



Book of Speakers

16th Netherlands Conference on HIV Pathogenesis,
Epidemiology, Prevention & Treatment

Organisation

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Alexander Pasternak

Amsterdam UMC

Alexander Pasternak obtained his PhD degree in Molecular Virology from the Leiden University. His PhD thesis research was focused on the transcription mechanism in Nidovirales. Alexander received his postdoctoral training in HIV-1 virology in the Laboratory of Experimental Virology of the Amsterdam UMC. His pioneering work on the cell-associated HIV-1 RNA as an alternative viral marker has opened the door for a wider use of HIV-1 biomarkers in the cure research. Alexander's current scientific interests are focused on the persistence of the HIV-1 reservoir in infected individuals and have both fundamental and translational aspects. The viral reservoir is the main obstacle to an HIV-1 cure and Alexander's team characterizes the reservoir on the cellular and molecular levels, working at the crossroads of virology and immunology but also incorporating aspects of quantitative biology. He is a member of Editorial Boards of *Retrovirology* and *Virus Research*, and have guest edited special issues on HIV-1 reservoir in several journals.

Session 4: 0.13



Anders Boyd

SHM, GGD Amsterdam

Anders completed his Master's degree in Public Health at the University of Minnesota. He continued his doctoral studies at Université Pierre et Marie Curie, which gave way to a PhD thesis considering the various ways to model viral replication and liver fibrosis in HIV-positive individuals with multiple viral hepatitis infections.

He was awarded a post-doctoral fellowship from the French Agency for Research on AIDS and Viral Hepatitis to study the evolution of hepatitis B virus genetic variability in two cohorts of HIV-HBV co-infected individuals in France and Côte d'Ivoire. He then received a second post-doctoral fellowship from Sidaction to further explore the virological, serological, and clinical implications of HIV-HBV co-infection in these two cohorts. He has also worked as a methodologist for a number of projects on topics such as large-scale testing for viral infections, cardiovascular disease, metabolism, antimicrobial resistance, and mental health. Anders' research now focuses on methodological approaches to examining trends in co-morbidities and understanding their determinants in HIV-positive individuals. In addition to his work at SHM, Anders also works at the GGD Amsterdam, where he contributes to several projects on sexually transmitted disease and HIV prevention.

Session 2: chair



Ard van Sighem

SHM

Ard's research at Stichting hiv monitoring involves investigating the course and the changes in the HIV epidemic in the Netherlands. To achieve this, Ard uses mathematical modelling as a tool to analyse the relevant data in the ATHENA cohort (the database maintained by SHM) and other national data sources. Ard is also studying the HIV epidemic at a local level, for example in Amsterdam in collaboration with the H-TEAM.

Ard is also interested in the more patient-specific side of the HIV epidemic. In particular, Ard works with the Antiretroviral Therapy Cohort Collaboration (ART-CC) to investigate life expectancy and changes in causes of death in people living with HIV. In addition, he is involved in the HIV-CAUSAL collaboration, which uses observational data to tackle questions that randomized trials cannot answer.

Lastly, Ard works together with the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control to estimate the size of the population of people living with HIV, including those as yet undiagnosed, in Europe, and on nationwide and regional levels.

Session 2: presenter SHM 2023 Monitoring Report



Berend van Welzen

UMC Utrecht

Berend van Welzen (1986) currently works as an internist/infectious diseases specialist at the University Medical Center Utrecht (UMCU) in the Netherlands. After obtaining his MD degree at the University of Utrecht in 2011, he specialized in internal medicine and infectious diseases at the UMCU – where he obtained certification as a medical specialist in 2019. In 2020, he finished his PhD on comorbidities in HIV. In his current research, he focuses on the optimization of antiretroviral therapy with respect to virological response and HIV-associated comorbidities.

Session 4: panel Cardiovascular Disease Pathogenesis and Prevention: should we think differently about women with HIV?



