



As we continue to refine our communication channels, we're excited to bring you this month's newsletter packed with engaging content and valuable updates from our vibrant research community. Here's what you can look forward to in this issue:

- A Sunny Message from the CAPHRI PhD Reps
- Sjim Romme Wins Nanne de Vries Dissertation Award 2025 at CAPHRI Research Day
- Celebrating Research: CAPHRI Poster Awards 2024
- From Personal Story to Public Impact: Joyce Heffels' Quest to Improve Huntington's Care
- Listening Tip: Dorine van Namen on 'De Nacht van... NTR Wetenschap'
- Save the Date for the Academic Year Kick-Off Meeting for CAPHR PhD Candidates
- Call for Proposals: Kootstra Talent Fellowship 2025 is open
- Upcoming courses and events
- A look at the PhD defences for June and July

We hope you find this edition both informative and inspiring. Happy reading!

A sunny message from the CAPHRI PhD Reps

Summer Recap

It is summer, and many sunny and beautiful days have accompanied our work. As we look forward to the summer break, we want to thank all CAPHRI PhD candidates for your dedication and hard work. Over the past months, we have enjoyed a variety of engaging workshops both online and offline, and several research papers have been published, bringing you closer to your dissertation. Recently, the well-attended CAPHRI Research Day provided an inspiring platform to connect and share knowledge.

After the summer break, we hope you'll return feeling refreshed and energized—ready to dive back into your research or tackle those final steps towards your dissertation. And with all this sunshine, don't forget to take care of yourself: seek shade, cover up, and use sunscreen. ☀️

We're looking forward to welcoming you at the CAPHRI PhD Candidates Kick-Off Meeting on 8 October—more information and a save-the-date will follow later in this newsletter. It's a wonderful opportunity to

catch up, exchange ideas, and get inspired for the months ahead.

Enjoy your summer and see you soon!

Warm regards,
CAPHRI PhD Reps



Sjim Romme Wins Nanne de Vries Dissertation Award 2025 at CAPHRI Research Day

[CAPHRI news](#)

During the annual CAPHRI Research Day on 18 June, Sjim Romme was honoured with the prestigious Nanne de Vries Dissertation Award 2025 for his thesis titled "Patient involvement as a two-way street: How patients can be prepared for and benefit from involvement in healthcare professionals' training." In 2024, a remarkable total of 72 theses were published within the CAPHRI research institute, making this recognition especially significant.

This year's award was renamed to celebrate the legacy of Prof. dr. Nanne de Vries, a key figure at CAPHRI renowned for his commitment to empowering young academics and promoting research excellence. The annual dissertation award will now proudly bear his name, honouring his lasting impact on the institute.

Sjim's thesis highlights the vital role patients play not only in managing their own care but also in educating healthcare professionals. By sharing their personal experiences, patients help students develop essential communication skills and contribute to improving healthcare quality. The research explores effective ways to prepare patients for this involvement and the benefits it brings to both patients and healthcare training.

Supervised by Prof. Dr. Loes van Bokhoven and Dr. Carolin Sehlbach, Sjim's work offers valuable insights into patient-centred education.

[Read the full thesis here](#)



Celebrating Research: CAPHRI Poster Awards 2024

CAPHRI news

At the recent CAPHRI Research Day 2025, two PhD researchers were recognised for their outstanding poster presentations.

The CAPHRI Public Poster Award 2024, as chosen by the CAPHRI Community, was awarded to Fatima Al Zahraa Chokr (OPC/PHPC). Fatima's research delves into adherence to Lebanese dietary and lifestyle guidelines during pregnancy and examines its impact on postpartum weight retention. Her work sheds light on important public health issues and offers valuable insights for improving maternal health outcomes. Congratulations to Fatima on this well-deserved recognition!



The CAPHRI Poster Award 2024, presented by the CAPHRI Science Commission, went to Senne Wijnen. Senne's research, part of the PRIME study, investigates perceived stress and the environmental and individual factors associated with it in adults experiencing post-COVID-19 condition. This vital work contributes to our understanding of the ongoing challenges faced by those living with long-term effects after COVID-19.

Congratulations to both Fatima and Senne for their achievements and thank all participants for their inspiring contributions to the CAPHRI Research Day.



