



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:

- Sophie Jooren Wins National Tobacco Control Research Award 2025
- Seek Shade, Cover Up, Use Sunscreen: Promoting Sun Protection Behaviour in the Netherlands
- Understanding Vaccine Hesitancy: Insights from Veja Widdershoven
- CAPHRI Researchers Present at ICIC 2025 Lisbon
- Poster Call: National Congress on Prevention & Health
- Interesting Opportunities for PhD Candidates such as; Program International Scholarship Event, and an Elective Course "Taking Charge of Your PhD Project"
- Brightlands Funding Academy - Faculty of Impact
- Upcoming courses and events
- A look at the PhD defences for May and June

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

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## Sophie Jooren Wins National Tobacco Control Research Award 2025

CAPHRI news

The National Tobacco Control Research Award was presented for the sixth time this year at the NNvT Congress, honouring a young researcher who has made an outstanding contribution to tobacco control research and practice. The jury selected PhD candidate Sophie Jooren (PHPC) as this year's winner!

Sophie Jooren is researcher at Health Promotion and the Tobacco Control team at the Trimbos Institute. With a background in anthropology and development sociology, Sophie began her PhD in 2021 on "Effective Elements of Local Tobacco Control Policy," funded by ZonMw. Her research explores how public health services and municipalities can contribute to local smoking prevention, including interviews, a realist review on compliance with smoke-free environments, and analyses of the link between municipal demographics and smoking prevalence.

The jury praised the high quality and societal relevance of her work, which goes beyond academic publications to include blogs, inspiration sessions, and practical support for municipalities. Sophie also serves on an ethics committee to strengthen research quality. Her research is timely, impactful, and closely aligned with current developments in tobacco control.

Congratulations, Sophie, on this well-deserved recognition!

[Read the full article here](#)



## Seek Shade, Cover Up, Use Sunscreen: Promoting Sun Protection Behaviour in the Netherlands

CAPHRI news

May marks Skin Cancer Awareness Month—a timely reminder of the importance of sun protection, especially in the Netherlands, where skin cancer is the most common cancer type. At CAPHRI, PhD candidate Yara Sievers (PHPC) is investigating how to encourage effective sun protection behaviours: seeking shade, covering up, and using sunscreen.

Yara's research, in collaboration with the Dutch Skin Foundation and funded by the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport, supports a national campaign to raise awareness about sun behaviour and skin cancer prevention. The campaign targets high-risk groups, including parents with young children, outdoor workers, and youth. It also explores innovative interventions, such as public sunscreen dispensers, to address practical and financial barriers.

A key focus is understanding the social and environmental factors influencing sun behaviour, including the cultural appeal of tanned skin among young people, often amplified by social media. Drawing inspiration from Australia's advanced prevention strategies, Yara aims to translate evidence-based behavioural change techniques to the Dutch context.

By fostering simple daily habits, such as spending less time in direct sunlight and making sun protection more accessible, this research aspires to create lasting societal impact and reduce the burden of skin cancer for future generations.

[Read the full interview with Yara Sievers here](#)



# Understanding Vaccine Hesitancy: Insights from Dr. Veja Widdershoven

CAPHRI news

While few people are truly opposed to vaccinations, many remain hesitant. Dr. Veja Widdershoven (HISP), researcher at CAPHRI, is dedicated to uncovering the reasons behind this doubt. Her research shows that vaccine hesitancy is far from black and white—people’s willingness to vaccinate varies greatly depending on the disease, personal circumstances, and target group.

For example, pregnant women weigh the health of their unborn child more heavily, while parents may hesitate about the HPV vaccine due to its association with sexual activity. Media coverage, perceived risk, and practical barriers like fear of needles or clinic hours also play a role. Importantly, principled “anti-vaxxers” are rare; most non-vaccinators are simply uncertain.

Veja’s findings highlight the need for tailored communication and interventions. Providing clear, accurate information and lowering practical barriers can make a real difference. As vaccination rates continue to fall—well below the WHO’s recommended 95%—Veja warns that inaction could have serious public health consequences.

