


Renée van Amerongen


scientist

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Education

2005 PhD awarded by the University of Amsterdam (*cum laude*)
1999 MSc awarded by the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (*cum laude*)

Current position

02/2017 – Associate professor (tenured) & MacGillavry fellow
Swammerdam Institute for Life Sciences, University of Amsterdam, NL

Previous Appointments

2013 – 2017 Assistant professor (tenure track) & MacGillavry fellow
Swammerdam Institute for Life Sciences, University of Amsterdam, NL

Research Experience

2011 – 2013 Senior Postdoctoral fellow with Dr. Daniel Peeper, Netherlands Cancer Institute, NL
2008 – 2011 Postdoctoral fellow with Dr. Roel Nusse, Stanford University, USA
2005 – 2007 Postdoctoral fellow with Dr. Anton Berns, Netherlands Cancer Institute, NL
1999 – 2005 PhD thesis research with Dr. Anton Berns, Netherlands Cancer Institute, NL
1998 – 1999 Visiting scientist with Dr. Peter Laird, University of Southern California, USA

Additional Courses, Workshops and Qualifications

2015 – 2016 Career coaching for VIDI laureates (UVA, Centrum voor nascholing)
2015 BKO certificate (basiskwalificatie onderwijs, university teaching qualification)
2012 EMBO laboratory management course for independent group leaders
(4 days, Heidelberg, Germany)
2005 EMBO practical course on primary cell culture (2 weeks, Monterotondo, Italy)
2002 CSHL summer course 'Mouse behavioral analysis' (3 weeks, CSHL, USA)
2000 Course on Laboratory Animal Science (ex art. 9 of Law on Animal Experiments)

Honors and Awards

2014 NWO VIDI laureate
2007 4-year fellowship for fundamental cancer research (KWF kankerbestrijding)
2007 2-year EMBO long-term fellowship
2005 PhD awarded *cum laude*
2004 NKI representative at the "Avond van Maatschappij en Wetenschap" (KNAW)
1999 MSc awarded *cum laude*
1993 National champion & best speaker in Public Speaking Competition for Schools

Grants and Fellowships

Main applicant:

- 2017 "Dissecting the role of aberrant Wnt signaling in breast cancer", KWF kankerbestrijding (517 k€, project 11082/2017-1)
- 2015 "In vivo tracking of Wnt-responsive stem cells: better and brighter", KWF kankerbestrijding/Alpe d'HuZes (265 k€, project UVA 2015-8014)
- 2015 Equipment grant, Nijbakker-Morra stichting (€4500)
- 2014 "Stem cells out of control: When the niche COMEs calling", VIDI grant, NWO ALW (800 k€, project 864.13.002)
- 2013 Aspasia, NWO ALW (200 k€, *declined*)
- 2013 "Developmental signal transduction pathways as targets for cancer therapy: Wnt signaling in the mammary gland", career development award, KWF kankerbestrijding (525 k€, project ANW 2013-6057)
- 2013 MacGillavry fellowship, UVA (320 k€)

Collaborative grants:

- 2017 UVA Grassroots proposal (€1000 to develop an online educational game to model intestinal stem cell division, co-PI with Gooitzen Zwanenburg)

Co-applicant/Co-writer:

- 2016 NWO ALW Middelgroot (500 k€ for a BD Influx FACS sorter, co-writer and part of the research team)
- 2016 NWO/ZonMW Bio Art and Design (BAD) award (25 k€, with artists/designers Lilian van Daal and Roos Meerman)

Grants and fellowships awarded to team members:

- 2016 2-year Marie Curie Individual Fellowship (EU Horizon2020, awarded to Katrin Wiese)

