



Welcome to the newest edition of the CAPHRI newsletter. This month, we're delighted to showcase a diverse array of accomplishments, innovations, and opportunities from our dynamic research community. Here's what you can look forward to in this issue:

- Recap of CAPHRI Research Day 2025
- Sjim Romme Wins Nanne de Vries Dissertation Award 2025
- Nice to Meet: Hilde Verbeek
- WHO Designates CAPHRI as Collaborating Centre for Public Health Leadership and Workforce Development
- Carmen Dirksen (KEMTA) joins ZonMw's Core Committee for the Passende Zorg Framework Programme
- First Barrel of Hollandse Nieuwe Raises €89,500 for 'Healthy Primary School of the Future'
- An Interview with Ivan Huijnen on a New Outlook on Rehabilitation Care
- Work-Focused Care: Supporting Sustainable Employment for Patients with Chronic Conditions
- Gera Nagelhout appointed as special lector at Avans
- Collaboration in a Network Society - Insightful Blogs by Daan Westra en Robin Peeters
- (Pre)announcement Kootstra Talent Fellowship
- 1st Edition of Postdoc Appreciation Week
- Upcoming courses, events, inaugural lectures, and PhD defences

Join us as we celebrate these accomplishments and explore the cutting-edge research shaping the future of care and public health. Happy reading!



CAPHRI Research Day 2025: Connecting Disciplines, Building Tomorrow's Care and Public Health

CAPHRI news

On 18 June 2025, CAPHRI welcomed researchers from across the institute to Vaeshartelt, Maastricht, for its annual Research Day. This year's theme, "Connecting Disciplines, Building Tomorrow's Care and Public Health," highlighted the essential role of inter- and transdisciplinary collaboration in addressing complex healthcare challenges.

The day opened with a welcome from Scientific Director Silvia Evers, followed by a plenary session and panel discussion expertly moderated by Prof. Hilde Verbeek. These sessions sparked lively dialogue on the opportunities and challenges of working across disciplinary boundaries.

After lunch, participants engaged in hands-on workshops focused on transdisciplinary teamwork, research visualisation, ethical citizen science, AI in healthcare, and collaborative elderly care. These interactive sessions encouraged practical learning and reinforced the value of working together to drive innovation.

The event concluded with a plenary recap and the award ceremony. Sjim Romme received the Nanne de Vries Dissertation Award for his research on patient involvement in healthcare education. Fatima Al Zahraa Chokr was awarded the CAPHRI Public Poster Award 2024 for her work on maternal health in Lebanon, and Senne Wijnen received the CAPHRI Poster Award 2024 for her study on stress in adults with post-COVID-19 condition.

Building on the energy and insights of this year's event, we invite you to mark your calendar for the next CAPHRI Research Day on 10 June 2026—we look forward to seeing you there!



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.



Nice to Meet: Hilde Verbeek

CAPHRI news

How can we improve quality of life for older people who require long-term care? This question drives the research of Professor Hilde Verbeek at CAPHRI, where she leads the Living Lab Ageing and Long-Term Care Limburg. Through this unique partnership—spanning care organisations, educational institutions, and policy stakeholders—Hilde and her team develop innovative living concepts as alternatives to traditional nursing homes, such as care farms and reablement programmes.

Hilde's interdisciplinary approach integrates research, teaching, and societal engagement. "Everyone brings a piece of the puzzle," she notes, highlighting the value of collaboration across fields like architecture, psychology, and health sciences. Her work not only aims to enhance the lives of older people, but also to improve working conditions for care staff and foster knowledge exchange between academia and practice.

By challenging societal stigma around ageing and promoting independence for older adults, Hilde's research exemplifies CAPHRI's commitment to innovation and impact. Her initiatives, including training programmes and dual roles in care and research, strengthen the ecosystem of long-term care.

Curious to learn more about Hilde's vision and projects? [Read the full interview](#) or [watch the Science Story](#) video on her research into green care farms.



