

Robin Lemmens (Co-Promotor)

Professional Education

1995-2003 Medicine at KU Leuven (Belgium): Graduation with greatest honors
2004-2008 PhD in Medical Sciences in the department of Experimental Neurology, KU Leuven
2003-2010 Training in Neurology, KU Leuven

Past appointments

2010-2012 Postdoctoral fellow (50%) in the department of Experimental Neurology
2012-2013 Postdoctoral fellow in the department of Neurosurgery, Stanford University
2012-2013 Visiting neurologist at Stanford Stroke Center, Stanford University

Current appointments

2012- Member of staff (Adjunct-Kliniekhoofd), Department of Neurology, UZ Leuven,
2012- Senior Clinical Investigator FWO
2013- Assistant Professor, Department of Neurology, Faculty of Medicine, KU Leuven
2015- Member of the Medical Council (Medische Raad) UZ Leuven
2015- Member of the Doctoral School Committee

Scientific Memberships

2009- Belgian Neurological Society
2009- American Stroke Association
2010- Belgian Stroke Council
2011- Scientific Board of Belgian Stroke Council
2014- European Stroke Organisation
2016- Fellow of the European Stroke Organisation
2017- Vice-Chair of ESOTA (European Stroke Organisation Trial Alliance)

Awards/grants:

- Pfizer Educational Grant 2010
- Belgian Neurological Society Prize 2010
- Scholarship Mathilde Horlait-Dapsens 2011
- Belgian Neurological Society Research fellowship for Young Investigators 2011
- FWO Travel Grant for a long stay abroad 2012
- KU Leuven Start Grant: Planckaert – Dewaele funds 2013: 'Improving neural repair after stroke'
- FWO Research Grant 2013-2014: 'Identifying COL4A1 and COL4A2 mutations in sporadic cerebral white matter disease'
- IWT Innovage Grant 2014-2016: Rehabilitation of Patients with Stroke in a Nursing Home: Future of Qualitative and Affordable Care
- FWO Research Grant 2015-2018: The role of EphA4 in neural repair following ischemic stroke
- Award Clinical Pathways 2015: Stroke Care UZ Leuven
- Horizon 2020 project: Participant in PROOF consortium 2017-

Scientific and academic profile

Prof. dr Lemmens is a neurologist who finished his PhD thesis (2009) in Medical Sciences entitled: 'Genetic Approaches in ALS: From Small Animal Models to Human Disease'. Following his PhD thesis he finished neurology training as a resident in neurology for two years till 2010. In this period he became involved in stroke research. Initially this included both clinical and genetic research in neurovascular disease. After graduation as a neurologist he started a position as a fellow (50%) in neurology with particular interest in stroke care, and a postdoctoral position (50%) in the laboratory of Experimental of Neurology. The research was focused on two subjects: Basic stroke research aimed at the study of mechanism of stroke recovery and the genetics of stroke. Currently he is supervising two PhD students

and 1 postdoc studying the role of ephrins in neural repair. In 2015 a FWO project was granted to study neural repair in stroke recovery.

In the summer of 2012 he moved to Palo Alto in California to be a visiting researcher in one of the leading stroke laboratories focusing on the mechanisms involved in stroke recovery: the lab of Professor G. Steinberg at Stanford University. Working in that scientific environment has given him a great opportunity to obtain skills and experience in the different aspects of the pathophysiology of stroke recovery. During this visit he was also a visiting neurologist in de Stanford Stroke Center (Dr M Lansberg and G Albers). He has been participating in various clinical projects concerning clinical aspects and role of neuroimaging in the acute treatment of stroke patients.

Upon his return in September 2013 he continued the research activities in experimental stroke which were initiated in 2010. A year before his return he became a senior clinical investigator of FWO Flanders enabling continuation of his research goals. In addition two novel research topics were initiated: Rehabilitation of the elderly and the role of neuroimaging in acute stroke. In 2014 an IWT Innovage grant was obtained to improve rehabilitation following stroke for elderly patients. In 2015 he became national coordinator of a FP7 project: WAKE-UP. WAKE-UP is a European multicentre investigator-initiated randomized placebo-controlled clinical trial of MRI based thrombolysis in acute stroke patients with unknown time of symptom onset. The research package of this project will be handled by Dr Lemmens. He supervises two PhD students (A. Wouters and J. Demeestere) who investigate the role of neuroimaging in acute stroke focused on multimodal imaging in prediction of stroke onset and outcome. Additionally he is national coordinator of several clinical trials in secondary stroke prevention (SOCRATES, SPIRE, RESPECT ESUS, CONVINCENCE) and recently he obtained a Horizon 2020 grant proposal as a co-promotor and national coordinator.