



Name: Peter E F Ketelaar

Title: CEO

Description:

A seasoned life science professional

With almost four decades of biopharmaceutical and drug development industry expertise, Peter Ketelaar now serves as the CEO of iPsomics in Groningen, a startup “genomics CRO” as part of the UMC Groningen. He holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Chemical Engineering from NHL University of Applied Sciences in Leeuwarden and a Master’s Degree in Biochemistry from Groningen University.

Peter's long and extensive career is marked by pivotal leadership roles in Sales, Marketing, Business Development and for the last twenty years in General Management, involving CDMO/CRO commercial & operational assignments. He has made significant contributions to the growth of both DSM Biologics (now ThermoFisher) and PRA Healthsciences (now ICON), including setting up a new bioanalytical organization in the USA. His broad expertise includes growing an international laboratory organization to a leading global position and establishing strategic drug development partnerships with large pharma companies in Europe, Asia and the USA.

Peter joined the startup iPsomics in October 2024 as CEO, and will with the support of a PharmaNL grant, establish a contract research organization in the field of genomics and iPSC's/organoids to strengthen the drug development eco-system in the Netherlands by providing tools for personalized therapies and innovative disease models.

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Name: Floris Foijer

Title: PhD, Professor & CSO

Description:

A cancer and stem cell biologist

Following his PhD training on cell cycle regulation (Prof. Hein te Riele, Netherlands Cancer Institute 2000-2006), he trained at Harvard Medical School (2007-2009; prof. Peter Sorger) as a Dutch Cancer Society fellow and at the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute (2009-2011; prof. Allan Bradley) as an EMBO fellow. During this period, Floris developed in vivo models to better understand how genomic instability promotes cancer and contributes to cancer cell evolution.

In 2011, Floris joined the newly established European Research Institute for the Biology of Ageing (ERIBA) at the University Medical Center Groningen (UMCG) to start a research group studying how genomic instability drives cancer. Together with the lab of Peter Lansdorp, he developed a platform to quantify chromosome copy number changes in single cells ([single cell genomics, scWGS](#)) and with Maria Colome-Tatche [AneuFinder](#) software to quantify the scWGS data. Their platform has become a standard in the field and has significantly contributed to the understanding of how genomic instability and the resulting intratumor heterogeneity

contributes to cancer progression. The lab currently focusses on [the role of genomic instability in cancer cell evolution](#), [the immune response to genomically instable cancers](#) and [targetable vulnerabilities of cancer cells](#).

In 2016, Floris established a facility at ERIBA that generates induced pluripotent stem cells and assists with CRISPR/Cas9 mediated genome editing. Since the start, the facility supported > 140 iPSC and CRISPR projects and generated > 120 iPSC lines for more than 60 different research groups. In 2018, he helped establish the Research Sequencing Facility at ERIBA to support scientists with advanced sequencing applications including scWGS. To ensure long-term sustainability for these facilities, together with Peter Ketelaar he founded iPsomics, for which he currently is CSO.

[Publications on PubMed](#)

[Google Scholar profile](#)

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Name: Henk Heidekamp

Title: CFO

Description:

A seasoned leader of laboratory organizations

Next to his position as CFO from iPsomics, Henk Heidekamp is the Managing Director of three departments and one facility at the UMCG, including ERIBA one of the two founding departments of iPsomocs and the PARTREC research accelerator facility. In his capacity as the Managing Director, Henk is responsible for a vast and broad range of activities that go from financial and human resource management to the supervision of the daily activities of the departments.

Henk has a master degree in Toxicology and Nutrition. In his career he gained broad experience working in a laboratory environment. As a Managing Director he started his career in the Genetics department at UMCG. In 2010 he joined the new Healthy Ageing initiative ERIBA and participated in building up this new institute, including a brand new laboratory. In the years that followed new departments and a facility were added to his portfolio.

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Name: Marialucrezia Losito

Title: PhD, PostDoc

Description:

Experienced Scientist & Project Manager | Gene Editing & iPSC Expert

Marialucrezia Losito is a Scientist and Project Manager with expertise in CRISPR-based genome editing and iPSC technologies. She completed her PhD at AstraZeneca UK as part of the LightDyNamics Consortium, an Innovative Training Network (ITN) funded by a Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant at the University

of Durham. Her research focused on advancing gene editing technologies and exploring the interactions between Cas nucleases and DNA, including Cas12a and high-fidelity Cas variants.

After her PhD, Marialucrezia joined the iPSC/CRISPR facility at ERIBA (UMCG) as a Postdoctoral researcher, where she expanded her expertise in iPSC reprogramming, culture, and characterization, and deepened her knowledge of gene editing. She also refined her skills in sequencing technologies, such as single-cell and bulk RNA and DNA sequencing.

Now at iPsonics, Marialucrezia combines her scientific background with project management. She coordinates research efforts, manages cross-functional teams, and works closely with clients to design custom projects that meet their specific needs. She oversees project execution, ensuring they align with both scientific goals and client expectations.

Her work is dedicated to advancing innovative solutions in gene editing and disease modeling, contributing to the development of personalized medicine and therapeutic applications.

