Outlook

CARIM Newsletter November 2026

From Cardiovascular Research Institute Maastricht (CARIM) <maastrichtuniversity@mailing.maastrichtuniversity.nl>
Date Mon 2026-11-02 13:22
To Koster, Tara de (CARIM) <t.dekoster@maastrichtuniversity.nl>

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Cardiovascular Research Institute Maastricht

CARIM Newsletter
November 2026



This newsletter contains information on the following subjects:

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Contributions for the newsletter (e.g. news of events and grants, important publications, societial impact related topics and research results related to CARIM's research) can be sent to t.dekoster@maastrichtuniversity.nl. Please submit the text in English and include a short title. The text should be max. 200 words. If applicable, include high resolution pictures and other documents.

Interested in more HVC news, go to https://hartenvaatcentrum.mumc.nl/actueel/nieuws

- Media moments

Vidi grant Matthijs Cluitmans



Dr Matthijs Cluitmans (Dept of Cardiology) is awarded a prestigious Vidi grant from NWO for the project 'Predicting sudden cardiac death'.

Every year, thousands of people in the Netherlands die suddenly from dangerous heart rhythm disorders after a heart attack. Doctors currently struggle to predict this risk. Matthijs will use detailed heart scans to investigate how scar tissue and disrupted electrical signals together cause cardiac arrest. In his project, researchers will build digital copies of the heart in which artificial intelligence rapidly tests millions of scenarios, uncovering patterns that previously remained hidden. The goal is to create a personal risk profile for each patient, so that doctors can deploy life-saving treatments for exactly the right individuals.

NWO has granted a maximum of 850.000 euros to 109 scientists from the domain Science (ENW), Applied and Engineering Sciences (AES) and Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) domains, as well as Health, Research and Development (ZonMw). With the help of the Vidi grant, the talented scientists can start their own line of research and further develop their talent.

ESCR Certificate of Merit Award Rob Holtackers



Dr.ir. Rob Holtackers (Dept of Imaging) received the Certificate of Merit Award for his recent work 'Improved Detection of RV Fibrosis Using Dark-Blood LGE CMR and Impact on Arrhythmogenic Right Ventricular Cardiomyopathy Diagnosis' at the 2026 European Society of Cardiovascular Radiology (ESCR) Congress.

This recognition highlights the importance of advancing CMR techniques to improve the detection of RV fibrosis and explore its impact on the diagnosis of ARVC.

Change of CARIM secretariat e-mail address

As of 1 October 2026, the e-mail address secretariaat-carim@maastrichtuniversity.nl will no longer be used.

From that date onwards, the CARIM secretariat can be reached at carim-office@maastrichtuniversity.nl. E-mails sent to secretariaat-carim@maastrichtuniversity.nl will still be automatically forwarded to carim-office@maastrichtuniversity.nl, so messages will continue to reach the secretariat during the transition.

For direct contact, Esther Wishaupt can be reached via esther.wishaupt@maastrichtuniversity.nl, and Tara de Koster via t.dekoster@maastrichtuniversity.nl.

Looking back at the first I'MCARIM PhD Council

Update I'MCARIM

This year, we introduced the I'MCARIM PhD Council: a peer-to-peer session where CARIM PhD candidates can openly discuss topics, experiences, and challenges that come with doing a PhD.

Without senior staff or coordinators present, the sessions offer an informal setting for exchange and our first meeting already led to some lively discussions over lunch.

Topics and concerns raised during these sessions will be brought forward anonymously to the relevant parties, including the EPC, FPC, PhD Coordinators, and the head of CARIM, ensuring that candidate voices are heard at the right levels.

We are happy to have launched this new format and look forward to many more conversations to come.

Create more impact with your research together with Brightlands

Introduction Cindy Hoeks



Did you know that Brightlands Maastricht Health Campus (BMHC) supports UM and Maastricht UMC+ researchers in creating impact beyond their academic work?

We are your Knowledge Transfer Office and help you navigate the journey from research to application. Whether you are considering a collaboration with a private partner, wondering if your innovation could be patented, dreaming about starting your own company, or looking for funding opportunities to further develop your research towards practical applications, we'd love to think along with you! To read more about the valorisation process, you can visit the website of BMHC and download the valorisation guide via the button below.

Our business developer Cindy Hoeks is the first point of contact for CARIM researchers, you can reach her directly at cindy.hoeks@brightlands.com if you have any questions or want more insight into valorisation options for your own research. You can also find her at the upcoming CARIM+HVC symposium on the 25 November. There are no questions that are too early-stage, so don't hesitate to get in touch!