Invited seminars

- 2017 Cambridge Stem Cell Institute, Cambridge, UK (host: Dr. Bon-Kyoung Koo)
"Wnt signaling in the mammary gland: from mouse to molecule"
- 2017 Leibniz Institute on Aging, Jena, Germany (host: Dr. Björn von Eyss)
"Wnt signaling in the mammary gland: from mouse to molecule"
- 2016 CNRS, Gif-sur-Yvette, France (host: Dr. Nadine Peyri ras)
"Dissecting the role of Wnt signaling in mammary gland development and breast cancer"
- 2015 Breast Cancer Now, Manchester University, Manchester, UK (host: Dr. Rob Clarke)
"Tales from the mammary gland: How Wnt signaling controls (stem) cell proliferation and differentiation"
- 2014 Cluster of Excellence in Cellular Stress Responses in Aging-associated Diseases (CECAD), Cologne, Germany (host: Dr. Carien Niessen)
- 2014 "Wnt signaling, stem cells and cancer: tales from the mammary gland"
Sanquin, Amsterdam, Netherlands (host: Dr. Carlijn Voermans)
- 2014 "Wnt signaling, stem cells and cancer: tales from the mammary gland"
Laserlab, Faculteit voor Exacte Wetenschappen, Vrije Universiteit (VU), Amsterdam, Netherlands (host: Dr. Davide Iannuzzi)
- 2013 "The role of Wnt signaling in tissue development and maintenance"
Swammerdam Institute for the Life Sciences, University of Amsterdam (UvA), Amsterdam, Netherlands (host: Dr. W. Stiekema)

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- 2013 "Novel insights into the origin & identity of mammary gland stem cells"
Eli and Edythe Broad Center for Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research, University of Southern California (USC), Los Angeles, CA, USA
(host: Dr. A. McMahon)
- 2013 "Novel insights into the origin & identity of mammary gland stem cells"
Friedrich Miescher Institute for Biomedical Research (FMI), Basel, Switzerland
(host: Dr. S. Gasser)
- 2012 "Novel insights into the origin & identity of mammary gland stem cells"
European Research Institute for the Biology of Aging, Universitair Medisch Centrum Groningen (UMCG), Netherlands (host: Dr. G. de Haan)
- 2012 "Novel insights into the origin & identity of mammary gland stem cells"
Erasmus Stem Cell Institute, Rotterdam, The Netherlands (host: Dr. E. Dzierzak)
- 2012 "Novel insights into the origin & identity of mammary gland stem cells"
Cambridge Stem Cell Institute, Cambridge, UK (host: Dr. A. Smith)
- 2012 "Novel insights into the origin & identity of mammary gland stem cells"
Universitair Medisch Centrum (UMC), Utrecht, The Netherlands (host: Dr. M. Maurice)
- 2012 "Novel insights into the origin & identity of mammary gland stem cells"
Academisch Medisch Centrum (AMC), Amsterdam, The Netherlands
(host: Dr. S. Pals)
- 2007 "Novel insights into the origin & identity of mammary gland stem cells"
Max Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine, Berlin, Germany
(host: Dr. W. Birchmeier)
- 2006 "Resolving the role of Frat in Wnt signal transduction"
Stanford University, Stanford, CA, USA (host: Dr. R. Nusse)
- 2005 "Resolving the role of Frat in Wnt signal transduction"
Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX, USA (host: Dr. D. Roop)
"The mouse trap: Resolving the role of Frat in Wnt signal transduction"

Conferences and Meetings

Organization and chairing:

- 2018 Organizer and chair of the 2018 GRC meeting on mammary gland biology
(together with Christina Scheel)
- 2017 GRC meeting on mammary gland biology (Stowe, VT, USA)
(vice-chair of the meeting and session chair)
- 2016 Organizer and chair of the 8th ENBDC Workshop on mammary gland biology and breast cancer
(12-14 May in Weggis, Switzerland)
- 2015 7th ENBDC Workshop on mammary gland biology and breast cancer
(Weggis, Switzerland, session chair)
- 2014 KWF tumorcelbiologie (Lunteren, Netherlands, session chair)
- 2014 GRC on Mammary Gland Biology (Il Ciocco, Italy, session chair)

Invited talks international:

- 2017 Symposium on "Dynamics of adult stem cells and cancer"
Georg Speyer Haus, Frankfurt, Germany (host: Dr. Henner Farin)
"Wnt signaling in mammary gland development and breast cancer"
- 2016 Cell Press LabLink "The Organoid Revolution: Organs in a dish" (Amsterdam, Netherlands)
"Primary organoid cultures to dissect Wnt signaling in mammary gland biology and breast cancer"

