

**ESP Advanced Training Centre for Neuropathology and Ophthalmic Pathology, Rotterdam, Netherlands**

Name of the Training Centre: Erasmus MC University Medical Center, Dept. of Pathology, Section Neuropathology and Ophthalmic Pathology, Wytemaweg 80, 3015 CN Rotterdam, the Netherlands

Chair of the Centre: Prof. Dr. Folkert J. van Kemenade

Head of the training program Associate Prof. Dr. Robert M. Verdijk

A training program is offered for 3 or 6 months. One candidate can be accommodated at a time. This comes down to 2 positions per year. Part of the program may be followed in the nearby Leiden University Medical Center, located a 30 min train ride away.

Specific periods of the year when the visit may be realized: no special preference.

Contact address for requesting details by the applicant: Associate Prof Dr Robert M. Verdijk, Dept. of Pathology, Section Neuropathology and Ophthalmic Pathology, PO-Box2040, 3000CA, Rotterdam, the Netherlands. Email: [r.verdijk@erasmusmc.nl](mailto:r.verdijk@erasmusmc.nl)

Accommodation and Documents: the applicant will receive help for acquiring visa. There is no support for accommodation and stay. No charge for the training will be raised. No costs will be covered by the department related to travel, accommodation, visa etc.

The Erasmus MC University Medical Center is the largest tertiary hospital of the Netherlands. Erasmus MC stands for a healthy population and excellence in healthcare. By conducting groundbreaking work, we aim to push boundaries through leading the way in research, education and healthcare. We have access to the latest equipment and techniques in a state-of-the-art environment.

The department of pathology of the Erasmus MC provides services for all subspecialties and receives over 35.000 specimen per year. The department employs 150 people including 18 pathologists and 16 residents in pathology. The Section Neuropathology and Ophthalmic Pathology consist of 3 neuropathologists and operates for both the university medical centers in Rotterdam (Erasmus MC) and Leiden (Leiden University Medical Center ) as well as the nearby Rotterdam Eye Hospital. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Verdijk is the chair for the section of Neuropathology and Ophthalmic Pathology and focuses on Ophthalmic Pathology, developmental neuropathology, muscle and nerve, Dr. van Dis focuses on neurodegenerative disease, and Dr Maas focuses on (molecular) neuro-oncology. Combined we receive about 1250 brain specimen per year, 150 muscle biopsies, 150 nerve biopsies and 200 autopsy brains. Half of the post mortem brain examinations are performed for the prenatal care center and clinical genetics department for the diagnosis of sporadic and syndromic

congenital brain malformations. These pediatric post-mortem examinations are supervised by Dr. Verdijk.

Every day starts with the general report at 8.30. The fellow will handle all neuropathology and/or ophthalmic specimen and will be trained in grossing and reporting in English. The fellow will take part in the preparation and presentation of the weekly brain tumor board sessions. There is a monthly molecular neuropathology meeting, muscle pathology meeting and ophthalmic pathology meeting.

There is a special research interest in brain tumours (Maas), ocular oncology and peripheral nerve sheath tumours (Verdijk) and degenerative neuropathology (van Dis).

Dr. Verdijk also supervises the pathology resident training program of the south western region of the Netherlands. All trainees in pathology in the Netherlands regularly do two rotations in Neuropathology of 3 months each. Residents in pathology, ophthalmology, neurology or neurosurgery with a special interest in Neuropathology and/or Ophthalmic Pathology are welcome and may come from any country (some came from as far as Malaysia or Cambodia), provided they have a good command of English. For non-native English speakers a certificate indicating CEFR level B2 or IELTS competence Band 6 or higher is required.

Assoc. Prof Dr Verdijk is counselor of the European Confederation of Neuropathological Societies (EuroCNS), lecturer of the EuroCNS basic course in Neuropathology and EuroCNS Tumour course. He has been Expert member of the editorial board of the World Health Organization (WHO) Classification of Tumours of the Eye and Orbit since 2021. He is Section Editor of the Ophthalmic Section for (Union Internationale Contre le Cancer of International Union Against Cancer ) UICC-TNM Classification of Malignant Tumours and expert member or the American College of Surgeons (ACS)/ American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC) ninth edition ophthalmic oncology panel. He is member of the International Collaboration on Cancer Reporting (ICCR) Uveal Melanoma Dataset Authoring Committee.

Publications: [Verdijk RM - Search Results - PubMed](#)

Dr. van Dis has a special interest in post mortem brain autopsy with a focus on neurodegenerative disease. She has a masters degree in neuroscience and is one of the board members of both the Dutch neuropathology association and the post mortem working group. In LUMC she is involved in the brain bank for various rare brain diseases: m Huntington, CADASIL and dCAA, with a close collaboration with the LUMC radiology dept. and the human genetics dept.

Publications: [van Dis V - Search Results - PubMed](#)

Dr. Maas is an expert in (molecular) brain tumor diagnostics and is a member of national and international guideline and working group committees including the World Health Organization (WHO) Classification of Tumours of the Central Nervous System, the EORTC Translational Research group and the Dutch Working Group for Neuro-Oncology (LWNO).

Publications: [Maas SLN - Search Results - PubMed](#)