



Amsterdam Rheumatology Center for Autoimmune Diseases

Since the ARCAID Newsletter came out in July 2023, we again have some nice updates from our ARCAID fellows.

ARCAID retreat

Our ARCAID fellows organized a Rheumatology PhD Retreat, supported by our department, a transformative event dedicated to knowledge sharing and team building. From the 22nd to the 24th of September 2023 they went to the Ardennes, Belgium. The retreat served as a platform for them to come together as a community, exchange ideas, and strengthen the bonds that make the team truly exceptional. You can find a 'report' from this event at the end of this newsletter.

ARCAID Questionnaire

As a big COFUND project like ARCAID is also a learning experience for the mentors and the Amsterdam UMC as a whole. We organized a survey after the first year of ARCAID to see how the fellows had "landed". At the time we focused on the practical things like visa and work permits, housing, receiving a contract and the embedding in the lab. Although some things were more difficult because our fellows mostly started in the COVID pandemic it did show some issues we should try to tackle. After that, we did of course try to keep updated on any issues/problems our fellows may have or may want to discuss. Then in 2023, Ana Merino organized a new questionnaire for our fellows and this time the focus was more on supervision, expectations, problems they encountered and the way they were solved (or

not..), work pressure/work-life balance etc. The results were shared with the management team in November 2023 and sent to all PIs with the question to discuss with their fellows in December 2023. This is still ongoing, and we will certainly take the comments into account (preparing a 'lessons learned' document and we planned a discussion with the graduate school). So, thanks to Ana for this and hopefully we will continue to improve. This is a nice link to the mail that came in March 21st ..see below!

Research Code website online!

Good news for researchers: Research Code now available as user friendly website

"no more PDF, hidden on the research website". The renewed Amsterdam UMC Research Code is now web-based, and replaces the old PDF version. The code is fully updated and aligned with the harmonization of Amsterdam UMC.

With this new web version the Research Code is easily accessible and the relevant content findable via direct links to the content, instead of referring to a chapter or page number in the PDF version.

Relevant to all researchers

The Research Code includes 12 chapters on various topics, a.o. research data management, supervision and dealing with human subjects and laboratory animals. Eline van Dulmen-den Broeder (associate Prof. Pediatric oncology) helped putting the code online and updating the content. As a result, she read the code thoroughly. "There is so much relevant information in this document, all researchers should know where to find all this. And it needs to be readable and accessible".

Practical translation

On the website of Research Support, other useful and relevant codes can be found, such as the Netherlands Code of Conduct for Research Integrity, and its European equivalent. Fenneke explains: “the Amsterdam UMC Research Code is like a practical translation of those codes: how do we do this and what is in place at Amsterdam UMC. The national and international codes need to be more general to serve all research and researchers that need to adhere to them”.

Board of Directors: ‘put it on the agenda’

In the Foreword of the Research Code, the chair and deans call upon the Amsterdam UMC researchers: “make use of our à la carte menu for responsible research and to put topics addressed in this Code on the agenda of your regular team meetings, to discuss research integrity at research symposia, to pay attention to the wellbeing of your team members and most of all: to make it a habit to share your dilemmas and best practices with colleagues”.

For questions and suggestions about the Research Code, Fenneke Blom can be reached via researchsupport@amsterdamumc.nl. Please let us know what you think of the web-based version and how we can make it even more accessible and informative in the near future.

ARCAID Final Symposium

This is the last year of ARCAID and many of our fellows are finalizing their thesis (or will do so in this year). To celebrate the project and our fellows we will organize a final symposium October 24th 2024 in Amsterdam. Venue and program are still to be confirmed, but save the date and keep an eye on our website!

ARCAID Articles

Jiménez-Martínez M, Dankers W, van Baarsen LGM. The key role of the lymph node niche in the development of rheumatoid arthritis. *Joint Bone Spine*. 2024 Mar;91(2):105661. doi: 10.1016/j.jbspin.2023.105661. Epub 2023 Nov 15. PMID: 37977526.

Morrison AI, Mikula AM, Spiekstra SW, de Kok M, Affandi AJ, Roest HP, van der Laan LJW, de Winde CM, Koning JJ, Gibbs S, Mebius RE. An Organotypic Human Lymph Node Model Reveals the Importance of Fibroblastic Reticular Cells for Dendritic Cell Function. *Tissue Eng Regen Med*. 2023 Dec 19. doi: 10.1007/s13770-023-00609-x. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 38114886.

Parra Sanchez AR, Grimberg MG, Hanssen M, Aben M, Jairth E, Dhoeme P, Tsang-A-Sjoe MWP, Voskuyl A, Jansen HJ, van Vollenhoven R. Web-based eHealth Clinical Decision Support System as a tool for the treat-to-target management of patients with systemic lupus erythematosus: development and initial usability evaluation. *BMJ Health Care Inform*. 2023 Sep;30(1):e100811. doi: 10.1136/bmjhci-2023-100811. PMID: 37751942; PMCID: PMC10533702.