- 2016 GRC on Mammary Gland Biology (Il Ciocco, Italy)
"Dissecting the role of Wnt signalling in mammary gland development and breast cancer"
- 2014 6th ENBDC Workshop on mammary gland biology and breast cancer
(Weggis, Switzerland, talk)
"Conditional gene manipulation in three-dimensional mammary organoid cultures"
- 2013 5th ENBDC Workshop on mammary gland biology and breast cancer
"Lineage tracing in the mammary gland: principles, promises and pitfalls"
- 2013 (European Network of Breast Development and Cancer Labs, Weggis, Switzerland)
Targeting Cancer Conference (inaugural meeting for the Cardiff European Cancer Stem Cell
Research Institute, ECSCRI)
"Lineage tracing reveals the developmental fate of mammary gland stem cells"
- 2010 Experimental Biology 2010 (Anaheim, CA, USA)
"Uncovering new roles for Wnt5a: Context is everything?"

Invited talks national:

- 2016 Opening symposium of the new VU/UvA O|2 research building (TedX style talk)
"5 things you should know about the mammary gland"
- 2015 SILS research day, University of Amsterdam (UvA), Amsterdam, Netherlands
"Tales from the mammary gland: How Wnt signaling controls (stem) cell proliferation and
differentiation"
- 2014 AIMMS annual meeting, Vrije Universiteit (VU), Amsterdam, Netherlands
"Tracking the developmental fate of Wnt-responsive stem cells"
- 2013 Trippenhuys meeting, Nederlandse Vereniging voor Celbiologie, Amsterdam
"Wnt-responsive stem cells and turnover of the mammary epithelium"

Talks selected from abstracts:

- 2014 KWF tumorcelbiologie (Lunteren, Netherlands, talk)
"Dissecting the response of the mammary epithelium to elevated levels of Wnt/beta-catenin
signaling"
- 2014 Wnt meeting (Broome, Australia, talk)
"Dynamic responses to Wnt signaling in the mammary epithelium"
- 2012 Gordon Conference on Mammary Gland Biology
(Il Ciocco, Italy, talk and poster)
"Developmental stage and time dictate the fate of Wnt-responsive mammary stem cells"
- 2011 Wnt-meeting (UCLA, Los Angeles, USA, talk and poster)
"Origin and behaviour of mammary gland stem cells revealed by Axin2-CreERT2"
- 2010 Wnt-meeting (Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden, talk and poster)
"Uncovering new roles for Wnt5a: Context is everything?"
- 2010 EMBO fellows meeting (Heidelberg, Germany, talk and poster)
"Uncovering new roles for Wnt5a: Context is everything?"
- 2008 EMBO fellows meeting (Boston, MA, USA, talk and poster)
"Alternative Wnt signaling: dissecting the modes of action of Wnt5a"
- 2007 Wnt-meeting (San Diego, CA, USA, talk)
"Tmem98: A novel negative regulator of the canonical Wnt pathway"
- 2004 Wnt-meeting (Ann Arbor, MI, USA, talk)
"Frat is dispensable for Wnt signalling in mammals"

Posters selected from abstracts:

- 2014 GRC on Mammary Gland Biology (Il Ciocco, Italy, poster)
- 2012 EMBO conference '30 years of Wnt-signalling'
(Egmond aan Zee, Netherlands, poster)
- 2009 Wnt-meeting (Washington DC, USA, poster)
- 2009 HHMI meeting (Janelia Farm, VA, USA, poster)
- 2008 Developmental Biology meeting (Santa Cruz, CA, USA, poster)
- 2007 Wnt-meeting (Berlin, Germany, poster)
- 2006 Keystone meeting on Wnt-signaling (Snowbird, UT, USA, poster)
- 2002 Keystone meeting on Wnt-signaling (Taos, NM, USA, poster)
- 2001 Wnt-meeting (New York City, NY, USA, poster)

Talks and posters presented by team members (selected highlights):