Read more

Representing Division Blood

Vacancy new member CARIM Strategic Board



Are you interested in developing CARIM strategy? Are you committed to CARIM and would like to actively participate in various policy discussions? Being part of the Strategic Board (SB) is a stimulating way to be involved in CARIM. The SB currently consists of a chair and six members from the different research divisions, one OBP member and a PhD candidate. A position for the Division Blood is currently vacant. The candidate should hold an appointment as scientist for at least three years (postdoc) or have a permanent position (researcher, medical specialist, assistant professor, associated professor or professor).

The SB advises and supports the Scientific Director and the Executive Board in managing long-term policies. The SB is also a discussion forum and generates written visions of the future of CARIM and its survival in an increasingly competitive international scientific environment. The SB meets every month to discuss (strategic) issues such as research infrastructure, grant programmes, national and international collaborations and networks, HR-policies, interdisciplinary communication, and CARIM's visibility in the national and international cardiovascular fields.

If you are interested in becoming a SB member, please send your CV and a short motivation to esther.wishaupt@maastrichtuniversity.nl before 20 November 2026. The position is intended for three years. We strongly encourage women and members of underrepresented groups to apply.

Grants & Prizes

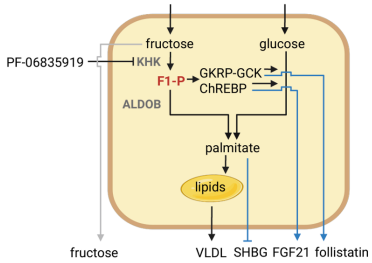
For an overview of the upcoming Grants & Prizes we refer to the UMployee pages of CARIM and the FHML Research Office. Please note that ResearchConnect is also a meaningful source for funding opportunities.

GrantorAI is available to all CARIM researchers to support the writing of grant proposals. It analyses the call and its requirements, helps you draft and rewrite sections, and gives structured feedback on your text and ideas. You can create an account with your Maastricht University e-mail address; access is arranged through CARIM. For questions or a demonstration, please contact Matthijs Cluitmans.

Please inform CARIM office in due time when you are applying or planning to apply for a grant. To allow sufficient time for budget planning this should be send at least 6 weeks ahead of the deadline. There may be additional requirements or internal deadlines for (personal) grants, so please get in touch as soon as possible if you are interested in applying. Grant proposal drafts and ideas can be sent to Danny Luciana, with Esther Wishaupt in cc.

Paramount Papers

Metabolic benefits of ketohexokinase inhibition in individuals with MASLD: a randomized placebo-controlled crossover trial



High fructose consumption, particularly from sugar-sweetened beverages, contributes to cardiometabolic disease. Here we study the metabolic effects of 6-week pharmacological inhibition with PF-06835919 of ketohexokinase, the enzyme that catalyses the first committed step of fructose metabolism, in a randomized placebo-controlled crossover trial in 15 participants with metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease.

The primary outcome was hepatic insulin sensitivity, measured by insulin-stimulated suppression of endogenous glucose production. Secondary outcomes included fat distribution, peripheral and adipose tissue insulin sensitivity, and fat oxidation. While PF-06835919 treatment did not affect body weight, it improved hepatic insulin sensitivity and reduced intrahepatic lipid and saturated fatty acid content. Besides these beneficial hepatic effects, PF-06835919 also improved insulin-stimulated glucose disposal, adipose tissue insulin sensitivity, adipose tissue distribution and nocturnal fat oxidation. These changes are accompanied by changes in very low-density lipoprotein particle size distribution and circulating hepatokines.

These results show that inhibition of fructose metabolism has beneficial metabolic effects that extend beyond the organs that metabolize fructose.

Koene EJC, Schrauwen-Hinderling VB, Basset-Sagarminaga J, Brouwers K, Op den Kamp-Bruls YMH, Mevenkamp J, Haans F, Schaart G, Kornips E, Jorgensen JA, Scheijen JLJM, Schalkwijk CG, van Weeghel M, Vaz FM, Houtkooper RH, Wong E, Kersten S, Saxena AR, Esler WP, Schrauwen P, Brouwers MCGJ. Metabolic benefits of ketohexokinase inhibition in individuals with MASLD: a randomized placebo-controlled crossover trial. Nat Metab. 2026 Oct 7. doi: 10.1038/s42255-026-01626-5. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 42844400.

Read more

Year-end deadlines: VMP, appointments and changes



Due to the year-end holiday period, People & Development (P&D) and CARIM Office will have limited availability from 21 December 2026 to 3 January 2027. To ensure timely processing, please take the following deadlines into account.

