

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

## CARIM Newsletter January 2017

[View this email in your browser](#)

**School for  
Cardiovascular  
Diseases**

This newsletter contains information on the following subjects:

- Professorship Leon Schurgers
- Grants Diabetes Foundation
- CARIM-BAYER collaboration
- ERA-CVD grant Erik Biessen
- Unilever Research Prize Maurice Halder
- Translational Trends
- Grant deadlines
- Who's new?!
- Cardiovascular Grand Rounds Maastricht
- Symposia & events
- Academic events
- Media Moments

### CARIM newsletter

Contributions for the newsletter (e.g. news of events and grants, important publications, societal impact related topics and research results related to CARIM's research) can be sent to [carim-office@maastrichtuniversity.nl](mailto:carim-office@maastrichtuniversity.nl). Please submit the text in English and include a short title. The text should be max. 200 words. If applicable, include high resolution pictures and other documents.

**If you have a top publication or a translational development worth mentioning, please contact [CARIM Office](#).**

## Leon Schurgers appointed Professor at Maastricht University

As of 1 December 2017, Leon Schurgers has been appointed Professor 'Biochemistry of Vascular Calcification' at Maastricht University.

His task will focus on high-quality, internationally competitive, cardiovascular research within the broad context of calcification of heart valves and blood vessels. More specifically, he will focus on biological and molecular mechanisms underlying the development and progression of micro-calcification.

His research within the framework of the biochemistry will focus on 1) the identification of molecular biological factors and mechanisms involved in the development and development of

micro-calcification, 2) the discovery of biomarkers for diagnosis and treatment and 3) the development of new treatments to slow down or prevent vascular calcification.

He will fulfill this task at the Faculty of Health, Medicine, and Lifesciences, department of Biochemistry within CARIM.

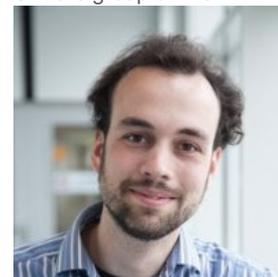
## Two grants Diabetes Foundation to the Dept. of Internal Medicine

Two clinician-scientists, Dr Martijn Brouwers and Dr Nordin Hanssen, from the department of internal medicine have been awarded a personal grant to further their research on the development of diabetes and its complications.



Dr Martijn Brouwers (left), Internist-endocrinologist at the MUMC+ has been awarded a senior fellowship for his research on nonalcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD). His research focuses on elucidating the relationship between NAFLD and cardiovascular complications. The current fellowship will allow him to zoom in on the role of fructose in the pathogenesis of NAFLD (and type 2 diabetes) by employing a diverse set of experiments, ranging from experimental animal and human studies to epidemiological analyses in the Maastricht Study.

Dr Nordin Hanssen (right), internist-endocrinologist in training at MUMC+ has been awarded the junior postdoc grant for his research at the department of Internal Medicine in the group of Prof. Schalkwijk and Prof. Stehouwer. Nordin's research focusses on the role of methylglyoxal, a highly toxic glucose metabolite in cardiovascular disease. With the support of the Diabetes Foundation, Nordin will be able to further investigate the role of methylglyoxal in the development of diabetic complications (particularly chronic kidney disease and diabetic retinopathy).



## CARIM-BAYER collaboration in action: achieving a first milestone!

The kick-off meeting for the CARIM-Bayer collaboration took place in January 2017. Through mutual interest in atherothrombosis both parties worked consistently towards a first research program aiming at identifying targets for atherothrombosis research (and therapeutic intervention). These efforts were already successful: the collaboration got started in November 2016 following a process of careful preparation carried out by two investigators from both sides, Dr Henri Spronk from CARIM and Dr Stefan Heitmeier from Bayer. Sharing drug development expertise from a major pharmaceutical company with translational research on (athero)thrombosis performed by CARIM-theme I, a strong and mutually effective working relationship was envisioned.

Now that we are underway for one year, we can say that the collaboration is working successfully and we are well on track, with a first milestone just achieved in November 2017. The pilot program that will last 3 years, is led by a joint research team comprising Dr. Stefan Heitmeier, Julia Mueller, and Volker Laux from Bayer and Dr Henri Spronk and Prof. Hugo ten Cate from CARIM. In addition to that, input from other investigators from Bayer (Dr Christoph Gerdes), CARIM (Prof. Leon Schurgers, Dr Paola van der Meijden) and the Heart+Vascular Center from the MUMC+ (Dr Arina ten Cate-Hoek, Dr Barend Mees, Dr Jan Willem Daemen) is included and becoming increasingly effective. A first joint PhD fellow (Bram Kremers) recently started on a translational project in vascular surgical patients.

