

SPRING SYMPOSIUM
YOUNG EPIDEMIOLOGISTS

EPIDEMIOLOGY & PERSONALISED MEDICINE

*UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT OF INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES
ON HEALTH AND TREATMENT*

3 APRIL 2025

Registration deadline: March 27, 2025

Register via: secretariaat@epidemiologie.nl

Location: Radboud UMC, Nijmegen

VVE Members €12,50

Non-VVE members €17,50

Drinks and bites included



INVITATION

PROGRAMME

14.00 - 14.10 CHECK-IN AND COFFEE

14.10 - 14.15 INTRODUCTION

SECTION 1: ADDRESSING HEALTH DISPARITIES AND INCLUSIVE SCREENING STRATEGIES

14.15 - 14.45 JEANINE SUURMOND – HOW HEALTH DISPARITIES CAN BE REDUCED THROUGH MORE INCLUSIVE AND PERSONALISED CARE

Discusses barriers in healthcare for vulnerable groups and strategies for making research more inclusive.

14.45 - 15.15 ERIC MOLL VAN CHARANTE – THE HELIUS STUDY ON HEALTH DISPARITIES AMONG ETHNIC GROUPS

Explores ethnic health disparities and the development of targeted interventions, including an app for personalized health advice.

15.15 - 15.45 LUCIE DE JONGE – PERSONALISED SCREENING INTERVALS IN THE DUTCH COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING PROGRAMME

Presents the PERFECT-FIT trial, evaluating tailored colorectal cancer screening based on prior fecal hemoglobin levels.

15.45 - 16.00 BREAK

SECTION 2: PRECISION MEDICINE AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES IN CARDIOVASCULAR HEALTH

16.00 - 16.30 ELISA DAL CANTO – SEX DIFFERENCES IN CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE

Examines pathophysiological and epidemiological differences in heart failure between male and female patients.

16.30 - 17.00 FLORIAAN SCHMIDT – GENETICALLY GUIDED DRUG DEVELOPMENT

Discusses the role of human genetics in drug target validation and improving risk prediction models.

17.00 - 17.30 SEAN BENSON – DIGITAL TWINNING FOR PERSONALISED MEDICINE IN CARDIOLOGY

Explores the application of AI-driven digital twin models in predicting cardiovascular risk and treatment outcomes.

17.30 - 18.30 CLOSURE AND DRINKS

SPEAKERS

Prof. Dr. Jeanine Suurmond is a professor of 'Inclusive Person-Centred Care for Vulnerable Citizens' at the Department of Primary Care at Radboudumc. Prior to this, she worked for around 20 years at Amsterdam UMC. Her research focuses on barriers in healthcare for vulnerable citizens. Based on these findings, she develops and evaluates interventions to overcome these barriers, such as culturally sensitive information for patients, training for healthcare providers, or improving collaboration between primary care and the social domain. In her presentation, Jeanine will discuss the importance of inclusive research and outline several strategies to make research more inclusive.

Prof. Dr. Eric Moll van Charante is a general practitioner-researcher. His focus is on preventing cardiovascular disease and dementia in primary care and public health. His key areas of interest include cardiovascular risk prediction for vulnerable populations—such as older adults, culturally diverse groups, and low-SES individuals—and the development of ethnically adapted interventions to improve cardiovascular health. An important source for this research is the HELIUS study (Healthy Life in an Urban Setting), which follows six ethnic groups in Amsterdam over time to provide insights into key health determinants and disparities. He will share more about the design and key findings of the HELIUS study, illustrating the importance of incorporating diversity in research and the potential implications for both scientific practice and clinical care

Dr. Lucie de Jonge is a post-doctoral researcher at the department of Public Health at the Erasmus MC. She has a quantitative background in econometrics and obtained a master in clinical epidemiology during her PhD. Her research focuses on the evaluation and optimization of colorectal cancer screening. As the day-to-day coordinator, she will present about the PERFECT-FIT study, a large randomized controlled trial within the Dutch colorectal cancer screening program investigating tailored invitation intervals based on prior fecal Hemoglobin concentrations.

Dr. Elisa Dal Canto is an assistant professor working at the laboratory of Experimental Cardiology of UMC Utrecht with the team of Prof. Hester den Ruijter. She has a background as a vascular internist and heart imaging expert (echocardiography), but has fully transitioned to research and academia since she moved to the Netherlands in 2017. She has a PhD in cardiovascular epidemiology (Amsterdam UMC, 2021). Her research topic is heart failure with preserved ejection fraction and microvascular dysfunction, with a special focus on women's health. In her presentation she will talk about sex-differences in the pathophysiology and epidemiology of heart failure.

Dr. Floriaan Schmidt has received training in public health, clinical epidemiology, and mathematics. Floriaan completed a PhD on methods for personalised medicine with the Utrecht University in the Netherlands. Following his PhD, he accepted a position with University College London (UCL). Currently, Floriaan has a shared position between Amsterdam UMC and UCL. His research focuses on developing and applying human genetics for drug target validation (Schmidt, Nature Communications 2020 & 2021). Additionally, Floriaan conducts research to improve risk prediction modelling by integrating electronic healthcare records data with information from multi-modal sources, including imaging, genomics and metabolomics. During his talk Dr Schmidt will provide an introduction to genetically guided drug development and its application.

Dr. Sean Benson is an Assistant Professor in the Cardiology department of Amsterdam UMC, specialising in digital twin models and generative AI. After Master's studies in Mathematics and Physics Sean completed a PhD on the LHCb experiment at CERN, focusing on AI models to enhance statistical analyses. After Marie-Curie and CERN research fellowships, where he developed real-time analysis models, Sean became Lead Data Scientist at KPMG, working on explainable AI models. In 2020, he joined the Netherlands Cancer Institute, leading a team developing deep learning models using multi-modal medical imaging to predict treatment outcomes and detect regrowth, before moving to the Amsterdam UMC in 2023.

On behalf of the VVE Young Epidemiologists, organised by

Liana Barenbrug (Radboud UMC)

Ellen Olthof (Erasmus MC)

Tim de Vries (Radboud UMC)