WHO Designates CAPHRI as Collaborating Centre for Public Health Leadership and Workforce Development

CAPHRI news

The Department of International Health at CAPHRI, Maastricht University, has been designated as the new WHO Collaborating Centre on Public Health Leadership and Workforce Development. Led by

Professor Katarzyna Czabanowska and Professor Milena Pavlova, the centre will support WHO's efforts to strengthen the professionalization and leadership competencies of the public health workforce across the WHO European Region.

The centre's activities will focus on generating evidence, developing practical tools, and designing capacity-building programmes that address current needs and priorities at both regional and national levels. By investing in public health leadership, the centre aims to equip health systems with skilled professionals who can respond effectively to emerging challenges and contribute to sustainable improvements in population health.

A formal launch event is planned after summer 2025.

[Read the full news item](#)



Carmen Dirksen (KEMTA) joins ZonMw's Core Committee for the Passende Zorg Framework Programme

[UM news](#)

On 4 June 2025, the Core Committee for ZonMw's Passende Zorg (Appropriate Care) Framework Programme was officially installed by ZonMw's general director, Véronique Timmerhuis. Under the chairmanship of Sjaak Wijma, this committee will guide the strategic direction of this ambitious national programme. We are proud to announce that Prof. Dr. Carmen Dirksen has been appointed as a member.

The Passende Zorg Framework Programme (2024–2028) has a total budget of nearly €290 million and aims to stimulate knowledge development for value-driven decisions about which care is covered by the Dutch Health Insurance Act (Zvw) and how that care can be optimally organised. The programme addresses cross-sectoral challenges such as smart care organisation, prevention, optimal workforce deployment, and sustainability. Results will contribute to improved guidelines, package management, and a stronger research

infrastructure across all healthcare sectors—from specialist and primary care to mental health.

The Core Committee is responsible for strategic guidance, ensuring coherence between funding rounds, and monitoring the realisation of programme goals, in close collaboration with all stakeholders. The first funding rounds have already been published, including calls for preparatory implementation activities and research on methodology and ecological sustainability. The first research-initiated funding round, focused on existing care, is expected in summer 2025.

For more information, visit the [programme page](#)



First Barrel of Hollandse Nieuwe Raises €89,500 for ‘Healthy Primary School of the Future’

CAPHRI news

On Tuesday 17 June, the first barrel of Hollandse Nieuwe herring was auctioned in Scheveningen for an impressive €89,500. The winning bid came from The Fishlovers.nl, with all proceeds going to the ‘Healthy Primary School of the Future’ project by JOGG (Healthy Youth, Healthy Future), a project supported by CAPHRI researchers.

The initiative aims to promote more physical activity, healthy eating, and improved wellbeing among primary school children. By providing healthy lunches and encouraging extra movement, the project demonstrates how schools can play a key role in fostering lifelong healthy habits in the next generation.

Mark Sluis, director of The Fishlovers.nl, expressed his enthusiasm for supporting the project, highlighting the importance of teaching children about the health benefits of fish, particularly herring, from an early age. The event also aligned with the ‘Happie Haring’ campaign by the Nederlands Visbureau, which focuses on introducing all generations, including young people, to the tradition and benefits of eating herring.

The auction also marked the official opening of the 2025 herring season. This year's catch was praised for its quality, offering a delicious and nutritious start to the season for herring lovers across the Netherlands, Belgium, and Germany.



A New Outlook on Rehabilitation Care

CAPHRI news

Instead of only looking at a patient's symptoms, Dr. Ivan Huijnen advocates helping patients get back to their life as soon as possible. This way, he aims to shift from the biomedical 'disorder-focused thinking' to an integral view on healthcare. Ivan is a senior researcher at the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine (CAPHRI) and manager of the Adelante knowledge centre. He is also special lecturer at Zuyd University of Applied Sciences and delivered his inaugural lecture last April, titled 'Appropriate rehabilitation care: Across borders'.

Dr. Huijnen's vision is rooted in the understanding that rehabilitation is not merely about treating medical conditions, but about supporting individuals in reclaiming their roles and activities within society. Through his leadership in the Living Lab Rehabilitation—a partnership between Maastricht UMC+, Zuyd University, and Adelante—he fosters interprofessional collaboration to design more effective and efficient care pathways. This model brings together healthcare professionals, researchers, and patients to co-create solutions that are responsive to real-world needs.

