



Message to the NESA community

Dear NESA investigators and collaborators,

With pleasure we present to you the first edition of the Netherlands Experimental Stroke Alliance (NESA) newsletter. Two years have passed since the last NESA meeting and ongoing restrictions have prevented us from organizing new NESA events. The planned meeting on November 25th 2020 sadly had to be cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions. Nevertheless, it is important to keep communicating! This first edition of the NESA newsletter intends to contribute to staying in touch.

We are happy to see that the current regulations and restrictions have not stopped the continuous advancements in experimental stroke research in the Netherlands. It would be great to inform each other about recent achievements and developments. We are therefore delighted to share the new date for the 3rd NESA meeting:

17-02-2022

In addition, we have established the NESA website and have been gathering information on animal discomfort from the NESA community by means of a questionnaire. Information on the website and the results of the questionnaire are summarized below.

We look forward to seeing you at the 3rd NESA meeting on February 17th!

Aladdin Taha
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3rd NESA Meeting

For the 3rd NESA Meeting, we have invited expert clinicians from different areas in stroke research, who will present the current state of the art as well as fundamental knowledge gaps, for which experimental research is needed. The main aim is to provoke discussion between experimental and clinical researchers and to identify new and highly needed targets for pre-clinical research. Prof. dr. Aad van der Lugt will also give an update on developments towards extension of the CONTRAST research program (CONTRAST-2). To stimulate discussions, we prefer a live meeting. However, if restrictions and regulations at that time do not allow for a live meeting, the 3rd NESA meeting will be online.



SAVE THE DATE 17-02-2022

Practicalities

Time	Thursday, February 17 th 2022
	10.00u-12.00u NESAs Junior scientists gathering (only in case of live meeting)
	13.00u-17.00u Annual NESAs meeting
Place	Descartes-centrum, Bolognalaan 48 in Utrecht (If necessary, we will switch to an online meeting)
Language	English

Preliminary program

Prof. dr. Bart van der Worp, UMC Utrecht	Neuroprotective treatment
Prof. dr. Gert Kwakkel, Amsterdam UMC	Recovery after the acute phase
Prof. dr. Marieke Wermer, LUMC	Sex differences
Prof. dr. Robert van Oostenbrugge/dr. Julie Staals, MUMC	Small vessel disease
Prof. dr. Aad van der Lugt, Erasmus MC	Imaging
Prof. dr. Karin Klijn, Radboud UMC	Intracerebral hemorrhage
Prof. dr. Aad van der Lugt, Erasmus MC	Update CONTRAST-2

www.nesa.science

For those who have not seen it yet, go check out www.nesa.science. The website states our mission and objectives. It also gives an overview of the participating institutions, research groups, PI's, and early career investigators. At the moment we are working on an extension of the website, to allow interaction between members via an active forum as well as the possibility to post vacancies. In case of any website-related questions, suggestions or updates, please contact Inge Mulder via i.mulder1@amsterdamumc.nl.

Results 1st NESAs questionnaire

The first NESAs questionnaire was aimed at identifying different animal stroke models that are used in the Netherlands as well as getting an overview of the specified discomfort scores in CCD project descriptions across centers. Participation rate was high, with nine out of ten NESAs groups having filled out the questionnaire. Seven of these nine groups work with *in vivo* models of stroke in mice, rat or swine, which include permanent and/or transient MCA occlusion models as well as models for subarachnoid hemorrhage. The pie chart shows there is variation in specified discomfort scores. In 25% of cases, the researchers felt the pre-defined score was too high. A national guideline could help in solving variation in scores between institutions, and we were glad to see various NESAs researches have offered to help developing such a guideline. We will be in touch with them. In case of questions about the results or topic suggestions for a next NESAs questionnaire, please contact Aladdin Taha via a.taha@erasmusmc.nl.