Carlijn Jordans

Erasmus MC

Drs. Carlijn Jordans (1993) works at Erasmus MC (Rotterdam, NL) as a PhD candidate at the department of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases. She obtained her medical degree at LUMC and worked two years as resident internal medicine at Haaglanden MC. Currently, she conducts a PhD (prof. dr. A. Verbon; dr. C. Rokx) where she coordinates the #awarehiv project (www.awarehiv.com) aimed to study and promote the HIV testing cascade, create awareness amongst public and professionals for HIV testing in people with HIV indicator conditions, and ending stigma. Her studies contribute to end AIDS in the Netherlands via proactive HIV testing strategies in hospitals and at general practitioners, and by improving HIV indicator condition testing in Europe. She is currently developing accredited learning modules on HIV indicator conditions for healthcare professionals.

Session 2: 0.06



Casper Rokx

Erasmus MC

Casper Rokx is an associate professor and internist-infectiologist at the Erasmus University Medical Center in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. He started the #aware.hiv project to stop undiagnosed HIV in hospitals and community (www.awarehiv.com). His other research focuses on HIV treatment and cure. He is a principle investigator in scientific consortia including NL4Cure, EU2Cure, and EACS YING.

Session 1: chair



Emma Reiss

Amsterdam UMC

Emma Reiss obtained her degree in Medicine at the University of Amsterdam in 2015. She has previously worked at the department of Internal Medicine of the Tergooi Hospitals and is currently in the process of attaining her PhD at the Laboratory of Experimental Virology (Department of Medical Microbiology) at the Amsterdam UMC. Her research focuses on preclinical and early phase clinical studies of novel HIV-1 vaccine candidates that were developed in house.

Session 3: 0.08



Fanny Lauw

MC Jan van Goyen, Alrijne Ziekenhuis

Fanny Lauw is a hiv treating physician at the Medical Center Jan van Goyen in Amsterdam. She also works as an internist, infectious disease specialist at the Alrijne hospital in Leiderdorp. She completed her internal medicine residency and infectious disease fellowship at the Amsterdam University Medical Center, location AMC. Her PhD and Postdoctoral Research focused on the innate immune system. She is currently the chair of the Science Committee of the Dutch Association of HIV-treating Physicians (NVHB).

Session 4: panel Cardiovascular Disease Pathogenesis and Prevention: should we think differently about women with HIV?



Henry de Vries

Amsterdam UMC, GGD Amsterdam

Henry de Vries is dermatologist and Professor of skin infections at the University of Amsterdam. He works at the Academic Medical Centre and Public Health Service (GGD Amsterdam) and is expert at the Dutch Institute for Public Health (RIVM). He is expert in clinical, epidemiological and diagnostic aspects of STI and emerging skin infections. His research topics are: STI in men who have sex with men (MSM), biomadecal and behavioral interventions to curb HIV and STI transmission, gonorrhoea, lymphogranuloma venereum, HPV related anal dysplasia, cutaneous leishmaniasis, and leprosy.

Session 3: chair



Hester den Ruijter

UMC Utrecht

Hester den Ruijter is a Professor of Cardiovascular disease in women at the University Medical Center in Utrecht. Her team works on the diagnosis of heart disease in women. Most available diagnostics for heart disease have been tested in men and directly translated to women. Nowadays we are increasingly becoming aware that male-derived tests do not always detect heart disease in women. There are interesting sex differences in the pathophysiology of heart disease that may explain why diagnostic tests developed in men fail to detect heart disease in women. Therefore, her group focusses on novel biomarkers and methodologies that facilitate the diagnosis of heart disease in women, and to understand why these sex differences occur.

Session 4: panel Cardiovascular Disease Pathogenesis and Prevention: should we think differently about women with HIV?



Iris van der Wulp

Amsterdam UMC, AIGHD

Iris van der Wulp obtained her MD degree from the University of Antwerp in 2019. After her graduation, she spent the next two years as an intern in the departments of Internal Medicine and Intensive Care department at the Flevoziekenhuis in Almere, the Netherlands. In October 2021 she started a PhD with the Amsterdam Institute for Global Health and Development (AIGHD) and the Amsterdam University Medical Centers, location University of Amsterdam (supervisors prof. M. van der Valk and prof. P. Reiss). Her research on ageing-related comorbidities in people with and without HIV, based on data from the AGEHIV Cohort Study which she helps coordinate, and the Stichting hiv monitoring, is currently primarily focused on non-AIDS-defining malignancies.

