

**Prof. Liesbeth de Vries** (24 November 1950)

Medical Oncology

Current position

Head of the Department of Medical Oncology, University Medical Center Groningen

Professor Liesbeth de Vries has been awarded an Academy Professorship for her pioneering research in translational research. She is one of the very few researchers leading broad teams of clinical, laboratory, and translational investigators in developing and evaluating new chemotherapy regimens and molecular imaging in medical oncology. Her wide-ranging interests have led to four main lines of research: breast cancer research, the diagnosis and therapy of neuroendocrine tumours, and molecular imaging.

With respect to breast cancer research, she was one of the first researchers in the Netherlands to study the role of high-dose chemotherapy in solid tumours. She coordinated the largest randomized clinical trial (awarded EUR 10 million in funding) involving close to 900 patients, which was published in *The New England Journal of Medicine* and had a major impact on evaluation of both the therapy. Quality of life evaluations of these patients, published separately, were also important.

She is currently heading the successful MAMMOTH consortium, consisting of three university medical centres, Eindhoven University of Technology, and a number of Dutch and American companies. The consortium aims to develop new imaging strategies for breast cancer screening, staging and breast cancer target visualisation. MAMMOTH will strengthen collaborations between groups involved in developing new imaging techniques for breast cancer and new avenues for breast cancer treatment. Prof. De Vries is also a pioneer and world leader in the molecular imaging and treatment of neuroendocrine tumours.

During her entire career prof. De Vries has developed teams for translational research, facilitating research collaborations of basic scientists and clinical investigators to optimize both patient care and to develop diagnostics and preventive strategies. Her group participates in the KP EU TRIDENT consortium and the Dutch government initiative 'TOP Institute Pharma'. Her strong international position in this field is evident from her participation in many scientific committees and in invitations to lecture in international cancer societies.

Prof. De Vries is a superb advocate for medical oncology, as demonstrated by her close involvement and participation in many key international and European organisations such as European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC) and the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO). She leads a truly interdisciplinary research group whose participants include biologists, chemists, mathematicians, physicists, statisticians, epidemiologists and clinicians. She is a popular speaker at international conferences, has authored an impressive list of publications, publishes in such leading journals as *The Lancet*, *the New England Journal of Medicine* and *PLOS Medicine*, and supervises many graduate students and post-docs, who in their turn go on to work in top positions at prestigious universities.

Prof. De Vries is an outstanding translational investigator who has developed and implemented new diagnostic and therapeutic strategies in both research and patient care. As an Academy Professor, she will undoubtedly serve as an inspiration across the full breadth of her discipline.