Read the full article in De Limburger (22 May 2025) [here](#)



## CAPHRI Researchers Present at ICIC 2025 Lisbon

CAPHRI news

Last week, several researchers from Maastricht University’s Department of Health Services Research (HSR) attended the International Conference on Integrated Care (ICIC 2025) in Lisbon, proudly representing CAPHRI. PhD candidates Quincy Merx (ALTC), Joana Schraff (VHC), and Philippe Geerlings (ALTC), along with junior researchers Lisa Klein (ALTC) and Robin Raafs, each presented their latest research findings.

Quincy presented the results of her first two studies, while Joana shared insights from a multiple case study on Integrated Community Care approaches. Together with Anne van den Bulck and Robin Peeters, the team showcased a joint poster on managing collaborative networks in integrated care. Philippe, Lisa, and Robin also delivered presentations on their respective research topics, contributing to a diverse and impactful presence at the conference.

The conference offered an excellent opportunity to connect with international peers, exchange experiences, and gain fresh inspiration for advancing integrated care.

Congratulations to Quincy, Joana, Philippe, Lisa, Robin, and all colleagues for representing CAPHRI on this international stage!

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## National Congress on Prevention & Health – 29 September, Den Bosch

### [Call for Posters](#)

The National Congress on Prevention & Health will take place on 29 September at Congress Centre 1931 in Den Bosch. The programme features plenary sessions and three rounds of parallel sessions across more than 10 rooms. Young researchers and PhD candidates are especially encouraged to participate through poster presentations.

You can choose between a paper poster (max. 20) or a digital poster pitch (max. 30). Formats for both types will be provided after your proposal is accepted.

**Poster pitches:** Present your research in 2 minutes, followed by 3 minutes of discussion during a parallel session.

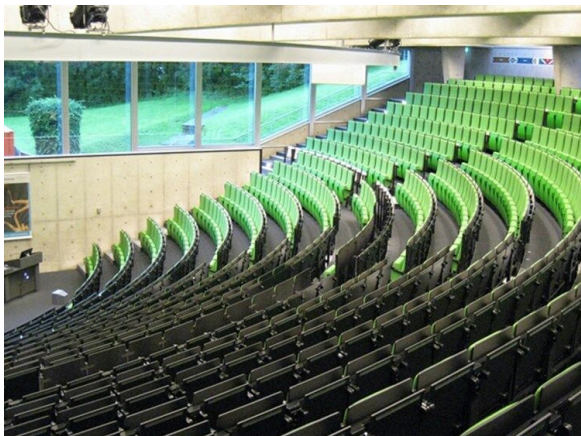
**Paper posters:** Display your poster on-site, with special attention during the lunch break.



**Please note:** All poster presenters must register for the congress and pay the regular fee (€245 excl. VAT).

**Important:** Indicate your intention to present a poster (with title and short summary) between 26 May and 9 June via the [website](#). The final poster or pitch must be submitted by 15 September.

Don't miss this opportunity to share your research at a leading national event!



## Program International Scholarship Event

### PhD Opportunity

Join us for the International Scholarship Event, an interesting opportunity for PhD candidates with an international scholarship at Maastricht University! This network event will provide you with talks and discussions on current trends in internationalization at Maastricht University and in the Netherlands. Furthermore, talks will be given guidance on exciting collaborations between China and Maastricht University. Finally, we hold a panel discussion among the international PhD community on the challenges of international collaboration. Don't miss your chance to take part in this International Scholarship Event!

**When:** June 16

**Where:** Franz Palm Hall (SBE)

**Theme:** Strengthening the International Ties



## Elective Course “Taking Charge of Your PhD Project”

### PhD Courses

You are invited to join the 2-day elective course “**Taking Charge of Your PhD Project**”, delivered by ElroyCOM on **3 and 17 June 2025** (attendance on both days required).

The training covers key success factors for PhD projects, the supervisor's role, and practical skills such as planning, networking, feedback, and

conflict management—with the help of a professional actor.

Lunch and drinks are provided. Spots are limited, so please register soon.

The course will take place in person at the School of Business and Economics (Tongersestraat 53 or Tapijn, Maastricht). No online or hybrid option is available.

For more information, please check out the [flyer](#) and the [programme](#).

