

## Dr Rossella Avagliano Trezza | Maastricht, The Netherlands



**ROSSELLA (35)** is an Italian basic and translational researcher, currently a post-doc at the Maastricht University Medical Centre in The Netherlands. She is a midcareer scientist at the crossroad of making choices for her academic career and balancing private life and professional demands and ambitions.

Rossella is an experienced and passionate molecular biologist with a solid background in different fields with

10+ years of laboratory experience ranging from biochemical research in yeast to molecular and cellular studies in mouse brain. She is currently applying for personal grants to build-up her own group on MDC1A.

**Rossella's mid-career mentors are Prof. A. Aartsma-Rus, Drs A. Ateema and Dr S. Tromp.**

## Dr Laure Gallay | Geneva, Switzerland



**LAURE (36)** is a MD, PhD specialized in clinical immunology and rare diseases, whose main interests are neuro-muscular disorders, and more specifically acquired myopathies. She has developed expertise in both clinical and basic science and works to link these two areas.

Thanks to the AFM-Telethon financial support, she is currently performing a postdoctoral fellowship at the university of Geneva, carrying out

investigations on the involvement of muscle stem cells in the pathogenesis of inflammatory myopathies. She aims to work in the public hospital setting, to pursue mixed clinical and scientific activities, and develop translational research in this specific field of interest. About the ENMC peer mentoring program: The ENMC mentoring program gives the precious opportunity to cross hierarchical and geographical barriers, and allows us to benefit from the expert advice of people experienced in the field of neuro-muscular disorders.

**Laure's mid-career mentors are Dr C. Wallgren-Pettersson and Dr A. Mammen.**

## Dr Paloma Gonzalez-Perez | Boston, USA



**PALOMA (42)** is a Spanish adult neuromuscular neurologist who directs the Myopathy Clinic at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, USA. She is specifically interested in diagnosis, management, and clinical research in the field of Myopathies. Her area of focus is muscular dystrophies. She has been a

recipient of the Clinical Research Training Scholarship in Neuromuscular Diseases funded by Muscle Study Group,

American Brain Foundation, and the American Academy of Neurology to study myotonic dystrophy type 2.

**Paloma's mid-career mentors are Prof. B. Fontaine, Prof. U. Schara-Schmidt and Prof. B. Smeets.**

## Dr Mert Karakaya | Cologne, Germany



**MERT (37)** is a Turkish pediatrician, currently in the final year of his residency in Human Genetics at the Institute of Human Genetics, University of Cologne (Germany). He is also working as a clinical post-doc at the same institute in the research group of Prof. Brunhilde Wirth. His main research focus is on neuro-

muscular disorders of childhood, on the identification and characterisation of their genetic causes and molecular

pathomechanisms - in particular Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) and non-5q SMAs. Mert had been previously selected for the early career scientist program and attended one of the ENMC's workshop in 2015.

**Mert's mid-career mentors are Prof. C. Bönnemann and Prof. M. Vainzof.**

## Dr Aurea Martins-Bach | Oxford, United Kingdom



**AUREA (38)** is a Brazilian/Italian basic researcher. Since 2019, Aurea is a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Oxford, where she leads the preclinical imaging research in the Physics Group at the Wellcome Centre for Integrative Neuroimaging (WIN). Next to this she is currently a tutor in the

Physics module of the MRI Graduate Programme at the University of Oxford, and she co-supervises a PhD student.

Aurea has recently received a seed grant from the Medical Sciences Division – University of Oxford to start developing her own research. Aurea also leads the WIN Global Scholars Programme, which offers training in MRI, mentoring and opportunities for career development to early career researchers working with MRI in the Global South.

**Aurea's mid-career mentors are Drs A. Atema and Prof. M. Rüegg.**

## Dr Nicole Voet | Nijmegen, The Netherlands



**NICOLE (39)** is a rehabilitation physician and senior researcher at the Outpatient Clinic for Neuromuscular Diseases (NMD) of the Radboud University Medical Centre, Nijmegen, and rehabilitation center Klimmendaal, Arnhem, The Netherlands. She is a translational researcher who, in her research

projects, aims to produce meaningful and directly applicable results, focusing on improving the level of social

participation of patients with NMD. For example, in the DETAIL-NMD project, Nicole works with basic scientists, biomedical researchers, sports physicians, physical therapists, technicians, and of course, patients to bring results directly from bench to bedside. She recently organized an ENMC workshop on psychological interventions in NMD. Her target areas are FSHD and Myotonic Dystrophy type 1, and she is a Board member of the Dutch FSHD Foundation.

**Nicole's mid-career mentors are Prof. H. Lochmüller and Prof. J.A. Urtizberea.**

## Dr Eric Voorn | Amsterdam, The Netherlands



**ERIC (36)** is working as a senior researcher at the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine of the Amsterdam University Medical Centers in The Netherlands. His primary research interest is on preserving and improving physical functioning of people with neuromuscular diseases, by means of physical activity,

exercise and nutrition. The target group is slowly progressive neuromuscular diseases, including post-polio

syndrome, Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease and muscular dystrophies. Eric has received several grants for national and international projects and important goals of his participation in the ENMC mentoring program include to further extent his international collaborations and to increase visibility of his work.

**Eric's mid-career mentors are Prof. V. Straub and Prof. A. Oldfors.**