VMP input
15 November 2026 | Please enter all required data in VMP or provide it to the secretariat by 15 November at the latest. Please allow sufficient processing time for new appointments and changes. PSO needs all information in VMP before 1 December.

Connect & Recruit
15 November 2026 | Start on 1 January 2027:
The terms and conditions of employment discussion must be completed before 15 November for a C&R candidate to start on 1 January 2027.
Candidates whose terms and conditions of employment discussion takes place between 15 November and 1 December cannot start before 15 January 2027.

The final payroll run of the year starts on 14 December 2026. From 4 January 2027, P&D will be available again for all questions and requests.

Please take the processing times into account and submit your requests as early as possible. Should you have questions regarding the timelines please contact CARIM Office or P&D.

CARIM Office
Please be informed that the CARIM Office will be closed for the holidays from Monday, 21 December 2026, until Sunday, 3 January 2027.

To ensure timely processing, we kindly ask you to submit your requests well in advance of the holiday closure. Requests submitted shortly before or during the closure may experience delays and will be processed once the office reopens.

The CARIM Office will resume its regular services on Monday, 4 January 2027.

VMP procedure

Academic Events

PhD defence Ruth Willems, 6 November, 13.00 hours, MBB 4-6
Supervisors: Em.Prof. Hugo ten Cate, Dr Judith de Vos-Geelen
Co-supervisors: Dr Bas de Laat (Synapse Research Institute), Dr Mark Roes (Synapse Research Institute)
Title: 'Thrombosis and bleeding in hepatopancreatobiliary disease: Unraveling hemostatic imbalance'

PhD defence Jan Nagenborg, 16 November, 16.00 hours, MBB 4-6
Supervisor: Prof. Erik Biessen
Co-supervisors: Dr Marjo Donners, Dr Pieter Goossens
Title: 'Reprogramming macrophages: Environmental cues that drive macrophage phenotype and function in atherosclerosis'

PhD defence Xin Xin, 19 November, 10.00 hours, online

Supervisors: Prof. Rory Koenen, Prof. Ingrid Dijkgraaf, Prof. Tilman Hackeng
Title: 'Functional heterogeneity of extracellular vesicles in endothelial inflammation'

Watch online

Who's New?!



Vascular Surgery

Personalised haemodynamic modelling of arteriovenous grafts for prediction of vascular access stenosis and thrombosis.

Wrootchit Mishra

What are your hobbies?

Gaming, travelling, and exploring new places and cuisines.

What is your favourite song?

Nightcall by Kavinsky.

What is the best compliment you have received?

That my persistence is impressive, right up until someone has to pull me back out of the rabbit hole.

What will you congratulate yourself with in a year's time?

Surviving the first year of a PhD with my curiosity and sleep schedule reasonably intact.

What is your motto?

If you do not understand, keep asking why. Eventually either the problem gives up or you do.

Vicky Steyfkens

What is your signature dish to cook?

Pulled chicken buns.

What are your hobbies?

Swimming, walking the dog, doing drinks with friends, spend time with family.

What will you congratulate yourself with in a year's time?

Hopefully a successful first year of my PhD, and surviving it with a smile! ;)

What would you do in the coming year if money was no object?

Go on a road trip in South America.

What is your favourite drink?

In the morning a cappuccino, and in the weekends Aperol Spritz.

What annoys you?

People who are unnecessarily slow, especially in traffic.



Biochemistry

Women's Health and Bleeding Disorders - Advancing Diagnosis, Quality of Life and Care Pathways in BDUC-iN and Bloedserieus.



ICU

The research explores the

Yannick Damoiseaux

What is your signature dish to cook?

Poke bowls with fried chicken or fried shrimps.

What are your hobbies?

I play percussion in the wind orchestra and percussion group of Harmonie St. Petrus & Paulus in Maastricht ("De Greune vaan Wolder" for the locals), where I also do a fair amount of volunteer work. Next to that I like to play board games with family and friends.

What will you congratulate yourself with in a year's time?

If we manage to get the data combined into a clean, usable form and see the first signals that these models can learn the initial steps of clinical reasoning, I'd consider that the best

application of Large Language Models (LLMs) in the intensive care unit.

outcome we could hope for.

What would you do in the coming year if money was no object?

The first thing would be buying a house. Beyond that, probably dialling back my hours a bit and taking more time off.

Ubadah Tanveer



Biochemistry

Personalised flow modelling of iliofemoral deep vein thrombosis (DVT) using computational simulations and in-vitro experiments.

What is your signature dish to cook?

Korma; a rich, yoghurt-based meat curry from Indian subcontinent.

What is your guilty pleasure?