From Personal Story to Public Impact: Joyce Heffels' Quest to Improve Huntington's Care

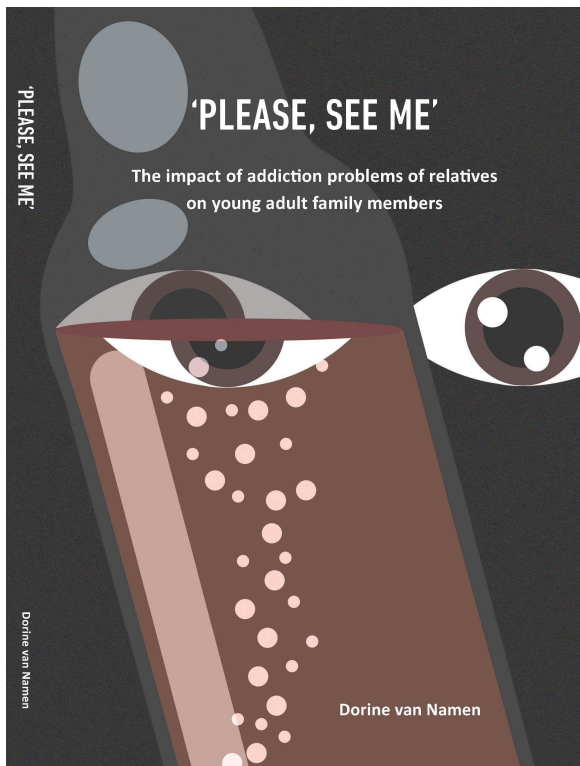
CAPHRI news

Joyce Heffels, PhD researcher at CAPHRI and the Living Lab in Ageing and Long-Term Care Limburg, is dedicated to enhancing care for people with Huntington's disease. Her motivation is deeply personal: growing up in a family affected by Huntington's, Joyce saw firsthand the unique challenges faced by patients and their loved ones. She soon realised that, despite the excellent care in Dutch specialised nursing homes, no research had systematically examined what defines quality care for this group—whose needs differ significantly from those with dementia or physical illnesses.

To address this gap, Joyce conducts extensive interviews with Huntington's patients, their family caregivers, and care professionals. These conversations reveal what truly matters: activities that match residents' ages, access to outdoor spaces, staff trained in behavioural and nutritional needs, and a structured daily routine. Joyce's research aims to validate the "Connecting Conversations" method, making it possible to measure and improve care quality based on the experiences of all involved.

By combining her personal drive with scientific rigour, Joyce is paving the way for more targeted and meaningful improvements in Huntington's care.

Curious about her journey and findings? Read the full article in the Huntington Association's scientific journal



Dorine van Namen on 'De Nacht van... NTR Wetenschap'

[Listening Tip](#)

On 26 May 2025, Dorine van Namen successfully defended her PhD thesis, which explored a rarely discussed side of addiction: its impact on the loved ones of those affected. Dorine was recently featured on the NPO radio programme 'De Nacht van... NTR Wetenschap', where she discussed her research with presenter Rijk Landsmeer.

In the Netherlands, there are an estimated two million people living with addiction, according to Jellinek. Of these, around 1.6 million are addicted to legal substances such as alcohol and cigarettes, while the remainder struggle with illegal drugs. Scientific research often focuses on the individuals with addiction—examining their health, usage patterns, and recovery. However, the experiences of their family and friends receive far less attention, despite the daily challenges they face, from emotional and physical violence to grief over loved ones lost to addiction.

Dorine's research followed addicted young people aged 18 to 25 and their close circles over five years, shedding light on the profound effects addiction has on families and friends. Curious to learn more? Listen back to her insightful interview on 'De Nacht van... NTR Wetenschap' for a deeper understanding of this important topic.

[Listen to Dorine in 'De Nacht van... NTR Wetenschap'](#)



Academic Year Kick-Off Meeting CAPHRI PhD Candidates

[Save the Date](#)

Mark your calendar for the (hybrid) Academic Year Kick-off Meeting on October 8, 2025! Whether you're just starting your PhD or approaching the finish line, this event is a great opportunity to get answers to your burning questions about life after

academia from those who've already made the leap. Join us for a career event, connect with fellow CAPHRI PhDs, and test your knowledge during a fun pub quiz!

Date

October 8th, 2025

Time/Location

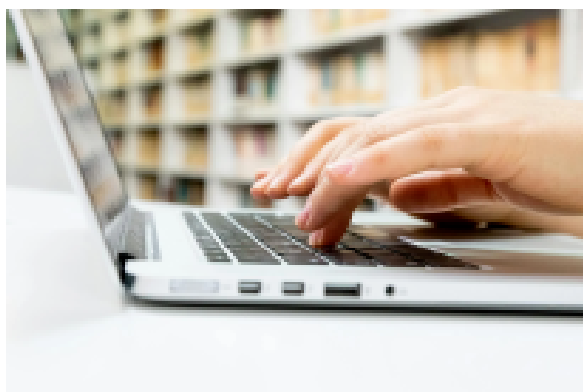
13:00-15:00: Career event | On-site @ Co Greep-zaal UNS60 or Online

15:00-17:00: Network bingo and Pub quiz | On-site @ Co Greep-zaal UNS60

Stay tuned for registration details!

Salute,

The PhD-representatives



(Pre)announcement Kootstra Talent Fellowship

Call for Proposals

Are you finishing your PhD. or have you recently obtained your PhD. at FHML? And are you doing promising research that deserves funding? Then you may consider applying for a Kootstra Talent Fellowship (KTF)!

