

Translational Research and

Advanced Imaging Laboratory

Macrophage phenotype, Biomarkers and Molecular Imaging of Atherosclerosis



Dr. Carlos Pérez Medina Assistant Health Scientist, Centro Nacional de Investigaciones Cardiovasculares (Madrid)

Atherosclerosis immunoimaging by positron emission tomography

Dr. Pieter Goossens Post-doctoral researcher, Experimental Vascular Pathology, Maastricht University Medical Center MUMC+

Imaging macrophage heterogeneity in the atherosclerotic plaque

Pr Erik Biessen Leader of the Experimental Vascular Pathology Group, Maastricht University Medical Center MUMC+

Systemic and local contexts regulating macrophage inflammation in cardiovascular diseases

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Prof. Erik Biessen graduated with specialisations in Physical and Bio-Chemistry at Wageningen University. After post-doctoral fellowships at Leiden University, in the labs of Prof. Van Boom (Organic Chemistry; glycolipid synthesis) and Prof. Van Berkel (Biopharmaceutics; drug/ gene targeting), he was in 1994, selected as a 6 post-doc in the Molecular Cardiology programme. In 2001, he received the NWO innovative research premium incentive (Vidi) and in 2003 the NHS Established Investigator award, to be appointed Professor of Therapeutic Gene Modulation in 2005. In 2007, he moved to Maastricht University to lead the Experimental Vascular Pathology group. Prof Biessen has a part time appointment at the Institute for Molecular Cardiovascular Research, RWTH Aachen. He is partner of several H2020-ITN (EvolUtion, INTRICARE, CareSyan), and two Interreg programmes and is coordinator of H2020/ ERA-CVD project (AtheroMacHete).

Dr. Pieter Goossens graduated in 2012 at the Maastricht University, studying atherosclerotic plaque macrophage accumulation in the group of Prof. Menno de Winther (Department of Molecular Genetics). He then joined the lab of Dr Toby Lawrence at the Centre d'Immunologie de Marseille-Luminy in Marseille (France) as a post-doctoral researcher, where he investigated the mechanisms through which tumor-associated macrophages obtain their characteristic phenotype. In 2016, he returned to the Maastricht University where, in the lab of Prof. Erik Biessen at the Department of Pathology, he studies macrophage phenotypical and functional heterogeneity in the atherosclerosis context.

Dr. Carlos Pérez Medina holds a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, 2003) and a Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry (UNED, 2008). After a postdoctoral stay at University College London, where he worked on the design and development of radiotracers for positron emission tomography (PET) and single-photon emission computed tomography (SPECT), he moved to Mount Sinai in New York within the frame of CNIC's CardioImage program. In collaboration with Z. Fayad and W. Mulder, from Sinai's Translational and Molecular Imaging Institute, his research there revolved around nanomedicine and molecular imaging.