Watching reality TV while having dinner.

What is your motto?

Move fast and build things, question everything, and live passionately, as Nietzsche writes: “As long as men have existed, man has enjoyed himself too little: that alone, my brothers, is our original sin!”

What is your favorite song/band?

Take Me Home, Country Roads by John Denver.

What is the best compliment you have received?

A friend once told me that when people start talking to me, they feel comfortable around me. I think that is a pretty good compliment.

Cardiovascular Grand Rounds Maastricht



The Cardiovascular Grand Rounds are held on Tuesdays from 12:00-13:00, with lunch provided. Lunch will be available from 11:45.
Location: Meeting Room A3–B3, Hospital Level 3.

Upcoming lectures

3 November: Prof. Katrien de Bock, ETH Zürich - Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Switzerland
'Endothelial functional heterogeneity in health and peripheral artery disease'

17 November: Dr Julie Klein, University of Toulouse, France
'Premature vascular aging in chronic kidney disease and type 2 diabetes: from mechanisms to therapeutic targets'

1 December: Dr Eija Laakkonen, University of Jyväskylä, Finland
'Menopause and cardiovascular health: What we know and why it matters'

15 Deecmber: Prof. Stephan Rosenkranz, University of Cologne, Germany
'The heart under pressure: a biventricular perspective on pulmonary hypertension'

The steering committee for the Cardiovascular Grand Rounds consists of CARIM staff members of the three divisions (Heart, Vessels and Blood) and includes Renske Olie, Pieter Goossens, Rory Koenen,

Blanche Schroen, Julie Staals and Kristiaan Wouters. If you have suggestions for a specific topic or speaker, please contact any of the committee members and they will assist in scheduling the lecture with you. The scientific contacts are: Blanche Schroen, Miranda Nabben and Vanessa van Empel.

Overview events

Lectures, symposia & events

- Belgian-Netherlands Vascular Biology Organisation (BeNeVBO) meeting - 5-6 November 2026
- M&C Community Meetup Media en Persbenadering - 12 November 2026
- RESCAR Congress - 14 November 2026
- Scientific symposium *'Van preventie tot perspectief'* - 20 November 2026
- MASLD-EGIR Study Group Meeting 2026 - 23-25 November 2026
- CARIM+HVC Symposium - 25 November 2026
- Autumn meeting of the Dutch Pharmacological Society (NVF) - 26-27 November 2026
- CARIM+HVC End of Year Celebration - 10 December 2026
- 7th meeting of the Netherlands Experimental Stroke Alliance (NESA) - 11 December 2026
- Nach vaan 't Hart - 27 December 2026
- Farewell lecture Jos Maessen - 22 January 2027
- Inaugural Lecture Elham Bidar - 22 January 2027

KNAW agenda
Brightlands news

Media moments

Fatma Karapinar (Dept of Clinical Pharmacy):

- 'Oudere krijgt te vaak een pil tegen de bijwerkingen van een pil, en stapelt zo ongemerkt medicijn op medicijn' - *Trouw*
- 'Te vaak pil tegen bijwerkingen van pil' - *Seniorenjournaal*
- 'Deze pil op deze pil: een opstapeling van medicijnen' - *NPO Radio 1*
- 'Fatma Karapinar, onderzoeker bij Maastricht UMC, bestudeert voorschrijfcascades' - *ARCHYDE*
- 'Voorschrijfwatervallen: opstapeling van medicijnen onder senioren neemt toe' - *Head Topics*
- 'Fatma Karapinar waarschuwt voor gevaarlijke trends in voorgeschreven medicijnen' - *World Today News*
- 'Een medicijn tegen de bijwerking van een ander medicijn: zo ontstaat een 'voorschrijfwaterval'' - *MaxVandaag*
- 'Medicatiefouten op oudere leeftijd: Voor tien werkzame stoffen loopt het risico op tot meer dan 80 procent'- *Ad Hoc News*

Hartonderzoek naar verschillen tussen mannen en vrouwen en inzet robots centraal in Margraten' - *ZLV*

'RESCAR-congres over hartonderzoek in Margraten op 14 november' - *Regio Online*

Peyman Sardari Nia (Dept of Cardiothoracic Surgery): 'Meer dan 12.000 mensen keken live mee met operatie van chirurg Peyman: 'Het draait allemaal om de flow'' - *De Telegraaf*

Visiting address Postal address

Universiteitssingel 40
6229 ER Maastricht
The Netherlands

P.O. Box 616
6200 MD Maastricht

www.carimmaastricht.nl

Our mailing address is:
carim-office@maastrichtuniversity.nl

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