Session 1: 0.02



Iván Del Moral-Sánchez

Amsterdam UMC

Iván del Moral Sánchez is a final-year PhD student in the department of Medical Microbiology at Amsterdam UMC, Netherlands. His research focuses on the design of HIV-1 envelope and influenza hemagglutinin immunogens by structure-guided engineering. In this talk, he will present the design and immunogenicity of envelope-encoding mRNA immunogens aimed at initiating the development of functional anti-HIV-1 neutralizing responses. In the future, he would like to combine this knowledge with computational methods in order to design novel proteins that help in the fight against infectious diseases.

Session 3: 0.11



Jade Jansen

Amsterdam UMC

Jade Jansen obtained her Master's degree in Biomedical Sciences at the University of Amsterdam in 2019. At the beginning of 2020, she began as a PhD candidate at the department of Experimental Immunology at the Amsterdam UMC, location AMC. Under the supervision of dr. Neeltje Kootstra, prof. dr. Theo Geijtenbeek, and dr. Carla Ribeiro she works on HIV-1 cure research particularly focusing on the elimination of the viral reservoir. Her project is part of the Target2Cure consortium, a joint research program comprised of several research groups and partners from industry.

Session 1: 0.03



Jean-Michel Molina

University of Paris Diderot, Saint-Louis Hospital

Jean-Michel Molina, MD, Ph.D., is a Professor of Infectious Diseases at the University of Paris, and Head of the Infectious Diseases Department at the Saint-Louis and Lariboisiere Hospitals in Paris, France. The Department of Infectious Diseases is mainly involved in the care of immunocompromised patients, patients with HIV infection, bone marrow and renal transplant recipients, and patients with hematological malignancies and cancers. Professor Molina's primary clinical research interest focuses on HIV infection, initially the treatment of AIDS-related opportunistic infections, and then the treatment of HIV infection.

He has been involved in a number of studies assessing new drugs or new strategies for the treatment of HIV infection. A cohort of more than 6,000 patients with HIV infection is followed in his department. He is also a member of the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research (INSERM) U944 team at the Saint-Louis Hospital investigating cell biology of viral infections.

Session 3: plenary speaker



Jeffrey Koole

GGD Amsterdam

Jeffrey Koole (1992) graduated as a medical doctor with honors at the Amsterdam UMC, location AMC (Faculty of Medicine, University of Amsterdam) in 2020. Currently, he works as a PhD-student at the department of Infectious Diseases, Research and Prevention at the Public Health Service of Amsterdam (GGD Amsterdam). His research includes data collected within the Amsterdam Cohort Studies, which is an open, observational cohort study on the epidemiology, determinants, course of infections and pathogenesis of HIV, sexually transmitted, blood-borne and other infections among men who have sex with men, initiated in 1984.

Session 2: 0.05



Judith Auerbach

University of California

Judith Auerbach is Professor in the School of Medicine at the University of California San Francisco and an independent science and policy consultant. She previously served in leadership positions at the National Institutes of Health, White House Office of Science & Technology Policy, amfAR, and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. Dr. Auerbach received her Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of California, Berkeley, and has taught, presented, and published widely in the areas of social factors that influence HIV epidemics and related health inequalities, attention to women in the HIV/AIDS response, and community-engaged research. She has served on numerous professional and advisory groups, including the Scientific Advisory Board of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the Governing Council of the International AIDS Society, the NIH Office of AIDS Research Advisory Council, and the Advisory Group of the Women's Research Initiative on HIV/AIDS. Dr. Auerbach has received numerous awards, including election in 2022 as a lifetime Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Session 2: plenary speaker



Kim Sigaloff

Amsterdam UMC

Dr. Kim Sigaloff is an infectious diseases specialist at the Amsterdam UMC. Her research interests include the prevention of antimicrobial resistance by promoting evidence-based antibiotic therapy. In her past role at the Amsterdam Institute for Global Health and Development (AIGHD), she conducted studies on the long-term clinical outcomes of people receiving antiretroviral treatment in sub-Saharan Africa. Her research focused on the impact viral load monitoring and drug-resistance development on the outcome of antiretroviral treatment, among adults and children.