## ERA-CVD grant Erik Biessen

Title: Macrophage heterogeneity in human and murine atherosclerosis: a therapeutic opportunity?

Cardiovascular diseases (CVD) are the major cause of death in Europe. CVD research is a crucial area in health research, hence an effective coordination of research at national and EU level, increased cross-disciplinary interaction and research advancements are needed. By gathering their forces and funding capacities so far 18 countries joined to set up a new ERA-Net Cofund action, dedicated to CVD. In AtheroMacHETE our team will zoom in on the most abundant immune cell type in the atherosclerotic plaque, the macrophage. We will dissect their transcriptional, ontogenic, and functional heterogeneity in atherosclerotic lesions in patients and in murine models of disease. This unprecedented deep characterization will enable us to identify essential gene programs and regulatory cues driving adverse macrophage functions in atherosclerosis and design and validate candidate drugs that target these cues in vitro, in murine models and eventually in the clinic. Thus AtheroMacHete is expected to pave the way to more precise anti-inflammatory treatment of cardiovascular diseases.

**Coordinator:**

Erik Biessen, Maastricht University, Maastricht, The Netherlands

**Partners:**

Joachim Schultze, LIMES Institute, University of Bonn, Bonn, Germany  
Michael Sieweke, Centre d'Immunologie de Marseille-Luminy, Marseille, France

## Unilever Research Prize 2017 Maurice Halder

Maurice Halder, a Master student from Maastricht, now working as PhD student in Aachen within the INTRICARE consortium, has won an Unilever Research Prize 2017. The prize was awarded to outstanding postgraduate students, one from each of the 13 Dutch universities, with research theses contributing to the Global Goals. The prize was established in 1956 to strengthen the bond between industry and academic research, and to motivate students to excel. Maurice' thesis focused on the effects of arterial remodeling, i.e. vascular calcification, on the development of cardiovascular diseases. The prize consisted of a sum of 2.500 euros and a work of art in glass.

# Translational trends

## CARIM lecture - January 31, 2018

Time and Location: 11.00-13:00 h (Jo Ritzenzaal, Oxfordlaan 55)

**11:00-12:00:** Prof. Maarten Honing (M4I Institute Maastricht MultiModal Molecular Imaging): "Analytical Sciences in Multi-Disciplinary Research; closing the gap between private inspired/Science driven & Private demanded/Technology enabled Research"

**12:00-12:20:** Dr Koen Reesink (BME-Biomedical Engineering): "The value of arterial stiffness assessment: working behind the scenes"

**12:20-12:40:** Dr Joost Lumens (BME-Biomedical Engineering): "The virtual heart patient: from education to in silico clinical trials"

**12:45-13.30:** Lunch and further discussions

## Grant deadlines

**PPS-call 2018 - Deadline January 8, 2018 14.00 hours**

Click [here](#) for more information

**Innovatiesubsidie 2018 - Deadline January 16, 2018**

Click [here](#) for more information

**Dr. E. Dekker Junior Postdoc - Deadline January 23, 2018**

Click [here](#) for more information

**Dr. E. Dekker Arts in opleiding tot specialist - Deadline January 23, 2018**

Click [here](#) for more information

**NWO Veni - Deadline January, 2018**

Click [here](#) for more information

**WUN Research Mobility Programme - Deadline February 4, 2018**

Click [here](#) for more information

**ERC Consolidator - Deadline February, 2018**

Click [here](#) for more information

**NWO Industrial Doctorates - Deadline January 18, 2018**

Click [here](#) for more information

**Dr. E. Dekker Junior stafid - Deadline March 6, 2018**

Click [here](#) for more information

**Dr. E. Dekker Senior Postdoc - Deadline March 6, 2018**

Click [here](#) for more information

The calendar/overview of the prizes the FHML/UM would like to nominate candidates for is now available on: <https://researchoffice.mumc.maastrichtuniversity.nl/prize-calendar>

## Who's New?!



My name is Nick van Osta and I studied Biomedical Engineering in Eindhoven. I graduated last summer on the subject 'Modeling Cardiac Growth using a Local Stimulus-Effect Relation', which focused on cardiac growth in a finite element model of the left ventricle. During my PhD, I will try to improve the early recognition of arrhythmic diseases by combining imaging techniques and computer simulations.