Parra Sánchez, A.R., van Vollenhoven, R.F., Morand, E.F. et al. Targeting DORIS Remission and LLDAS in SLE: A Review. *Rheumatol Ther* (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40744-023-00601-w>

van den Ende T, Ezdoglian A, Baas LM, Bakker J, Lougheed SM, Harrasser M, Waasdorp C, van Berge Henegouwen MI, Hulshof MCCM, Haj Mohammad N, van Hillegersberg R, Mook S, van der Laken CJ, van Grieken NCT, Derks S, Bijlsma MF, van Laarhoven HWM, de Gruijl TD. Longitudinal immune monitoring of patients with resectable esophageal adenocarcinoma treated with Neoadjuvant PD-L1 checkpoint inhibition. *Oncoimmunology*. 2023 Jul 17;12(1):2233403. doi: 10.1080/2162402X.2023.2233403. PMID: 37470057; PMCID: PMC10353329.

Chiara E Geyer, Hung-Jen Chen, Alexander P Bye, Xue D Manz, Denise Guerra, Tom G Caniels, Tom PL Bijl, Guillermo R Griffith, Willianne Hoepel, Steven W de Taeye, Jennifer Veth, Alexander PJ Vlaar, Amsterdam UMC COVID-19 Biobank, Gestur Vidarsson, Harm

Jan Bogaard, Jurjan Aman, Jonathan M Gibbins, Marit J van Gils, Menno PJ de Winther, Jeroen den Dunnen. 2023 Life Science Alliance Sep 2023, 6 (11) e202302106; DOI: 10.26508/lisa.202302106. Identification of new drugs to counteract anti-spike IgG-induced hyperinflammation in severe COVID-19 | Life Science Alliance (life-science-alliance.org)

Philippon EML, van Rooijen LJE, Khodadust F, van Hamburg JP, van der Laken CJ and Tas SW (2023) A novel 3D spheroid model of rheumatoid arthritis synovial tissue incorporating fibroblasts, endothelial cells, and macrophages. *Front. Immunol.* 14:1188835. doi: 10.3389/fimmu.2023.1188835

Rogier C, Frazzei G, Kortekaas MC, Verstappen M, Ohrndorf S, van Mulligen E, van Vollenhoven RF, van Schaardenburg D, de Jong PHP, van der Helm-van Mil AHM. An ultrasound negative for subclinical synovitis in arthralgia patients: is it helpful in identifying those not developing arthritis? *Rheumatology (Oxford)*. 2022 Nov 28;61(12):4892-4897. doi: 10.1093/rheumatology/keac239. PMID: 35416958; PMCID: PMC9707035.

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

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ARCAID retreat

22th -24th of September 2023

Castle Mielmont



We are excited to bring you the highlights and memories from our recent ARCAID PhD Retreat, which took place in the picturesque Ardennes region of Belgium from September 22 to 24, 2023. The retreat was a fantastic opportunity for our ARCAID fellows to connect, collaborate, and unwind in a serene and culturally enriching environment.

Scientific presentations



One of the key highlights of the retreat was the scientific presentation session. Our talented fellows showcased their ongoing and completed research projects, initiating thought-provoking discussions. These presentations not only shed light on the cutting-edge research within our community but also sparked ideas for potential collaborations in the future. After enthusiastic discussions many left the session with fresh insights and collaboration ideas for their future work.



Workshops

International communication

by Jordi Cabanas-Danés



Our retreat started off with an engaging online workshop on the topic of "**Intercultural Communications.**"

This session provided us with valuable insights into understanding one another better and implementing these learnings throughout the retreat. Communication is key, and understanding the impact of cultural background is crucial for fostering international collaboration within the ARCAID program but also for future projects.

Communicate like a Pro

by Dmitrijs Surenans



On the following day, we joined another enlightening workshop by Dmitrijs Surenans named "**How to Communicate Like a Pro.**"

Based on the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) Dmitrijs emphasized the importance of understanding an individual's personality and adapting our communication styles accordingly. These skills are not only beneficial for research but also for building strong interpersonal relationships and for learning how to better resolve conflicts.



ARCAID retreat

22th -24th of September 2023
Castle Mielmont



International dinner

The international dinner was a cultural feast for our senses. Each fellow prepared a dish that represented their own culture, sharing their culinary traditions and stories from their home countries. It was a delightful way to bond and learn about the diverse backgrounds of our fellow researchers. We tasted cuisines from all over the world and celebrated the richness of our community.



Exploring the Surroundings

Apart from the scientific sessions and workshops, the weekend provided an opportunity for everyone to refresh their minds. The stunning castle where we stayed was the perfect backdrop for exploring the beautiful Ardennes region. Many of us took long walks, enjoyed the serene nature, and shared unforgettable moments in this breathtaking setting.



The ARCAID PhD Retreat was an exceptional experience, uniting us in the pursuit of knowledge, collaboration, and cultural exchange. We look forward to building upon the connections and insights gained during this retreat in the future.



We are grateful for the shared experiences and the bonds that were forged during this retreat.