KTF is an internal fellowship that fosters innovative scientific research and allows young, talented researchers to develop their careers independently. It is a starting point for researchers who wish to apply for personal grants such as NWO-Veni or Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowships.

The KTF deadline for this year is September 22, 2025.

The official documentation will be available soon, so you can start contemplating your research project! Some institutes have an earlier (internal) deadline and/or selection process, so please check with your institute well before you apply.

The Grants Office will organise a lecture on the Kootstra on Thursday August 21, from 16-17h, covering the research project and narrative CV. We

encourage you to join and it would be great if you already have a draft proposal and CV. Please send an email to maaike.debacker@maastrichtuniversity.nl to register.

Keep an eye on Umployee for updates!

Follow the '[Research Funding Support](#)' group and check out the FHML/MUMC+ Grants Office tile on Umployee for more funding opportunities:

For questions please contact Maaïke de Backer at maaike.debacker@maastrichtuniversity.nl

[Save the Date and Register](#)

Events and Courses

Academic Year Kick-Off Meeting CAPHRI PhD Candidates - Maastricht/Online

October 8, 2025

Pélerin symposium - Maastricht

October 22, 2025

- [Click to explore the details](#)

Public Health Strategy Seminar October 2025 - Salzburg

October 26 - November 1, 2025

- [Click to explore the details](#)

Economic Evaluation in Healthcare Seminar April 2026 - Salzburg

April 26 - May 2, 2026

Application Deadline: October 31, 2025

- [Click to explore the details](#)
- [Register and enhance your skills](#)

CAPHRI Research Day 2026 - Maastricht

June 10, 2026

Public Health Strategy Seminar October June 2026 - Salzburg

June 28 - July 4, 2026

Application Deadline: January 31, 2026

- [Click to explore the details](#)
- [Register and enhance your skills](#)



PhD Ceremonies

June and July 2025

Maïke Imkamp | OPC

05-06-2025 | 13:00 (CET)

"Clinical research in the era of data science"

Caitlin Bakker | OPC

05-06-2025 | 10:00 (CET)

"The Presentation, Use and Identification of Retracted Publications in the Health Sciences"

Arnold Besselaar | FPR

06-06-2025 | 10:00 (CET)

"Walking with the clubfoot child Evolution of clubfoot care in the Netherlands"

Desiree Klemann | VHC

06-06-2025 | 13:00 (CET)

"Complexity of healthcare and medical incidents"

Mariia Denisova | HISP

10-06-2025 | 10:00 (CET)

"Co-construction of reliable knowledge, good care and profit-making: The ambivalent role of private clinics in Russian healthcare"

Charlotte Peters | HISP

11-06-2025 | 13:00 (CET)

"Beyond The Red Lights: Understanding the STI/HIV burden and sexual healthcare needs of home-based and migrant sex workers"

Marloes Meijer | VHC

18-06-2025 | 13:00 (CET)

"Public support for solidarity in healthcare financing in the Netherlands: Insights from the perspective of the insured"

Ronel Sewpaul | PHPC

19-06-2025 | 13:00 (CET)

"A tailored mHealth intervention for improving antenatal care seeking and its determinants among pregnant adolescent girls and young women in South Africa"

Habib Hasan Farooqui | OPC

24-06-2025 | 13:00 (CET)

"Measuring the potential impact of immunisation on demand for antibiotics and infectious disease-related out-of-pocket expenditure in India"



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

Pascale Granicher | FPR

25-06-2025 | 16:00 (CET)

"Warm-up! Prehabilitation in orthopedic patients"

Katharina Rosteius | ALTC

30-06-2025 | 16:00 (CET)

"To The Roots: Green Care Farms as long-term care setting for people living with dementia"

Mara Brouwers | ALTC

03-07-2025 | 16:00 (CET)

"Moving Towards Culture Change: Insights into relocating nursing home residents with dementia to innovative living arrangements"

[Watch the PhD Defences Live](#)



Share your research story

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?

We want to hear from you! Your innovative work and achievements deserve recognition. [Contact our Communications Officer Charlotte Pabst](#) to explore opportunities for featuring your work on our social media channels, website and in our newsletter.

[Share your story!](#)

UMployee

CAPHRI PhD Community

Have you already discovered our CAPHRI PhD community group on UMployee? In this group you will find the latest news, events and other relevant internal information.

[Follow us now!](#)

Navigating through the PhD Journey

CAPHRI PhD Guide

In the CAPHRI PhD Guide you will find information on all aspects of doing a PhD at CAPHRI, ranging from the training programme, guidelines for supervision, and the PhD defense. It contains valuable information for current and prospective PhD students as well as for supervisors.

[Check out the CAPHRI PhD Guide](#)

Support

Contact persons for PhD candidates

Please check out the [CAPHRI website](#) for information and contact persons for PhD candidates.

Communication

Your project, publication or event in this newsletter?

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



Maastricht University



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