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## Message to the NESA community

Dear NESA investigators and collaborators,

With pleasure we present to you the 3<sup>th</sup> edition of the Netherlands Experimental Stroke Alliance (NESA) newsletter. Already a few months have passed since the last NESA meeting in Amsterdam, which was a great success with the vibrant talk of guest speaker Prof. Dr. JC Baron. At the moment we are preparing the **5<sup>th</sup> NESA meeting**, which will be held **27 November 2024**, to continue the promotion of interactions and to present advancements in experimental stroke research in the Netherlands.

We would also like to inform you about the **retirement of Aladdin Taha from the NESA board**. Hereby, we would like to express our appreciation and thank Aladdin for his efforts during the initiation and continuation of our alliance. Good luck with your future clinical duties!

With the goodbye to Aladdin, we would like to introduce to you our new board member: Maximilian Wiesmann. More about Max can be found below.

You can meet Max and the other members of the NESA board, as well as other preclinical and clinical stroke researchers at the upcoming NESA meeting; we look forward to seeing you there!

Maximilian Wiesmann  
Inge Mulder  
Jeannette Hofmeijer  
Rick Dijkhuizen

## New NESA board member

Dr. Maximilian Wiesmann is an assistant professor at the Department of Medical Imaging, Anatomy of the RadboudUMC. His research focus is on the *in vivo* and *post mortem* study of vascular risk factors for dementia, such as stroke and hypertension, and their impact on both brain structure and function. This work aims to provide new leads and ideas towards personalized preventive strategies and treatments.

After achieving his MSc in Medical Biology and his PhD, both *cum laude*, Dr. Wiesmann embarked on a journey of discovery in the field of neurology and anatomy. His collaboration with the departments of Neurology and Anatomy led him to study the role of cerebral small vessel disease (SVD) in human *post mortem* brains using (ultra) high-field MR systems. This research provided detailed insights into the impact of chronic hypertension during lifetime on pathological features in SVD. Moreover, during both his PhD and postdoc he also delved into the investigation of multiple experimental post stroke

interventions ranging from different dietary approaches and voluntary exercise to an innovative immunotherapy paradigm targeting microglia activity (CSF-1R inhibition).

This comprehensive and multifaceted approach to research not only broadened the understanding of stroke and its interplay with other vascular risk factors but also paved the way for potential therapeutic strategies. Dr. Wiesmann's contributions to neuroscience have earned him prestigious awards, including the Dutch Neurofederation Ph.D. Thesis Prize. He was also a finalist for the 2023 Young Outstanding Researcher Award by Alzheimer Nederland. His work has been further recognized with a long-term fellowship from Alzheimer Nederland, fostering international collaborations with universities in Graz, Innsbruck, and Munich.

Maximilian is eager to leverage his expertise for NESAs mission and collaborate with the board to further experimental stroke research in The Netherlands.



## 5<sup>th</sup> NESAs meeting

At the moment we are preparing the 5<sup>th</sup> NESAs meeting, themed  
 “AROUND THE LESION”

The plenary session in the afternoon is aimed to provoke discussion between experimental and clinical researchers and to identify new and highly needed targets for pre-clinical research. This should stimulate interactions and promote advancements in experimental stroke research in the Netherlands. In the morning we will organize a gathering for junior scientists, similar to our previous meetings. Please let us know if you want to add someone who is new in your group, to the mailing-list for this event.

### Practicalities

**Time**                      Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup> 2024  
                                     10.00u-12.00u              NESAs Junior scientists gathering



13.00u-17.00u      Annual NESAs meeting  
**Place**            TechMed hall, University of Twente, Enschede  
**Language**        English

### Preliminary program

Keynote speaker:      **Prof. Dr. Jens Dreier** (Charité, Berlin)  
 Spreading Depolarization; from Animals to Neurocritical Care

#### Other speakers:

Dr. Maritta van Stigt (AUMC)	EEG in acute ischemic stroke for prehospital triage
Prof. dr. Ir. Michel van Putten (UTwente)	Origin of the EEG signal in acute ischemic stroke
Dr. Maximilian Wiesman (Radboud UMC)	Neuroimaging Stroke Recovery: fMRI and DTI in mice
Dr. Cora Nijboer (UMC Utrecht)	Stem cell treatment in newborns with hypoxic-ischemic injury

## Update CONTRAST 2

On 15 April, the CONTRAST 2 annual meeting took place at the Leiden University Medical Center, with participation from over 100 stroke researchers.

Prof. Dr. Christian Taschner (University of Freiburg, Germany) gave a keynote lecture about different devices used in endovascular treatment of ruptured and non-ruptured aneurysms. This was followed by updates from several clinical work packages.

Progress made in the preclinical and experimental work package, will be presented during one of the following CONTRAST 2 meetings.

For more information on pre-clinical studies in CONTRAST 2, please contact work package leaders Rick Dijkhuizen or Ed van Bavel.

## www.nesa.science & social media

For those who have not seen it yet, go check out the website with our mission and objectives. It also gives an overview of the participating institutions, research groups, PI's, and early career investigators. In case of any website-related questions, suggestions or (personnel) updates, please contact Inge Mulder via [i.mulder1@amsterdamumc.nl](mailto:i.mulder1@amsterdamumc.nl).

We would like to attend you to our social media channels, and invite all to follow, tag and share NESAs!



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