- 2017 SILS research day (Amber Zeeman, poster prize)
- 2017 9th ENBDC Workshop on mammary gland biology and breast cancer
(Weggis, Switzerland - posters by Saskia de Man, Katrin Wiese and Amber Zeeman)
- 2016 Wnt meeting (Brno, Czech Republic)
selected from abstract, talk & poster by my PhD student Anoeska van de Moosdijk
- 2016 8th ENBDC Workshop on mammary gland biology and breast cancer (Weggis, Switzerland)
posters by Nika Heijmans, Anoeska van de Moosdijk, Katrin Wiese and Amber Zeeman
- 2015 SILS research day (Nika Heijmans & Katrin Wiese, poster prize)
- 2015 7th ENBDC Workshop on mammary gland biology and breast cancer
(Weggis, Switzerland - talk & poster by Anoeska van de Moosdijk)

Professional Memberships

- 2014 – Dutch Society for Developmental Biology
- 2014 – European Network of Breast Development and Cancer labs (ENBDC)
- 2013 – Dutch Society for Cell Biology

Publications

For a complete overview of my scientific publications:



Visit my Google scholar profile at <https://scholar.google.nl/citations?hl=nl&user=zdq7fBIAAAAJ>

To read my PhD thesis:



<http://dare.uva.nl/document/17683>

Popular (non-)scientific writing:

- 2017 'Then and now' (on the impact of the seminal work 'On Growth and Form' by D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson), Amsterdam Science Magazine, 6th issue
- 2016 'Flexibility' (column/opinion piece), Amsterdam Science Magazine, 3rd issue
- 2015 'Then and now' (perspective, on the impact of the Nobel-prize winning research of Jacob and Monod), Amsterdam Science Magazine, 1st issue

Teaching

Course coordination:

- 2015 – 'Frontiers in Medical Biology I'
(3rd year BSc students Biomedische Wetenschappen)
- 2014 – 'Current Issues in Developmental Biology'
(1st and 2nd year MSc Biomedical sciences students)

Course development:

- 2014 – 2015 Took the initiative for and developed a new track for 3rd year BSc students ('Frontiers in Medical Biology I and II', started in 2015 – 2016)
- 2013 – 2014 Developed a novel course for 1st and 2nd year MSc students ('Current Issues in Developmental Biology', started in 2014 – 2015, together with dr. Yelena Budovskaya)

Lecturer/Instructor:

- 2013 – MSc program 'Biomedical Sciences' (UVA)
MSc1: - Molecular Biology of the Cell
- Biomedical Systems Biology
- Clinical Cell Biology
- Current Issues in Developmental Biology
- 2013 – BSc program 'Biomedische Wetenschappen' (UVA)
BSc1: - Highlight college 'Muismodellen'
BSc2: - Molecular Systems Biology (honors program)
- Cellulaire Oncologie
BSc3: - Moleculaire Medische Biologie
- Genregulatie
- Frontiers in Medical Biology I
- Frontiers in Medical Biology II

Guest lecturer:

- 2018 Guest lecture Leiden (*scheduled*)
- 2018 Guest lecture 'Organoids from the mammary gland'
(Utrecht University, MSc/PhD course 'Intro to Stem Cells', *scheduled*)
- 2017 Guest lecture VU 'Wnt signaling, stem cells, (mammary) development and (breast) cancer' (VU Amsterdam, MSc course 'Developmental Biology')
- 2017 Guest lecture 'ontwikkelingsbiologie en stamcellen: van kikkers tot borstkanker' (Leiden University, BSc2 course 'Developmental Biology')
- 2015 – 2016 Lecture on 'Wnt signaling in (mammary) development and (breast) cancer' (VU Amsterdam, MSc course 'Signal Transduction in Health and Disease')
- 2015 Guest lecture 'Stem cells and regenerative medicine'
(graduate school Systems Biology, course on 'Personalized medicine')
- 2014 – 2017 Lecture on 'Stem cells and Breast Cancer'
(Erasmus University Rotterdam, 3rd year medical students)

