**Immunology at LUMC: Pure Team Science**

The LUMC has a rich history in immunological research, including the first kidney transplant in the Netherlands and the discovery of human leukocyte antigens (HLA). Immunological research has traditionally been multidisciplinary, not only within the Department of Immunology but also spread across various departments. Still, there is strong cohesion within the immunological community at LUMC. One of the constant factors in this success is the Immunology Review Club (IRC).

**Immunology Review Club**

For 30 years, the IRC has provided a weekly platform for knowledge exchange and discussion for all immunologists at the LUMC. Every week, an immunologist presents their research to an audience consisting of interested students, PhD candidates, researchers, and clinicians. A wide variety of topics, research techniques, and diseases are covered. For PhD and master’s students, this is an important opportunity to deepen their understanding of immunology. In this way, many generations of immunologists have been trained with a broad foundation, as well as cutting-edge knowledge and application in treatment.

**30 Years of Symposium**

The 30th anniversary of the IRC was celebrated with a festive symposium in the Buruma Lecture Hall on Thursday, April 17th. The symposium was financially supported by the LUF- Piso-Kuperus Fonds, the Leiden Institute for Immunology (LIFI, which has been organizing the IRC for decades), the National Reference Center for Histocompatibility Research Foundation, and the theme of Immunology. The symposium focused on four areas in which LUMC has made significant contributions: transplantation/HLA (often humorously referred to as "The Leiden Antigen"), tumor immunology, autoimmunity, and infectious diseases, with a focus on "past, present, and future." Each session was opened by a keynote speaker who reflected on the major developments of the past 30 years. These lectures provided a wonderful overview of the impressive immunological tradition in Leiden. Many notable highlights were shared, with frequent emphasis on team science. It also became clear that understanding the immunological processes behind a disease is crucial for developing effective treatments.

**Past, Present, Future**

Current research was also discussed, with lectures from leading LUMC researchers of today and young researchers selected based on their abstracts and a poster session. Poster awards were given to Timo Oosenbrug and Ward Vleeshouwers. During a panel discussion, the future of immunology in Leiden was explored. What diseases will be relevant in 30 years, and which immunological technologies can we use? Different generations of immunologists and representatives from the Leiden Bioscience Park shared their insights, and the audience had the chance to vote. It proved difficult to speculate on the speed of technological developments and future diseases, but everyone agreed that immunological researchers will still be needed in the "wet lab." This was a great reassurance for the students in the audience. The panelists also agreed that intensifying collaboration between LUMC and the Leiden Bioscience Park is crucial for the future of immunology, and plans were made to enhance interaction.

As is customary in Leiden, the networking lunch and closing reception were an integral part of the event. The symposium was not just a celebration; a moment was also taken to reflect on the recent passing of Emeritus Professor Frans Claas, who was supposed to open the symposium as one of the keynote speakers.

**Success**

The organizers—Bart Everts, Marie-Louise van der Hoorn, Simone Joosten, Cees van Kooten, Nadine van Montfoort, and Leendert Trouw—look back with satisfaction. With over 200 participants and fascinating lectures, it was a top day. A commonly heard feedback was, "We should do this more often." Immunology in Leiden is ready for the future!

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