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Klaske Vliegenthart-Jongbloed

Erasmus MC

Klaske graduated with honours as a medical doctor from VUmc and later specialized as an internist-infectiologist in Erasmus MC, with a focus on 'Quality and safety of care'. Throughout her studies she spent time in Zambia, Suriname and Tanzania, reflecting her international interest. She is passionate about multidisciplinary and international collaboration, training and education and the complex but fundamental relationship between infectious diseases and determinants of health.

The last 2 years she worked and lived in Tanzania, discovering that evidence based medicine alone does not drive improvement. It requires setting specific translation and implementation efforts, as well as interventions to reduce disparities, giving special attention to cost-effectiveness. She co-initiated local antimicrobial stewardship activities as well as a local #aware.hiv Tanzania campaign with the goal of enhanced hiv testing. Her active engagement with #aware.hiv resulted in the recent start of a PhD trajectory, to further develop and expand #aware.hiv within the European setting.

Session 4: 0.14



Marit van Gils

Amsterdam UMC

Marit van Gils (1982) studied medical pharmaceutical sciences at the University of Groningen, the Netherlands. She has performed her Ph.D. research (2007-2011) at the University of Amsterdam in the lab of Dr. Schuitemaker on the humoral immune response after HIV-1 infection. She continued her career as a postdoctoral fellow in the lab of Dr. Sanders working on the development of an HIV protein vaccine at the Academic Medical Center in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Marit has also performed part of her postdoctoral research at the Scripps Research Institute in San Diego, USA in the lab of Dr. Burton (2013-2016) and in 2017 started her own research group at the Amsterdam UMC, the Netherlands, studying the antibody and B cell responses after infection and vaccination, including HIV-1, Influenza and SARS-CoV-2.

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Markella Zanni

Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard University

Dr. Markella Zanni is an Associate Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. She also serves as Associate Chief and Director of Women's Health Research in the Metabolism Unit at Massachusetts General Hospital. Dr. Zanni received her A.B. from Harvard College summa cum laude and her M.D. from Harvard Medical School as a Paul and Daisy Soros Fellow. She leads a clinical/translational research program investigating sex-specific mechanisms of myocardial infarction and heart failure among people with HIV. She is also a Vice Chair of the international Randomized Trial to Prevent Vascular Events in HIV (REPRIEVE). Dr. Zanni has served as Principal Investigator on multiple R01 research grants and a K24 mentoring grant from the National Institutes of Health, as well as research grants the Harvard Catalyst, the Harvard University Center for AIDS Research, and the Nutrition Obesity Research Center at Harvard. She has published >100 original manuscripts in journals across the disciplines of ID/HIV, cardiology, and endocrinology/women's health. She has a strong commitment to research mentoring and is the recipient of the Stephen Calderwood Excellence in Mentoring Award at MGH and the Mentoring for Inclusion and Diversity Award through the Nutrition Obesity Research Center at Harvard.

Session 4: introduction talk, panel Cardiovascular Disease Pathogenesis and Prevention: should we think differently about women with HIV?



Mathias Lichterfeld

Harvard Medical School, Brigham and Women's Hospital and Massachusetts General Hospital

