



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:

- Your invite for the CAPHRI PhD Winter Meeting
- Listen Up! Dieuwertje Horsten Tackles Love, Lust and Sexual Health in the Latest Episode of the 'Dokkast' podcast
- Laura Vriese on Improving Shared Decision-Making with Vulnerable Patients
- Two CAPHRI PhD candidates Win Poster Price at European Health Psychology Conference
- Registrations are Open for the Public Health Strategy Seminar June 2026
- We're Looking for You - Join the CAPHRI PhD Reps
- Upcoming courses and events
- A look at the PhD defences for November and December

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



## CAPHRI PhD Winter Meeting: Get Cosy and Creative

### [CAPHRI news](#)

The PhD representatives invite you to get cosy and creative at the annual CAPHRI PhD Winter Meeting!

Wrap up the year by joining your fellow PhDs for an afternoon of paint and sip. No worries about being a master artist—a relaxing Bob Ross tutorial will be followed! After all, as the man himself said: "We don't make mistakes, just happy little

accidents."

**When:** Tuesday, December 9th, 16:00–17:30

**Where:** Duboisdomein 30, Room 0.051

The 'sip' part is covered with plenty of festive drinks, including glühwein, wine, beer, and hot chocolate with marshmallows, alongside chips, nuts, and other treats.

**Please RSVP by Tuesday, December 2nd**, so the PhD-reps (Giselle, Esther, Nienke, Anne, and Maud) can ensure there are enough snacks and supplies for everyone. Don't miss out on this festive gathering!

[Register now!](#)



## Listen Up! Dieuwertje Horsten Tackles Love, Lust, and Sexual Health

[CAPHRI news](#)

Dieuwertje Horsten, PhD candidate at CAPHRI and Sexual Health Physician at GGD Brabant-Zuidoost, recently joined Elsje Kuijper and Merijn van de Laar for the latest episode of the 'Dokkast' podcast. This podcast is a must-listen for GPs in training and anyone passionate about general practice.

In this insightful episode—part 3 of the 'Geloof, hoop en liefde' series—Dieuwertje brings her expertise to the essential and often-taboo topic of sexual health. The discussion is filled with openness, humour, and honesty, covering everything from STIs and PrEP to the dynamics of discussing sex in the GP and GGD setting.

Dieuwertje and the hosts also dive into lighter moments, sharing tales of "Ex on the Beach", memorable patient complaints, and hilariously debunking common STI myths (like the toilet seat and the 'Christmas peak'). It's an engaging mix of serious medical facts, funny detours, and candid conversations aimed at breaking down taboos.



## Improving Shared Decision-Making with Vulnerable Patients

### CAPHRI news

Shared decision-making (SDM) can be particularly relevant yet challenging for patients with limited health literacy and multimorbidity who visit their general practitioner (GP). These patients often have difficulty understanding complex medical information or expressing what matters to them. They also face multiple treatment options. Laura Vriese, a CAPHRI PhD candidate at the Department of Family Medicine, explores how to make this process more effective and value-driven.

### ZonMw Project

Laura is working on a ZonMw-funded project that aims to develop an intervention that supports SDM with vulnerable patients, by focusing on improving the discussion of what matters to patients (values clarification). Her focus lies on practical strategies that help GPs actively involve patients with limited health literacy and multimorbidity in these discussions.

### Two Recent Publications

Laura has recently published two key papers related to her research:

1. [Values Clarification as Part of Shared Decision-Making](#) (Patient Education and Counseling): This study showed that the degree of SDM was low within patients with limited health literacy and multimorbidity, and that values clarification did often not take place.
2. [GP Experiences and Needs](#) (Scandinavian Journal of Primary Health Care): This work revealed that GPs view values clarification important yet challenging with patients with limited health literacy, especially when patients adopted a passive role or when expectations conflicted. GPs expressed a need for communication training and prompts for situations where values clarification is challenging.

### Laura's Tip for Fellow PhDs

The judges commended the poster for its visually attractive design and logical flow, which immediately clarified the important, little-investigated research area of occupational sun



highlighted that the study addresses an innovative question—testing narrative communication to influence perceived susceptibility to antibiotic resistance—which yields valuable findings for health communication research.

protection in the Netherlands. They specifically praised the strong mixed-methods approach and the clear, engaging presentation of the results and well-described conclusions.