A flyer for the Brightlands Funding Academy. The top half has a light blue background with the text 'Brightlands Funding Academy' and 'Faculty of Impact'. Below this, it says 'Wanted: Researchers with entrepreneurial ambitions!' and describes the fellowship as a two-year program covering salary and project costs. A QR code is provided for registration. The bottom half of the flyer features a photograph of a man in a blue shirt speaking at a podium, with a red and orange background and the word 'Brightlands' written vertically on the right.

**Brightlands**  
Funding Academy

Faculty of Impact

**Wanted:**  
Researchers with entrepreneurial ambitions!

Transform your scientific breakthroughs into real-world impact with NWO Faculty of Impact.

This two-year fellowship of €200,000 covers salary and basic project costs.

register via the QR code

Brightlands

## Faculty of Impact

### Brightlands Funding Academy

Are you a PhD with entrepreneurial ambitions? Do you believe your research could make a real impact on society? Then the NWO Faculty of Impact is your next step!

#### What can you expect during the workshop?

Are you ready to explore how your research can create real-world impact?

During this Brightlands Funding Academy session, we'll guide you through all the ins and outs of the NWO Faculty of Impact fellowship — a unique two-year program that supports academics in turning research into entrepreneurship.

Through a hands-on workshop led by our experienced grant writer, Wino Wijnen, you'll gain a clear understanding of what the Faculty of Impact offers, what the application process looks like, and how to make your proposal stand out. We'll walk you through each part of the application, share practical writing tips, and provide expert fundraising advice — all aimed at helping you take the next step toward making your innovation a reality.

**Fellowship:** €200,000 (incl. salary + €15,000 project costs)

**Topics:** Safety & energy transition, but open to all (including health)

**Submission deadline:** June 3, 2025 at 14:00

Save the Date and Register

## Events and Courses



**Elective Course "Taking Charge of Your PhD Project" - Maastricht**  
June 3 and 17, 2025

- [Click to explore the details](#)
- [Click to explore the programme](#)

**EHMA 2025 Conference - Rennes**  
June 4-6, 2025

- [Click to explore the details](#)

**Health Innovation Euregion event - Maastricht**  
June 12, 2025

- [Click to explore the details](#)

**Program International Scholarship Event - Maastricht**  
June 16, 2025

**CAPHRI Research Day - Maastricht**  
June 18, 2025

- [Click to explore the details](#)

**AWO-L Symposium - Maastricht**  
June 19, 2025

- [Click to explore the details](#)

**Pélerin symposium - Maastricht**  
October 22, 2025

- [Click to explore the details](#)

**Public Health Strategy Seminar October 2025 - Salzburg**  
October 26 - November 1, 2025  
Application Deadline: May 31, 2025

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

**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](#)



## 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

## May and June 2025

**Pablo Andres Rodriguez Feria** | VHC

06-05-2025 | 16:00 (CET)

"Leadership in Colombian Undergraduate Medical Education"

**Diogo Luis Lopes Leao** | VHC

14-05-2025 | 16:00 (CET)

"Unlocking Value in Healthcare Barriers and Success Factors in the Introduction of Value-based Payment Models in the Dutch Healthcare System"

**Caroline Daccache** | VHC

19-05-2025 | 15:45 (CET)

"A Health Economic Evaluation Guideline in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: A Case Study From Lebanon"

**Wouter Vints** | FPR

22-05-2025 | 16:00 (CET)

"Resistance Training and Muscle-brain Crosstalk: Implications for Cognitive Decline in Aging and Spinal Cord Injury"

**Dorine van Namen** | PHPC

26-05-2025 | 15:45 (CET)

'Please, see me': the impact of addiction problems of relatives on young adult family members

**Lise Buma** | ALTC

27-05-2025 | 16:00 (CET)

"Reablement and the philosophy's goal Paving the way for reablement in the Netherlands using global insights"

**Maike Imkamp** | OPC

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

"Clinical research in the era of data science"

**Arnold Besselaar** | FPR

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

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



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

**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** | OP

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"

**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"

[Watch the PhD Defences Live](#)

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## 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](mailto:info-caphri@maastrichtuniversity.nl).



Maastricht University



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