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Name: Iris Jonkers

Title: PhD, Associate Professor

Description:

An experienced immune-genetics scientist

Iris is a researcher who applies her fundamental background in transcription regulation to the study of autoimmunity, with a special focus on celiac disease (CD) and multiple sclerosis. After a postdoc at Cornell

University, USA, she was recruited by Professor Cisca Wijmenga to the University Medical Center Groningen, the Netherlands, and started her own group with support of a Rosalind Franklin Fellowship, a Dutch Science Foundation (NWO) Vidi grant and a MS-Research grant. She closely collaborates with Associate Professor Sebo Withoff to lead a diverse multi-disciplinary research team to elucidate the molecular and genetic underpinnings of CD. As a second-line Netherlands Organ on chip Initiative (NOCI) PI, Iris expanded her expertise and network to create complex human models. She is a prominent member of the CD community as evidenced by her membership of the scientific advisory board of the Dutch CD patient Society (NCV), her participation in national and international CD patient forums and her role as treasurer and president-elect of the International Society for Study of Celiac Disease. She is an invited speaker at CD and gastroenterology conferences such as ICDS, the NIAID-NIDDK Celiac Disease Workshop and ESPGHAN. She is passionate about education which has culminated in her role as programme director of the Biomedical Sciences MSc programme of the University of Groningen.

Iris uses genomics and genetics in combination with patient-derived materials to understand how the genetics associated with CD impact disease processes. She strongly believes in multi-disciplinary research, in which complex models are utilized to generate insights in transcriptional, epigenetic, and genetic responses in CD. She performed the largest CD-specific expression quantitative trait locus analysis to date and focusses on determining transcriptional responses in biopsies and patient-derived primary cells using both bulk- and single-cell-RNAseq. To investigate genetic effects in patient-specific materials, she has established the CeDNN cohort to collect biomaterials, clinical data and questionnaires for CD patients and controls. As a member of

PreventCD, a cohort collecting longitudinal data of CD patients, she identified cell-specific CD biomarkers in blood. Moreover, Iris participated in TIMID, a consortium to evaluate variation in autoimmunity to identify biomarkers specific to CD and potential treatment targets. Lastly, as a NOCI member, she contributed to the small intestine on chip establishment to interrogate the role of genetics in CD, using human pluripotent stem cells from CD patients and controls.

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Name: Sebo Withoff

Title: PhD, Associate Professor

Description:

An experienced organ-on-a-chip scientist

After studying Biology at Groningen University, Sebo obtained his PhD (chemotherapy resistance mechanisms in lung cancer) in the Medical Sciences at the University Medical Center in Groningen where he also conducted post-doc research in the fields of oncology and tumor immunology. After 8 years and two positions in the United States (The Salk Institute – Dept. of Genetics, La Jolla & St Jude Children’s Research Hospital – Dept. of Immunology, Memphis) he returned to Groningen in 2011 where he, as an associate professor, now co-chairs the Immunogenetics Lab of the Dept. of Genetics of the UMCG and is a member of the management team of the Dept. of Genetics.

In his post-doc positions Sebo was able to work at novel developments in the oncology and immunotherapy fields like Semliki Forest virus-based gene therapy approaches, bi-specific antibody technology, lentiviral delivery systems, and next generation sequencing methods. Back in Groningen he applied this expertise initially to study the role of micro-RNAs and long non-coding RNAs in complex genetic disorders with a focus on celiac disease.

Since 2017 Sebo leads the intestine-on-chip program of the NWO Gravitation project “Netherlands Organ-on-Chip Initiative” (NOCI). He uses human stem cell-based intestine-on-chip systems, but also ‘standard’ organoid models, and organoid-immune cell co-cultures to study the role of epigenetic, genetic, and environmental factors in complex genetic diseases like celiac disease. Because he uses stem cells of healthy and diseased human donors these models encompass the genetic predisposition for health and disease and therefore represent the perfect precision medicine models for studying health and disease. In the Groningen Microbiome Hub he is working on the introduction of the human microbiome into the intestine-on-chip platform, which can be applied to the study of mucosal immune system homeostasis in intestinal complex diseases (e.g. celiac disease, inflammatory bowel syndrome, colorectal cancer), to investigate first-pass drug metabolism, and nutrient uptake.

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Name: Eugene Berezikov

Title: PhD, Professor

Description:

A pioneer in integrating genomics and bioinformatics

Eugene is a Professor of Stem Cell Biology, Regeneration, and Ageing at the University of Groningen and a Group Leader at the European Research Institute for the Biology of Ageing (ERIBA), part of the University Medical Center Groningen. He earned his PhD in Cell Biology from the Institute of Cytology and Genetics in Novosibirsk, Russia, in 2000, followed by postdoctoral research at the Hubrecht Institute in Utrecht, the Netherlands.

A pioneer in integrating genomics and bioinformatics, Eugene made significant contributions to the study of small RNAs during the field's early development. His work led to his appointment as a Group Leader at the Hubrecht Institute in 2007. Later, he shifted his research focus to establish the flatworm *Macrostomum lignano* as a model organism for studying stem cells and regeneration. In 2012 Eugene moved his lab to ERIBA, where he continued the development of this model organism. Under his leadership, his team sequenced and assembled the genome and transcriptome of *M. lignano*, developed transgenesis methods, identified stem cell markers, and explored the relationship between aging and regeneration in this species.

Through this research, Eugene has acquired significant expertise in genomics, including the development of novel RNA-seq techniques. This expertise has fostered numerous collaborations with both basic and medical researchers across various fields. Since 2024, he has served as Director of Genomics and Transcriptomics Research at iPsomics, where he continues to drive innovation in genomics and its biomedical applications.

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