

# EASL School 2027

## EASL Bootcamp: bridging the gap between science & medicine in hepatology

16-18 September 2027

### November 2027

Erasmus MC University Medical Center, Rotterdam, the Netherlands

### Course Organisers

Shilpa Chokshi, Luca Urbani, Krista Rombouts, Robert de Knegt

### Faculty members

#### *Internal faculty*

- Robert de Knegt (M, Erasmus MC University Medical Center, the Netherlands)
- Sarwa Darwish Murad (F, Erasmus MC University Medical Center, the Netherlands)
- Adriaan van der Meer (M, Erasmus MC University Medical Center, the Netherlands)
- André Boonstra (M, Erasmus MC University Medical Center, the Netherlands)

#### *External faculty*

- Shilpa Chokshi (F, University of Plymouth, UK) - organiser
- Krista Rombouts (F, University College London, UK) - organiser
- Luca Urbani (M, King's College London, UK) - organiser
- Saskia van Mil (F, UMCU Utrecht, Netherlands) – invited speaker
- Michele Vacca (M, University of Bari, Italy) – invited speaker

## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

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### **Day 1, Wednesday**

**13:30 – 14:00 Registration & Welcome Coffee**

**14:00 – 14:15 Welcome**

*Opening remarks (Head of Department),*

*Introduction of format, programme and Learning Objectives (Organisers)*

**14:15 – 15:00 Icebreaker introduction and mixed clinical/scientific group allocation (based on applications)**

**15:00 – 17:00 Understanding each other's worlds**

15:00 – 15:10 *What is translational hepatology and why collaboration matters*

Dr. Robert de Knegt

15:10 – 16:00 Keynote lecture 1 and Q&A

*Communication skills for interdisciplinary collaboration*

Dr Michele Vacca, University of Bari, Italy. (Intro: Luca Urbani)

16:00 – 16:20 Talk 1 and Q&A

*Asking the right question and choosing appropriate models based on disease stage to answer the clinical question*

Prof Shilpa Chokshi

**16:20 – 16:50 Coffee Break**

**16:50 – 18:00 Talks and breakout sessions (clinicians and scientists divided into parallel sessions)**

	<b>For Clinicians</b>	<b>For Scientists</b>
<b>16:50 – 17:20</b>	<i>Overview of experimental models: 2D, 3D, organoids, animal models</i> Dr Luca Urbani	<i>Common liver diseases and clinical pathways; liver disease classification, staging, and common clinical pathways</i> Dr Robert de Knecht
<b>17:20 – 17:40</b>	<i>Experimental design principles: controls, replicates, statistical power</i> Prof Shilpa Chokshi	<i>Diagnostic tools and biomarkers. Contextualising laboratory results in a clinical framework</i> Dr Adriaan van der Meer
<b>17:40 – 18:00</b>	<b>Live discussion</b>	
<b>18:00 – 19:00</b>	<b>Welcome drinks and Pub style quiz</b>	
<b>19:00 – 21:30</b>	<b>Dinner</b>	

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## **Day 2, Thursday**

**09:00 – 9:30 Welcome coffee**

**09:30 – 12:00 Talks and breakout sessions (clinicians and scientists divided into parallel sessions)**

	<b>ROOM 1 For Clinicians</b>	<b>ROOM 2 For Scientists</b>
<b>09:30 – 09:50</b>	<i>Molecular and cellular techniques: qPCR, Western blot, transcriptomics, proteomics, spatial biology, single cell technologies, multi-omics approaches</i> Prof Krista Rombouts	<i>Clinical decision-making: referrals, comorbidities, and patient risk stratification</i> Dr Sarwa Darwish Murad
<b>09:50 – 10:10</b>	<i>Experimental design principles: controls, replicates, statistical power</i> Prof Shilpa Chokshi	<i>Diagnostic tools and biomarkers. Contextualising laboratory results in a clinical framework</i> Prof André Boonstra
<b>10:15 – 10:35</b>	<b>Joint talk (clinicians and scientists together)</b> <i>Patient and public involvement and engagement (PPIE)</i> Faculty	

**10:40 – 11:10 Coffee break**

**11:10 – 11:30 ROOM 1  
For Clinicians**

*Interpretation of basic science data, data analysis and how to critically assess preclinical literature*  
Prof Krista Rombouts

**ROOM 2  
For Scientists**

*Understanding patient outcomes and relevance beyond biological endpoints*  
Dr Robert de Knegt

**11:30 – 11:50** *Reproducibility, validity, and translational potential of findings*  
Dr Luca Urbani

*Clinical trial and therapeutic framing: preventive vs curative strategies*  
Dr Adriaan van der Meer

**12:00 – 12:40 Keynote lecture 2 and Q&A**

*Spatial biology technologies in translational hepatology*

Prof Saskia van Mil, University Medical Center Utrecht. (Intro: Krista Rombouts)

**12:45 – 13:15 Lunch**

**13:15 – 15:30 Joint sessions (clinicians and scientists together)**

13:15 – 13:35 *Regulatory and logistical hurdles in translating lab findings to clinic*  
Faculty

14:00 – 15:30 *Building confidence in reading research papers*

One Clinician and one Scientist delegate each present a research article to the delegates and Faculty. Presenters will be selected by the Faculty in advance. previously to the School, top scoring delegates will be assigned to 1 paper. Each presenter will have 45 minutes to critically describe the article (in powerpoint format) and for Q&A and feedback. Articles will be pre-selected by the Faculty.

**15:30 – 16:00 Coffee break**

**16:00 – 18:00 Design of a translational research proposal integrating clinical and scientific elements**

Delegates are divided into 8-10 groups of 2-3 people each and design a translational research proposal integrating clinical and scientific elements based on research interests of each group. Groups will be created by the Organisers previously to the School based on application letters. The proposal (in powerpoint or equivalent format) will need to include: background, aims, study design, experimental plan, molecular and cellular techniques, data analysis plan, timeline.

**19:00 – 22:00 Dinner with ‘Speed’ networking with the Faculty**

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## **Day 3, Friday**

**9:00 – 9:15 Summary of day before & questions; powerpoint presentation uploading.**

**9:15 – 11:45 Presentation of translational research proposals**

Each group presents their proposals to the delegates and Faculty (10 minutes each + 5 min feedback).

**12:00 – 12:30 Post-school quiz and live discussion**

**12:30 – 14:00 Closing remarks, Lunch bags and depart**