



Amsterdam Rheumatology Center for Autoimmune Diseases

ARCAID Virtual meeting May 19th 2021

The ARCAID meeting May 19th 2021 was the first one with all fellows present. It was unfortunately still an online meeting, however, nonetheless very interesting of course! The final agenda can be found on the website.

All our fellows prepared a 2-3 minutes video to explain their project. We are using these videos to attract attention to our Network by releasing them via LinkedIn and Twitter, and we make them accessible on the website in line with the LinkedIn release. Associated to the video presentation was a competition for the best video. After the presentation all those present (fellows AND PIs combined) gave the most votes to the video from Andrew Morrison, who has won a typical Dutch prize in order to blend in in the Dutch culture.:-), which will be physically handed over during the live ARCAID meeting October 25th.



ARCAID Lectures

June 21st Prof Boers gave a very interesting and entertaining lecture on something all scientists should learn to do well; Visualization of your data! Along with common mistakes, he also showed how to do it correctly.. and often it is also the art of presenting less instead of more.

ARCAID Secondments

One of the things in Marie Curie COFUND and ITN/ETN grants are the so-called secondments; the researchers will spend 1-6 months at one of the partner institutes, for example to learn new techniques, but also for the ARCAID ESRs to be able to work and communicate in multiple sectors and environments. In this way, ARCAID strengthens the collaborations between the Amsterdam UMC and these companies and graduated ESRs may even continue their career at these research sites. These rotations stimulate their and ARCAID's international collaborations as well as optimal dissemination of their research results.

Therefore, we invited the partner organisations to shortly introduce themselves and the opportunities for interactions with the fellows in the network. We will publish these introductions on the website and in the newsletter. Below the first intro:

Center of Experimental Rheumatology, Zurich, Switzerland

..is part of the Department of Rheumatology at the University Hospital of Zurich and the University of Zurich. It is a EULAR Center of Excellence in Rheumatology and specialized on molecular research in the field of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and Systemic Sclerosis (SSc). One of the main research interests is the characterization of the activated stroma in these rheumatic diseases. The Center has pioneered

epigenetic research and microRNA discovery and is using innovative technology to analyse genetic, epigenetic and transcriptomic changes in the RA and SSc stromal cells.

The focus of the research group of Caroline Ospelt lies on the analysis of the role of synovial fibroblasts in the pathogenesis of RA. Synovial fibroblasts from patients with RA exhibit an invasive and destructive phenotype, which is maintained under cell culture conditions and is characterised by increased expression of matrix-degrading enzymes and pro-inflammatory cytokines and chemokines. This aggressive phenotype is believed to be sustained by alterations in epigenetic modifications, such as DNA methylation and non-coding RNA. Latest data of the group also show a substantial influence of genetics and joint localisation on the activation of synovial fibroblasts. In this regard, different aspects of fibroblast biology are analysed to decipher how these cells are activated in RA, how they contribute to disease and how they can be therapeutically targeted.

Link: [The role of synovial fibroblasts in RA – Universitätsspital Zürich \(usz.ch\)](https://www.usz.ch/en/research-and-innovation/research-groups/epigenetics-and-transcriptomics)

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Interesting “Weetjes”/ Titbits

Did you know March 25th is the Greek Independence Day anniversary and in 2021 it was a very special day because it was actually the bicentennial celebration, since the Greek revolution occurred exactly 200 years ago.

Upcoming ARCAID meetings

As it is, we are planning the first ARCAID live meeting for the fellows and PI's to get to know each other October 25th 2021. The draft program (and updates) can be found on the website

([ARCAID Meetings \(arcaid-h2020.eu\)](https://arcaid-h2020.eu)). We have made room for all the fellows to very shortly recapitulate the research goal and then the progress so far, and in the afternoon, we have 3 guest lectures; two on the core facilities at the AMC (imaging and genomics) and one (tentatively) on the Hyperion imaging Cytoff.

Furthermore, we will shortly discuss the results of the questionnaire that was sent to the fellows in June.

For more information on the network and topics/input for the next newsletter please contact the project manager (Laurian Jongejan);

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