Postdocs
an investment in the knowledge economy

Marjolein Blaauboer – Chair PostdocNL
Why would people choose to become a postdoc?
Why would people choose to become a postdoc?

• Striving for an academic career
< 1.0% of early career researchers becomes a professor

The Royal Society - UK
Why would people choose to become a postdoc?

• Striving for an academic career
• Become a more all round knowledge worker

• Analytical
• Independent
• Responsible
• Persistent
• Creative

• Proactive
• Knowledgeable
• Committed
• Accurate
• ...
Why are postdoctoral alumni useful?

Supervisors:
• Possible collaborators for future private-public consortia

Institution:
• Important spokesman for institution in society

Society:
• Workers with valuable skills
Thus: Postdocs are a great investment!

Invest in:
• Career guidance
  • Before starting a postdoctoral position
  • During the postdoctoral period
• More connections between science and society
  • And involve postdocs in this as well!
PostdocNL – national postdoc platform – aims to

improve the position and career opportunities for postdocs within the academic institutes and the knowledge economy by striving for:

• more support for career development within and outside academia
• finding a solution for short-term contract issues together with unions like VAWO
• a clear voice for postdocs at a institutional and national level

Committees: Policy | Legal | Local Networks | Public Relations
How does PostdocNL contribute?

• Connect initiatives at local institutes to collect and spread good practices (example: handbook for local networks)

• Lobby at national level to address the money-issue to develop national postdoc policy

• Formulate opinion pieces to help people help postdocs
Career development programme

Three elements

1. Scientific development plan
2. Personal development plan
3. Career orientation plan

Tools: scientific mentor, tutor group, career coach, scientific and transferable skill courses, alumni network including mentoring program, company visits

Partners: HR, TTO, career centre, alumni network, graduate/doctoral schools

Supported by: professorial staff, board
Current collaborators

Locally
• Erasmus MC
• Radboud U / UMC
• AMC
• Leiden U / UMC
• RUG / UMC Groningen
• UMC Utrecht
• TU Delft
• Maastricht University
• VU / VUmc
• Sanquin

Nationally
• OCW
• NWO
• VSNU
• HR directors
• Sofokles
• Federa
• VAWO
• PNN
• PCDI

Internationally
• Euraxess
  new focus on career development for research staff
Take home message:

Postdocs are a great investment!
Where to find our platform

• LinkedIn group: PostdocNL
• Website: www.postdocnl.com

Always looking for additional board or committee members!

For questions, suggestions or advice on the postdoc perspective: info@postdocnl.com
Our board

You can find us at your institute:

- Dr. Jozien Helleman  
  *Erasmus MC Postdoc Network - chair*

- Dr. Marjolein Blaauboer  
  *Policy Advisor Education VU - secretary*

- Dr. Julitta Boschman  
  *Postdoc Network AMC*

- Dr. Monique van der Voet  
  *Radboud Postdoc Initiative at Radboudumc*

- Dr. Christina Helbig  
  *Sanquin*

- Dr. Patrick Forbes  
  *TU Delft PostDoc network*

- Dr. Noel de Miranda  
  *Young Faculty Network at LUMC*

- Dr. Geeske Langejans  
  *Leiden University*

- Dr. Sara Schaafsma  
  *UMC Utrecht*

- Dr. Jelger Lycklama a Nijeholt  
  *RUG*

- Dr. Fareeba Sheedfar  
  *UMC Groningen*

- Dr. Sander Bosch & Dr. Francesca Arici  
  *Radboud University*

- Dr. Damanik Febriyani  
  *Maastricht University*
Local postdoc networks

Existing and new initiatives

• Radboud Postdoc Initiative at Radboudumc (since.., Monique@ )
• Postdoc Network Erasmus MC (since 2012, j.helleman@erasmusmc.nl)
• Young Faculty Network at LUMC (since .., noel@..)
• Postdoc Network AMC (since 2015, Julitta@)
• starting initiatives at RUG (Jelger@), TU Delft PostDoc network (Patrick@)
• Is dit compleet?? Mschn ook nog checken met Julitta
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Career development program

Local initiatives starting at
- Erasmus MC
- LUMC
- VU

National/EU initiative
- Euraxess – new focus on career development for research staff
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Person
• with a PhD title
• working as a researcher
• at a knowledge institution
• on a temporary contract
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