A central focus is on timely interventions, personalized care plans, and the integration of new technologies such as e-health platforms. These innovations aim to deliver rehabilitation services closer to home, reducing unnecessary hospital stays and making care more accessible. Dr. Huijnen's work also addresses broader challenges, including the increasing demand for rehabilitation due to population ageing, the rise of chronic conditions, and persistent workforce shortages in the sector.

Learn more about Huijnen's
insights and innovative
approaches to rehabilitation



Work-Focused Care: Supporting Sustainable Employment for Patients with Chronic Conditions

CAPHRI news

For many individuals living with chronic conditions, maintaining employment is a significant challenge, impacting not only their income but also their sense of purpose and overall well-being.

Recognising this, Professors Annelies Boonen (Rheumatology) and Angelique de Rijk (Work and Health) have collaborated since 2017 to develop and evaluate work-focused care at Maastricht UMC+. This pioneering approach integrates employment considerations directly into the routine care of outpatients who are still active in the workforce. By proactively discussing work and the ability to sustain it, clinicians can identify patients needing extra support, helping to prevent job loss and its associated impacts.

This support is particularly crucial in the Netherlands, where losing work due to illness doesn't automatically entitle someone to benefits. Often, simple workplace adjustments or better energy management strategies can help many patients remain employed. To address the hesitation some clinicians feel about discussing complex work-related issues, a dedicated Work and Health outpatient clinic was launched in December 2023. This clinic serves as a referral point for more complex challenges. Furthermore, since May 2024, all Dutch medical specialist guidelines have been required to address work retention, supported by practical tools to aid clinicians in advising on sustainable employment.

Maastricht UMC+ is highlighted as a frontrunner in this field in the new podcast series "Partners voor Zorg." Professors Boonen and de Rijk discuss the educational materials now used nationwide and, notably, the establishment of the dedicated Work and Health outpatient clinic – a central point of

contact for patients with all questions about work and health. With a tight labour market and an ageing population, work-focused care is more relevant than ever.

For a deeper understanding, listen the podcast here



Gera Nagelhout appointed as lector at Avans

CAPHRI news

Prof Dr Gera Nagelhout (PHPC) has been appointed as lector of Engaged Science at the Centre of Expertise 'Perspectives in Health' at Avans University of Applied Sciences. Her inaugural lecture took place on 16 June.

In her role, she focuses on inclusive and participatory research approaches that value experiential knowledge, particularly in health and wellbeing among people with lower socioeconomic status. Her work aims to bridge science and society by engaging communities in meaningful ways.

You can read her [inaugural lecture](#) (in Dutch) or watch the [video](#).



Collaboration in a Network Society

CAPHRI news

Collaboration is more than just a buzzword for IZA, GALA, and WOZO—it is essential in today's way of organising. Living in a so-called 'network society' raises the question: is this approach always the best strategy?

Researchers Dr. Daan Westra and Dr. Robin Peeters from the Department of Health Services Research (HSR) explored this topic in depth. Their findings and reflections were recently shared in a series of blogs for Skipr, offering valuable perspectives on the opportunities and challenges of collaboration

in modern health and social care organisations.

Read their insightful blogs [here](#) and discover how collaboration shapes the future of organisational practices.



Farewell to Professor Anja Krumeich

[FHML news](#)

After more than three decades of distinguished service, Professor Anja Krumeich, renowned for her work in translational ethnographies in global health, bids farewell to the Faculty of Health, Medicine and Life Sciences.

In recognition of her outstanding contributions to our faculty and Maastricht UMC+, Anja was honoured with the MUMC+ Golden Heart award by FHML Dean Annemie Schols during a special farewell seminar.

We wish Anja exciting new adventures in the years ahead.



