

We proudly announce the first scientific Dutch Ataxia Symposium to be held on June 8 in the UMCG, Groningen. This one-day meeting will bring together a wide-range of ataxia scientists to increase and strengthen national collaborations. This symposium will also raise the profile of ataxia research in the Netherlands and develop opportunities for young scientists to pursue a career in ataxia research. This symposium will be the first of what is to be a yearly meeting.

The program will start at 10.30 a.m. and include a keynote lecture, several scientific presentations selected from submitted abstracts, a poster session during lunch, and a World-café at the end of the afternoon. During the World-café we will discuss the future of ataxia research in the Netherlands and the role of patient participation in scientific research. We will end the day with drinks around 5.30 p.m., followed by a network dinner, at own expense, for those interested.

We are very pleased to have Dr. Luis Pereira de Almeida as keynote speaker. Dr. Almeida will present his work on Machado-Joseph disease/spinocerebellar ataxia type 3 that focuses on disease-modifying and gene-silencing approaches.

Registration is free of charge and will close the 31<sup>st</sup> of March. All students, researchers and clinicians with an interest in ataxia are invited to participate. Please submit your registration and an abstract if you wish to present to m.veldthuis@umcg.nl.

Members of the Scientific Committee and the Medical Advisory Board of the Dutch Ataxia Society will select the abstracts for oral presentations. You will receive notification of selection on the 30<sup>th</sup> of April.

Looking forward to seeing you in Groningen,

Dineke Verbeek