Dr. Lichterfeld is an infectious disease physician at BWH/MGH in Boston and a Professor at HMS. He is also Member of the Ragon Institute and of the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard. He received his medical degree from the University of Heidelberg, Germany and completed his residency at Massachusetts General Hospital. In 2008-2011, he was an infectious disease fellow at the Brigham and Women's Hospital and at Massachusetts General Hospital, with Dr. Eric Rosenberg as his mentor. He is a member of the American Association for Clinical Investigation, a fellow of the Infectious Disease Society of America, and has served as a chartered member of several study sections at the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Lichterfeld's research interests focus on retroviral infections, specifically on HIV-1. His laboratory explores how HIV-1 can persist in the human body for a lifetime, despite very effective antiretroviral therapy that is available now; these studies involve a platform of recently-developed technologies for single-cell profiling of virally-infected cells. Dr. Lichterfeld also leads clinical trials in which novel therapeutic approaches for HIV eradication and cure are evaluated; several of these studies are currently enrolling new patients. In collaboration with investigators from the Harvard School of Public Health, Dr. Lichterfeld's lab also participates as a co-investigator in clinical trials with HIV-1-infected infants from Botswana.

Session 1: plenary speaker



Natasja van Holten

LUMC

Natasja van Holten has been working as a HIV nurse consultant at Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC) in Leiden since 2015. From 2017 to 2021 she was treasurer on the board of the Dutch Society of HIV nurses (V&VN VCH) and she has been chair of this department since January 2021. The VCH has distinguished itself for 36 years as one of the first professional and organized departments for specialized nurses. In '40 years of HIV', fewer and fewer nurses and nurse practitioners specialized in HIV-care have experienced all decades from AIDS to now HIV care in the Netherlands. Including herself. Even today, that knowledge, expertise, and activism remain very valuable for our current and new generation of nurse professionals in Dutch HIV care. As chairman, she considers it is an honor to represent the VCH with all cooperation partners.

Session 4: chair, panel Cardiovascular Disease Pathogenesis and Prevention: should we think differently about women with HIV?



Peter Reiss

Amsterdam UMC, University of Amsterdam, AIGHD

Peter Reiss is Emeritus Professor of Medicine at the Amsterdam UMC, University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands. He maintains a guest appointment in the Department of Global Health and continues his research through the Amsterdam Institute for Global Health and Development.

Professor Reiss served as the Director of the Netherlands HIV Monitoring Foundation until April 2021. He is a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Pierre Louis Institute of Epidemiology and Public Health in Paris, France, the US NIH/NIAID HIV Vaccine Data and Safety Monitoring Board, and programme committee member of CROI and HIV Glasgow.

He served as EACS President (2008-2012), on the Governing Council of IAS (2006 – 2014), and as co-chair of the 22nd International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2018). Professor Reiss is clinical HIV section editor for Antiviral Therapy. His research largely focuses on the long-term complications of HIV and HIV treatment, and more particularly in relation to ageing.

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Piter Oosterhof

OLVG, Radboudumc

Piter Oosterhof graduated in 2012 from the University of Groningen. Since 2013, he has been working in the hospital pharmacy of OLVG in Amsterdam, where he completed his training as an outpatient pharmacist. Since 2021, he has also been undergoing training as a hospital pharmacist at both OLVG and Amsterdam UMC.

His specific interest lies in infectious diseases, particularly in HIV. Since 2018, he started his PhD research at Radboudumc in Nijmegen on the subject of 'the effective use of antiretroviral therapy'. Additionally, he is actively involved in sustainable healthcare, with a particular focus on the environmental impact of pharmaceuticals.

Piter is a member of various committees within professional associations NVZA and KNMP, for example the scientific committee, product care, and sustainability.

Session 4: 0.12



Sarah Stutterheim

Maastricht University

Dr. Sarah Stutterheim is Associate Professor at Maastricht University's Care and Public Health Research Institute. She is an interdisciplinary mixed methods researcher with expertise in the related fields of health and social psychology, health promotion, and public health. Her research focuses on psychosocial aspects of living with a given condition or identity. As such, Dr. Stutterheim's research often focuses on social stigma and its effects, particularly among vulnerable populations, across a broad range of conditions and identities. A core area of her research is HIV, where she investigates psychosocial aspects of HIV across the continuum from primary prevention to testing, linkage to care, initiation, and adherence. She also conducts research on systematic behaviour change more broadly, on sexual and reproductive health, and on LGBTQI+ issues. Dr. Stutterheim's research is strongly informed by principles of community engagement, the use of participatory research methods, and explicit attention to inclusivity.

