

# Programme - MSc Biomedical Sciences Career Day

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Date: Friday, 26 June 2026

Organisation: Andrea Romano

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## Plenary Session

Location: UNS50 Blauwe Zaal

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|---------------|---|
| 13.30 - 13.40 | <b>Welcome by Andrea Romano</b>                       |
| 13.40 - 13.50 | <b>Introduction FHML Alumni Office by Stefan Meij</b> |
| 13:50 - 14:20 | <b>Introduction of alumni</b>                         |
| 14.20 - 14.30 | <b>Group Photo</b>                                    |

## Q&A Sessions

Location: UNS40; Tutorial rooms: C0.531, C0.532, C0.532A, C0.535, C0.536, C0.537, C0.540, C0.541, C0.543, C0.547, C0.549

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| 14.35 - 14.55 | <b>Session 1</b> |
| 15.00 - 15.20 | <b>Session 2</b> |
| 15.25 - 15.45 | <b>Session 3</b> |
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| C0.531  | <b>Edith Coonen</b> , Senior Clinical Embryologist in Reproductive Medicine, National Coordinator for Preimplantation Genetic Testing (PGT).                   |
| C0.532  | <b>Remy Alebeek</b> , MSc Biomedical Sciences, Information Specialist, Research Adviser  |
| C0.532A | <b>Maarten Kok</b> , MSc Biomedical Sciences, Medical Director, Goodlife Pharma  |
| C0.535  | <b>Patrick Groothuis</b> , PhD in Reproductive Physiology Principal Scientist in In Vivo Pharmacology, Toxicology & DMPK                                       |
| C0.536  | <b>Balázs Jóri</b> , PhD Molecular Plant Biology, Scientist in Molecular Pathology   |
| C0.537  | <b>Ludwig Dubois</b> , PhD Medical Sciences in Radiation Oncology. Full Professor, Chair Experimental and Translational Radiobiology, University of Manchester |
| C0.540  | <b>Tobias Dancker</b> , PhD Molecular Imaging, Saarland University   |
| C0.541  | <b>Elke Marsch</b> , PhD Cardiovascular Research, Scientific writer, Roermond-Asenray  |
| C0.543  | <b>Cindy Hoeks</b> , Business Developer, Brightlands Maastricht Health Campus  |
| C0.547  | <b>Lisa Mayrginther</b> , PhD Candidate, Maastricht University Medical Center  |
| C0.549  | <b>Merve Yildiz</b> , PhD Candidate, Maastricht University GROW Research Institute for Oncology and Reproduction   |

## Networking

Location: UNS40; level 0, Faculty Bar

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| 15.45 - 18:00 | <b>Networking</b>           |
| 18.00         | <b>End of day programme</b> |

## Meet the alumni

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**Dr. Edith Coonen** studied at Maastricht University, where she also obtained her PhD in 1995 with research focusing on the genomic constitution of gametes and preimplantation embryos. She currently works as a Senior Clinical Embryologist in the Department of Reproductive Medicine alongside her role as a laboratory specialist in Reproductive Genetics at the Maastricht University Medical Centre (MUMC+). Additionally, she is appointed as an Assistant Professor at Maastricht University and serves as the National Coordinator for Preimplantation Genetic Testing (PGT). Her research mainly focuses on innovations in reproductive genetics and evaluating the relationship between laboratory aspects of assisted reproductive technology (ART) procedures and their outcomes. Beyond her clinical duties, Edith is deeply dedicated to the education of students and professionals and is a member of the ESHRE Executive Committee.



**Remy van Alebeek** completed his master's degree in Biomedical Sciences in 2023. After deciding not to pursue a PhD, he started as an information specialist at the University Library of the UM in 2024, where he has now been working for 2 years. In this role, Remy advises researchers on systematic review methodology, advises on the collection(s) and database(s) of FHML/MUMC+, and teaches information literacy courses within FHML/MUMC+.

**Maarten Kok** studied Biomedical Sciences in Leiden. After his Master's, he decided not to pursue a PhD or an academic career. Instead, he joined a pharmaceutical company. In his different roles, Maarten helped introduce several new pharmaceuticals to the Dutch market. Currently he is the Medical Director for Goodlife Pharma. If you want to learn more about the pharmaceutical industry or the value of not pursuing a PhD, come talk to Maarten.





**Patrick Groothuis** is a molecular cell biologist by training with a deep interest in in vitro and in vivo pharmacology, and translational research and has established careers in both academia and pharmaceutical industry in the fields of reproductive medicine and oncology. After receiving his PhD in Reproductive Physiology from the Kansas State University, Manhattan KS, USA and a post-doc at the University of Louisville, KY, USA, he started his career at the University of Maastricht where he held positions as post-doc and assistant professor for ten years. In 2006, he switched career paths and joined Organon N.V. (later Merck, Sharpe & Dohme) where he worked as Senior Research Scientist and group leader in lead finding and lead optimization programs in women's health and oncology. In 2012 he joined Byondis as Principal Scientist and is involved in the preclinical and nonclinical development of antibody drug conjugates as well as next generation targeting concepts for the treatment of cancer.

