knowledge infrastructure
- Stimulating knowledge sharing

This program has three program lines. Within these lines, various calls for proposals (particularly lines A: 'Existing interventions' and B: 'New knowledge & innovations') and activities (particularly line C: 'Knowledge sharing') are taking place. Each call for proposals will be open for a certain period of time.

Two calls in the second quarter of 2026

ZonMw will soon be organizing separate information sessions about the first two grant calls (expected to be open in Q2 2026). One call focuses on substantiating existing interventions (e.g., reducing the risk of falls and risky behavior by and towards cyclists). The other call focuses on developing new knowledge and innovations (e.g., in the areas of safe cycling infrastructure, safe cycling, and safe cycling behavior).

[Weblink upcoming call](#)

[Weblink info program](#)

[Save the date and register](#)

Events and courses

Brightlands Funding Day - Maastricht

March 5, 2026

- [Click to explore the details](#)

Conferentie 10 Jaar Gezonde Basisschool van de Toekomst

March 12, 2026

Nationale Biobanken & Collectiesdag 2026 - Utrecht

March 19, 2026

- [Click to explore the details](#)

Science Day - Maastricht

April 8, 2026

CAPHRI Research Day 2026 - Maastricht

June 10, 2026

**Symposium Living Lab Ageing and Long-Term Care Limburg -
Roermond**

June 18, 2026



Symposium Living Lab Rehabilitation

June 24, 2026

Reablement Inspiration Day - Amsterdam

July 9, 2026

- [Click for more information and registration](#)

[Save the date and register](#)

Inaugural lectures and farewells

Farewell symposium Prof. dr. Klasien Horstman - Maastricht

27 February 2026

Farewell symposium Prof. dr. IJmert Kant

13 March 2026

Farewell symposium Prof. dr. Paul Savelkoul - Maastricht

5 June 2026

Farewell symposium Prof. dr. Onno van Schayck - Maastricht

11 June 2026

Inaugural Lecture Prof. dr. Mickael Hiligsmann - Maastricht

2 October 2026

Inaugural Lecture Prof. dr. Judith Meijers - Maastricht

20 November 2026

PhD Ceremonies

February and March 2026

Lisa Affengruber | PHPC

03-02-2026

["Speeding Ahead: Exploration and Further Development of Rapid Review Methods"](#)

Frank van de Baan | VHC

06-02-2026

["They're only human after all: Examining the central role of staff in hospitals' response to dynamic environments"](#)

Michiel de Graaff | VHC

09-02-2026

["Who cares? Navigating gender roles and expectations in care and support for people with dementia"](#)



*Good luck and congratulations
to the CAPHRI PhD's*

Isabelle Wiethoff | VHC

10-02-2026

"Beyond the Heartbeat: An Evaluation of Quality of Life, Societal Costs, and Cost-Effectiveness in Inheritable Cardiomyopathies"

Marit Schwenke | ALTC

06-03-2026

"Insights and Initial Steps to Optimise the Needs Assessment Process in Home Care Nursing"

Anna Roos Leerschool | OPC

10-03-2026

"Personalised Prevention And Performance: A Mixed-methods Approach Investigating Modifiable and Non-modifiable Determinants"

Supriya Thapar | OPC/PHPC

11-03-2026

"Physical Activity and Lifestyle Behaviour among School-going Adolescents and the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic"

Tadele Dana Darebo | OPC

12-03-2026

"The Sexual and Reproductive Health Challenges of Vulnerable Populations in Ethiopia"

Sanne van Hoogstraten | FPR

13-03-2026

"Towards the next generation of orthopedic implants Tackling biofilm formation and biomechanical failure"

Teresa Latham | VHC

16-03-2026

"Implementing Novel Strategies to Promote Informatics, Research and Education (INSPIRE): Building Capacity for Sickle Cell Disease Diagnosis, Management, and Treatment in Low-Resource Settings"

Katrin Munzebrock | FPR

17-03-2026

"mRNA delivery for joint and intervertebral disc regeneration"

Anna Dania | OPC

24-03-2026

"Perspectives on the Development and Sustainability of Practice-Based Research Networks Worldwide"

Anna Tichler | VHC

26-03-2026

"Piecing it together: Advancing person-centered care for type 2 diabetes"

Dirpo Mondal | PHPC

30-03-2026

"Planning With Confidence: Designing Quantitative Reliability Studies
Using the Intraclass Correlation Coefficient"

Communication

Your project, publication or event in this newsletter?

Have you recently contributed to a podcast, given an interview, or presented at a conference? Reached a significant milestone in your research? Perhaps you're organizing an event or have an exciting project in the pipeline?

Contact us to explore opportunities for featuring your work on our social media channels and in our newsletter. Let's collaborate to amplify your voice and celebrate your successes within our international academic community

Please note: you cannot reply to this email. For questions, newsletter topics, ideas, announcements, feedback and more please email info-caphri@maastrichtuniversity.nl.



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