Pre)announcement Kootstra Talent Fellowship

[Call for Proposals](#)

Are you finishing your Ph.D. or have you recently obtained your Ph.D. 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:

<https://ummployee.maastrichtuniversity.nl/en/research/research-fhml/funding>

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



Postdoc Appreciation Week

UM news

To honour the hardworking Postdocs, Dutch academic institutes are launching a national appreciation programme, inspired by similar initiatives in the USA, UK, and Germany. Amsterdam UMC, Erasmus MC, Radboud UMC, Maastricht UMC+, UMCG, RUG and Postdoc NL jointly invite research institutions, postdoc coordinators, and research administrators across the Netherlands to join this effort.

This very first edition of the Postdoc Appreciation Week NL (#PAW-NL) aims to shine a light on the vital role of Postdocs in academia and celebrate their successes. It also aims to highlight their perspectives, broad potential, and needs for a successful future within or beyond academia.

Save the Date: 15 - 19 September 2025

Check out the preliminary programme on the website of PostdocNL

Save the Date and Register

Events and Courses



5th Dutch National and 1st Euregional Prehab Congress 2025 - Maastricht

September 11-12, 2025

- [Click to explore the details](#)

Spine Research in Motion - Heerlen

October 3, 2025

- More details will follow shortly

Pélerin symposium - Maastricht

October 22, 2025

- [Click to explore the details](#)

Public Health Strategy I Seminar - 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](#)

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](#)

CAPHRI Research Day 2026 - Maastricht

June 10, 2026

Save the Date and Register

Inaugural Lectures

Farewell symposium Prof. dr. Jany Rademakers - Maastricht

2 september 2025

Inaugural Lecture Prof. dr. Tim Welting - Maastricht

26 september 2025

Farewell symposium Prof. dr. Guido de Wert - Maastricht

3 oktober 2025

Inaugural Lecture Prof. dr. Jeroen Hendriks - Maastricht

4 december 2025

Farewell symposium Prof. dr. Klasien Horstman - Maastricht

27 februari 2026

Farewell symposium Prof. dr. Stefan Wilm - Düsseldorf

6 maart 2026

Inaugural Lecture Prof. dr. Mickael Hiligsmann - Maastricht

2 October 2026

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 | 16:00 (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"



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

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

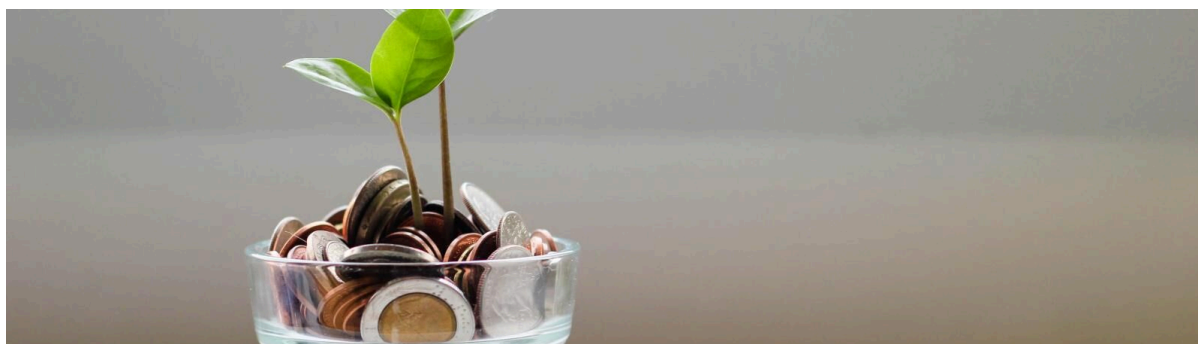
30-06-2025 | 16:00 (CET)

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

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"



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](#)

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.



As summer arrives, we've been fortunate to enjoy many sunny and beautiful days alongside our work. Before we all take a well-deserved break, we want to thank every CAPHRI member for your hard work and commitment throughout this academic year.

This will be our last newsletter before the summer pause. We'll be back in September with the newest edition, full of updates and news.

In the meantime, we hope you have a wonderful summer filled with rest and relaxation. Don't forget to look after yourself—seek some shade, cover up, and plenty of sunscreen. ☀️

Enjoy the sunshine and make the most of your summer break!



Maastricht University



Maastricht UMC+



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