**Balázs Jóri** graduated with an MSc in Biology in 2001 and completed his PhD in Molecular Plant Biology in 2004 at Eötvös Loránd University. He transitioned into medical genetics as a Postdoctoral Researcher at Maastricht University between 2012 and 2014, where he conducted research on genetic factors in Lynch syndrome using advanced sequencing approaches. Following his postdoc, he gained extensive industry experience in molecular diagnostics, working as a Clinical Scientist at Centogene AG, a Scientific Consultant at GeneConsult GmbH, and a Biomedical Scientist at Siemens Healthineers (NEO New Oncology GmbH). Since October 2019, Balázs has been working as a Scientist in Molecular Pathology at the HpH Institut für Hämatopathologie Hamburg, specializing as a Molecular Diagnostic Specialist.



**Ludwig Dubois** graduated with a Master's in Biomedical Sciences at the Catholic University of Leuven (KUL) in 2003. In 2010, he obtained his PhD in Medical Sciences from Maastricht University, where his research focused on the non-invasive imaging of tumour hypoxia. Following his PhD, he advanced through several academic roles at Maastricht University, eventually becoming head of The M-Lab and deputy head of the Department of Precision Medicine in 2019. Since March 2026, Ludwig has been working as Full Professor and Chair of Experimental and Translational Radiobiology at The University of Manchester. His main research focus is directed towards translational research in radiation biology, and alongside his academic work, he also acts as the Chief Scientific Officer (CSO) of Convert Pharmaceuticals



**Tobias Dancker** studied at Maastricht University from 2017 to 2022, completing both bachelor's and master's degrees in biomedical sciences, specializing in Biomedical Imaging. Alongside his studies, Tobias gained extensive experience through various extracurricular activities (such as tutoring and Helix) and participated in the dual degree program with Tohoku University in Japan. Now, he is finishing a PhD in the Molecular Imaging Lab at Saarland University, where his work is cross-disciplinary bridging physics and biology. He established a novel endomicroscope for in-situ and in-vivo imaging and worked extensively with STED microscopy of the kidney. His typical day involves planning and performing experiments as well as analyzing data, but now, toward the end of his PhD, he does a lot of academic writing and project planning.



**Elke Marsch** graduated with a B.Sc. (Hons) in Biomedical Sciences from Durham University in 2010 before completing her M.Sc. in Molecular Life Sciences at Maastricht University in 2012. She continued her academic journey at Maastricht University's CARIM school, where she obtained her PhD in Cardiovascular Research in 2016. Following her doctoral studies, Elke advanced her research training through postdoctoral fellowships, first at Maastricht University under a Kootstra Postdoctoral Fellowship and later at KU Leuven and VIB under an FWO Marie Curie Postdoctoral Fellowship. Since January 2018, she has been working as an independent Scientific Writer based in Roermond-Asenray. In this role, she utilizes her academic background to provide expert assistance with R&D project development, academic editing, and grant writing.



**Cindy Hoeks** graduated from the Master Animal Sciences at Wageningen University and Research center in 2010, and obtained a second Master in Biomedical Sciences at the transnational University Limburg (joint program Maastricht University/Hasselt University) in 2015. She completed her PhD in neuro-immunology at Hasselt University in 2023, where she studied the development of a particular immune cell subset in multiple sclerosis and how these cells can enter the brain of the patients. After her PhD, she transitioned to industry to work as scientist in the drug development start-up Rewind Therapeutics and the medtech start-up InnoFluidics Diagnostics, where she applied her knowledge of single cell technologies in the design and validation of novel assays and analytical devices. In February 2026 she joined Brightlands Maastricht Health Campus as Business Developer for Maastricht University/MUMC. In this role she combines her scientific background with first-hand experience of the challenges that every start-ups faces. As she is involved in multiple projects at different stages of development, spanning a wide range of exciting research topics coming out of Maastricht University, this position offers a very dynamic and varied work environment.





**Lisa Mayrginther** is a PhD candidate at Maastricht University Medical Center, where she investigates the role of neurons in the tumor microenvironment using mass spectrometry imaging. Her interdisciplinary background spans psychology, neuroscience, and cancer biology. Her current research focuses on mapping the chemical signals at the tumor-nerve interface to uncover how the nervous system contributes to cancer progression. Before returning to academia, her journey took unexpected detours through motherhood. This experience continues to inform both her scientific questions and her advocacy for diverse timelines in research.

**Merve Yildiz** completed her MSc in Biomedical Sciences specialized in Inflammation and Pathophysiology. Her field of interest is oncology. She has experience in 3D in vitro modelling and microbiology. For the upcoming 4 years she will be working on hormonal treatments for endometrial cancer and unraveling the mechanisms behind treatment and treatment resistance. Investigating a novel hormonal drug for metastatic/recurrent endometrial cancer and exploring intracrine steroidogenesis.