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## Public Health Strategy Seminar for CAPHRI PhD Candidates

### CAPHRI seminar

CAPHRI, together with the Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER) and the Open Medical Institute (OMI), has set up a Public Health Academy to provide high-level training opportunities. As part of this collaboration, CAPHRI PhD candidates are invited to apply for the seminar Public Health Strategy, taking place from 28 June to 4 July 2026 in Salzburg, Austria.

### Outline seminar

The seminar Public Health Strategy includes:

- Seminar on PH in a nutshell with the introduction to PH Law and PH Leadership.
- Advanced Seminar on PH Law
- Advanced Strategy executive seminar for the PH leaders who will work on introducing change and implementation of legal solutions and change in their work context

### Seminar leaders

Prof. Dr. Kasia Czabanowska is a professor of public health leadership and workforce development and a Chair of the Department of International Health, CAPHRI Institute, Maastricht University, the Netherlands.

Dr. Timo Clemens, is an associate professor at the department of International Health, CAPHRI Institute, Maastricht University, the Netherlands.

Scott Burris, JD is Professor of Law and Public Health at Temple University, where he directs the Center for Public Health Law Research.

### Fee

€300. Including dinners and hotel accommodation. For your travel expenses, there will be a reimbursement up to €200 (after submission of original receipts).

Please register by 31 January 2026 via [caphri-phdcourses@maastrichtuniversity.nl](mailto:caphri-phdcourses@maastrichtuniversity.nl), after consulting your supervisor.

[Find out more](#)

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## Join the CAPHRI PhD Representatives Team

Are you a PhD candidate at CAPHRI with a passion for building a strong and supportive community? Do you want to represent your fellow PhDs and help shape the PhD journey at our institution? We are currently looking for new members to represent the OPC and FPR research lines.

As a PhD Representative, you'll be the voice for your peers, acting as a crucial link between PhD candidates and the CAPHRI leadership. This is an excellent opportunity to gain experience in communication, advocacy, and organisation, all while making a tangible impact on the PhD community.

If you're enthusiastic and motivated to help us build an even more vibrant community, we want to hear from you! Please get in touch with the current representatives to learn more about the role and how you can get involved.

Don't hesitate to reach out to us at [caphri-phdreps@maastrichtuniversity.nl](mailto:caphri-phdreps@maastrichtuniversity.nl). We look forward to hearing from you!

[Find out more](#)

[Save the Date and Register](#)

### Events and Courses

**BiBB Career Day - Den Bosch**

26 november 2025

- [Click to explore the details](#)

**CCC-Workshop "Basics of Participatory Research" - Online**

2 December 2025

- [Click for more information](#)

**Brightlands Winter Drinks**

4 December 2025

- [Click to explore the details](#)

**CAPHRI PhD Winter Meeting - Maastricht**

9 December 2025



- [Click to explore the details](#)

## **CAPHRI Research Day 2026 - Maastricht**

June 10, 2026

## **Public Health Strategy Seminar 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**

### **November and December 2025**

**Lieve Vonken** | PHPC

12-11-2025

"Unraveling how healthcare professionals perceive antibiotic resistance: From perceptions to practice"

**Ganesh Babu Balu Subburaman** | VHC

13-11-2025

"Evidence-Based Management In Eye Hospitals: Drivers, Practices, And Organizational Outcomes"

**Carlijn Wiertz** | FPR

19-11-2025

"From struggle to strength: Post-COVID rehabilitation"

**Chitegetse Archangela Minanago** | PHPC

27-11-2025

"Exposure to Inter-Parental Violence and Child Development: An Exploration in the Context of Tanzania"

**Laura Arnold** | VHC

02-12-2025

"Capacity-building for evidence-informed practice: Advancing local evidence ecosystems in Germany's public health service"

**Marc van Hoof** | VHC

02-12-2025

"Skin integration for better acceptance of hearing implants"

**Eunice Lobo** | OPC

03-12-2025

"Early years matter: Contextual factors shaping caregiving and child development in urban poor neighbourhoods of Bangalore, India"

**José van Dorst** | ALTC



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

11-12-2025

**Marleen van der Velde** | ALTC

12-12-2025

"Acute care demands in older adults: predicting outcomes, evaluating quality and optimising care"

**Roos van der Ven** | VHC

16-12-2025

"The complexity of multi-hospital oncology networks: a widely used and promising structure without a blueprint"

**Nadine Blankvoort** | HISP

17-12-2025

**Ralph Jeuken** | FPR

19-12-2025

**Ken Peeters** | OPC

19-12-2025

[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

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



will find the latest news, events and other relevant internal information.

Follow us now!

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.



Maastricht University



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