Mentoring

2014 –	Supervisor/Examiner/Co-assessor of BSc and MSc literature theses
2014 –	Supervisor/Examiner/Co-assessor of BSc and MSc internship students
2013 –	Supervising postdocs, PhD students and technicians in my own research team
1999 – 2013	Supervised multiple students (BaSc, BSc and MSc), technicians and PhD students at the Netherlands Cancer Institute (NKI) and Stanford University

Current research team:

Katrin Wiese	postdoctoral fellow	01/2015 – present
Yorick van de Grift	PhD student	02/2017 – present
Saskia de Man	PhD student	09/2016 – present
Nika Heijmans	PhD student	10/2014 – present
Anoeska van de Moosdijk	PhD student	03/2014 – present
Amber Zeeman	technician	11/2013 – present

Current internship students:

Jasmijn Span	BSc	09/2017 – present
Isabel Morena	MSc	12/2017 – present

Lab alumni

Visiting scientists

Cátia Rodrigues Pereira	2017	Erasmus Exchange student from Portugal
Tanne van der Wal	2017	junior guest researcher

MSc internship students

	<i>when:</i>	<i>went onto:</i>
Lieve Oudejans	2016 – 2017	internship at Oxford University, UK
Francesca Catto	2015 – 2016	internship at PRBB (IMIM), Barcelona, Spain
Lotte Hofstee	2015 – 2016	internship at Sanquin, Amsterdam
Jelte Hermans	2015 – 2016	Tesla minor
Bastiaan van den Berg	2014 – 2015	internship at Rockefeller University, USA
Saskia de Man	2014 – 2015	internship at CNRS, Paris, France
Anika Bongaarts	2014 – 2015	PhD student at AMC, Amsterdam

BSc internship students

	<i>when:</i>	<i>went onto:</i>
Britt van der Swaan	2016 – 2017	MSc Biomedical Sciences, UVA
Nicolaas Boon	2016 – 2017	MSc Biomedical Sciences, UVA
Tanne van der Wal	2015 – 2016	extracurricular courses in Toronto, Canada
Vivienne Woo	2014 – 2015	PhD student, University of Cincinnati, USA
Tessa Hemrika	2013 – 2014	MSc Biomedical Sciences, UVA

Service

Boards and committees:

- 2014 – Elected member of the ENBDC committee
(European Network of Breast Development and Cancer Labs)
- 2014 – Editorial board member popular scientific magazine 'Amsterdam Science'
- 2000 – 2002 Member of the PhD student council (Netherlands Cancer Institute)
- 1997 – 1998 President of the biology undergraduate student council (VU, Amsterdam)

Institutional service:

- 2017 Klankbordgroep Leiderschap voor Wetenschappelijk Personeel
- 2014 Member on Innovation Committee to advise the dean of the Faculty of Science

PhD thesis committees (external):

- 2017 – Member of the thesis committee of Alexandra Musch
(PI: Dr. Momo Bentires-Alj, University of Basel, Switzerland)
- 2017 Expert member of the thesis defense committee of Aline Wuidart
University of Brussels, Belgium (PI: Dr. Cedric Blanpain, December 2017)
- 2017 External examiner PhD viva of Alessandra Merenda
Cambridge University, UK (PI: Dr. Bon-Kyoung Koo, June 2017)
- 2016 – Member of the thesis committee of Dana Elster
(PI: Dr. Björn von Eyss, Leibniz Institute on Aging, Jena, Germany)
- 2015 Member of the thesis committee of Azra Mujic-Delic, VU
(PI: prof.dr. Martine Smit)
- 2012 Member of the thesis defense committee of Elvira Bakker, EUR
(PI: Dr. Ron Smits)

PhD thesis committees (internal):

- 2018 Member of the thesis committee of Blaise Weber, UVA (scheduled)
(PI: Dr. Maïke Stam)
- 2015 Member of the thesis committee of Marco Lezzerini, UVA
(PI: Dr. Yelena Budovskaya)

Reviewing (grant agencies):

- 2017 Expert reviewer European Commission (H2020-MCSA-IF-2017)
- 2016 Review panel NWO ALW open programma
- 2013 – National: KIKa, KWF kankerbestrijding, Longfonds
International: AICR/Worldwide Cancer Research, FWO (Belgium), ANR (France),
Wellcome Trust (UK)