Session 2: chair



Shringar Rao

Erasmus MC

Dr. Shringar Rao (PhD) is an Assistant professor in the Department of Biochemistry at Erasmus MC, Rotterdam. She completed a B.Sc. in Microbiology and Biochemistry at St. Xavier's college, Mumbai, India and her M.Sc Molecular Medical Microbiology at the University of Nottingham, UK. Her PhD research brought her to McGill University, Canada where she studied HIV-1 and RNA-binding proteins, resulting in new insights into the post-transcriptional regulation of HIV-1 latency. Her current research investigates innovative approaches to cure HIV-1 by exploiting intracellular antiviral signalling mechanisms to trigger apoptosis and induce selective cell death of infected cells. Using sophisticated in vitro platforms like patient-derived cells or organoids to model infectious diseases, she investigates molecular mechanisms at a single-cell level to identify targets for therapeutic intervention.

Session 1: chair



Stefanie Kroeze

Amsterdam UMC

Stefanie Kroeze obtained her bachelor and master in Biomedical sciences at VU University with a specialization in Immunology and International Public Health. She did a PhD at the Amsterdam Institute for Global Health and Developments where she investigated immune dysregulation in people living with HIV from sub-Saharan Africa. During her PhD she spend time as a guest researcher at the department of immunology, University of Pretoria and the department of Experimental immunology, Amsterdam UMC. Currently, Stefanie is a postdoctoral researcher at the department of Experimental immunology, Amsterdam UMC, where she is part of the Target2Cure consortium and where she focusses on identifying the HIV reservoir.

Session 1: 0.01



Tom Caniels

Amsterdam UMC

Tom successfully completed his bachelor degree in Biomedical Sciences at Utrecht University and remained there for his master of science in Infection & Immunity. He was awarded a U/Select travel grant to complete his second internship at the lab of dr. Peter Palese and dr. Lynda Coughlan at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York. Tom applied for a PhD position at prof. dr. Rogier Sanders and dr. Marit van Gils' labs at Amsterdam University Medical Centers at the University of Amsterdam. His research focused on the characterization of HIV-1 vaccine candidates in preclinical models, but during the COVID-19 pandemic, he worked closely with dr. van Gils on antibody responses after SARS-CoV-2 infection and vaccination. Tom will continue working with his current team on a phase 1 clinical trial with an HIV-1 vaccine.

Session 3: 0.10



Vanessa Harris

Amsterdam UMC, AIGHD

Vanessa Harris is a clinician scientist working at the Department of Global Health and Department of Internal Medicine and as infectious disease clinician at the Division of Infectious Diseases at the Amsterdam UMC, University of Amsterdam. She obtained her bachelor's degree summa cum laude at Amherst College in the United States and then obtained her MD from Harvard Medical School. She was a Fulbright Scholar from 2002-3. She subsequently completed her internal medicine residency and infectious disease fellowship and PhD at the University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands. Her translational research lines aim to address global health disparities, specifically diarrheal diseases in low- and middle-income countries. Her work focuses on understanding interactions between enteric pathogens, the environment, microbiome, and host immunity. She explores hypotheses through in vitro organoid models, animal models, human volunteer studies, and clinical trials building on long-standing collaborations across high, middle and low-income settings.

Session 4: chair, moderator panel Cardiovascular Disease Pathogenesis and Prevention: should we think differently about women with HIV?



Vita Jongen

SHM, GGD Amsterdam

Vita Jongen is a post-doc researcher and epidemiologist at Stichting hiv monitoring and the Department of Infectious Diseases at the Public Health Service of Amsterdam. She focusses on HIV treatment and care, as well as HIV prevention and sexually transmitted infections. Vita has a bachelor in psychobiology from the University of Amsterdam and a master in epidemiology from the University of Utrecht. During her master she specialized in epidemiology of infectious diseases. During her PhD she primarily focusses on sexually transmitted infections, especially human papillomavirus and pre-exposure prophylaxis.

Session 2: presenter SHM 2023 Monitoring Report