## PhD / Postdoc course Advanced Optical Microscopy 2018 - 11-15 June

The aim of this one-week course (11-15 June 2018) is to introduce, discuss, and experience the technologies and applications of various advanced optical microscopic techniques. Also tissue and cell preparation protocols and immunocytochemical procedures will be discussed. Finally, vital imaging and quantification of molecular processes in the cell will be explained and demonstrated.

Click [here](#) for more information.

## CARDIOVASCULAR GRAND ROUNDS

**January 12 - Bianca Brundel, PhD, VU Medical Center Amsterdam**

"A story of life and death: the role of proteostasis in cardiovascular disease"

**January 19 - Judith Sluimer, PhD, MUMC+**

"Oxygen sensors and single cells in atherogenesis in 2018: out with the old, in with the new"

**January 26 - Marit Westertep, MD, PhD, University of Groningen**

"Cholesterol efflux pathways suppress inflammasome activation in mice and humans"

**February 2 - Henner Hanssen, MD, PhD, University of Basel, Switzerland**

"Exercise and vascular ageing during lifespan"

**February 9 - Claudio Göttisch, PhD, RWTH Aachen, Germany**

"Molecular mechanisms of vascular calcification - extracellular vesicles and their cargo"

Click [here](#) for an overview of the upcoming lectures

Starts at 7.45 am, Academic hospital Maastricht, Meeting room A3-B3, level 3

Breakfast included! Registration not necessary

## Symposia & events

**College Tour - January 18, 2018**Click [here](#) for more information**Kick-off symposium: trans-thematic atherotrombosis platform - January 30, 2018**Click [here](#) for more information**Call for abstracts NVVC Voorjaarscongres 2018 - February 5, 2018**Click [here](#) for more information**NewMood revival meeting - February 8-9, 2018**Click [here](#) for more information**2nd European Fatty Liver Conference (EFLC2018) - February 28 - March 2, 2018**Click [here](#) for more information**Genetics Retreat – NVHG graduate meeting - May 17 & 18., 2018**Click [here](#) for more information[KNAW agenda December](#)**Upcoming CARIM School Council meetings 2018:**

25 januari : 12.30-14.30

12 april : 12.30-14.30

11 juni : 12.30-14.30

1 oktober: 12.30-14.30

## Academic events

**42th Dies Natalis St. Janskerk - January 26, 2018****Inaugural lecture Prof. Guido Haenen****Title: We are stardust****PhD Conferral Konstantinos Theodorou, Friday January 19, 12.00 hours**

Promotor: Prof. E.A.L. Biessen

Co-promotor: Dr M.P.C. Donners

Title: 'Disarray at the membrane; regulation of vascular inflammation by cholesterol and proteases'

**PhD Conferral Noreen van der Linden, Friday January 19, 14.00 hours**

Promotors: Prof. M.P. van Dieijen Visser; Prof. L.J.C. van Loon

Co-promotor: Dr S.J.R. Meex

Title: 'Cardiac troponin: State of the (He)Art; towards optimization of interpretation'

**PhD Conferral Ben Madhu Sørensen, Wednesday January 31, 14.00 hours**

Promotor: Prof. C.D.A. Stehouwer

Co-promotors: Dr A.J.H.M. Houben; Dr T. Schram

Title: 'Determinants of microvascular function in individuals with and without type 2 diabetes: a population-based approach'

## Media Moments

**Mark Post** (Physiology): "Schnitzel aus der Petrischale; Der Geflügelkonzern Wiesenhof beteiligt sich an einem Start-up, das Fleisch im Labor herstellt. Ist das wirklich eine Alternative?" - Das Tagesspiegel, January 6, 2018**Mark Post** (Physiology): "Größter Hähnchenschlachter setzt auf Fleisch aus der Petrischale; Wiesenhof-Konzern PHW beteiligt sich an Start-up" - Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, January 6, 2018

Copyright © CARIM Maastricht University, All rights reserved.

[www.carimmaastricht.nl](http://www.carimmaastricht.nl)**Our mailing address is:**

CARIM-office@maastrichtuniversity.nl



Share



Tweet



Forward



---

This email was sent to [carim-office@maastrichtuniversity.nl](mailto:carim-office@maastrichtuniversity.nl)  
[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)  
CARIM · Universiteitssingel 50 · Maastricht, Li 6229 ER · Netherlands