Reviewing (journals):

- 2013 – Nature, Nature Cell Biology, Nature Communications,
Cell Stem Cell, Developmental Cell, Cell Reports,
Scientific Reports, British Journal of Pharmacology, Breast Cancer Research (and others)

Guest Editing:

- 2015 – 2016 Guest editor (together with Walter Birchmeier)
Special issue of the open access journal 'Cancers' focusing on 'Wnt signaling in cancer'
- 2011 – 2012 Editor (together with Roel Nusse and Xi He)
CSHL monograph 'Wnt-signaling' (ISBN 978-1-936113-23-1)

Science Communication, Policy and Outreach

- 2017 Skype A Scientist (video chat with a school class in Illinois, USA about science and cells)
- 2017 What's Next with Robbert Dijkgraaf in Tuschinski (385th UvA anniversary)
- 2017 Local organizer March For Science & contributor to the scientific program ('teach-in tents')
- 2017 Fluid Matter Special: Workshop on Biomimicry/How nature can inspire design (with designers Lilian van Daal and Roos Meerman), MU gallery, Eindhoven
- 2016 Chair of the selection panel for the FameLab competition (Amsterdam heat)
- 2016 Winner of the Bioart and Design Award competition (ZONMW/NWO) together with artists/designers Lilian van Daal and Roos Meerman; developed the exhibit 'Dynamorphosis: the beauty of inner mechanisms' (<http://roosmeerman.com/project/dynamorphosis>)
- 2015 – Twice a year I give a talk about 'Fundamenteel onderzoek naar stamcellen en kanker' at the 'voorlichtingsdag Biomedische Wetenschappen' for highschool students
- 2015 Interactive exhibit during the "Museumnacht" at NEMO Science Center on the use of fluorescence in biomedical research
- 2015 Talk at SPUI25 (part of VSNU U-meet in the week prior to "Weekend van de Wetenschap" ("Biologie in de 21^e eeuw: Het verborgene zichtbaar maken"))
- 2015 Wakker Worden Kinderlezing at the NEMO Science Center ("How does sunscreen work?")
- 2015 Participated in the Science for Science conference organized by the Nationale Wetenschapsagenda (question #137 on the final agenda is mine)
- 2015 Invited to contribute an image for the 2016 Scientific Calendar of the German 'Young Academy' (die Junge Akademie)
- 2015 Participant in the Bioart and Design Award competition (ZONMW/NWO), worked with Isaac Monté (<http://ateliermonte.com/pages/the-art-of-deception>)
- 2015 Participated in the BetaQuiz at the UVA Universiteitsdag
- 2015 Participant in panel discussion at the BCF career event on 'Academia versus Industry'
- Participant in panel discussion on the future of research financing
- 2011 (KWF 'Kennispodium')

Press and Publicity

- 2016 Wekker Wakker, Omroep Max, Radio 5 (30 Sep 2016)
Short interview about the buzz around Jennifer Doudna and CRISPR in the week before the announcement of the Nobel Prizes
- 2016 Volkskrant (13 Feb 2016), "Het leven in eigen hand" by Maarten Keulemans, interviewed on the use of CRISPR genome editing technology in scientific research
- 2015 Parool (21 Feb 2015), "Het talent" by Jim Jansen, short profile on my career
- 2014 Arte TV, six-minute portrait broadcast throughout Europe as part of Arte's "Europortrait series" (<http://www.vanamerongenlab.nl/arte/>)

Additional Training, Achievements and Skills

- 2014 – 2015 'Amsterdams Kleinkunst Festival'
(competition for the 'Wim Sonneveldprijs' 2015; audience award 3rd round)
- 2008 – 2015 Various non-scientific writing/performance workshops and courses (including creative writing, screenwriting, songwriting and 'kleinkunst'/cabaret)
- 2004 – 2007 Theater school "De Trap" (professional training, graduated in June 2007)

Languages: Dutch (native), English (fluent), German (intermediate), R (beginner)

Skills & Interests: Webpage design (HTML/CSS, Dreamweaver, WordPress)
Writing (song-, play- and screen-), acting/kleinkunst, flute, piano