

## Seminar Announcement *- All Are Welcome -*

**Speaker :** **Prof Timothy Radstake**  
*University Medical Center Utrecht*

**Title :** ***“Simplifying complexity -  
A systems biology approach to understand  
the pathology of systemic sclerosis and  
Sjogrens syndrome”***



**Date :** **23 May 2014 (Friday)**

**Time :** **11:30am – 12:30pm**

**Venue :** **Exploration Theatrette, Matrix Level 4**

**Host :** **Prof Maurice van Steensel**  
(Tel: 64070191; e-mail: [maurice.vansteensel@imb.a-star.edu.sg](mailto:maurice.vansteensel@imb.a-star.edu.sg))

### ***Abstract:***

Systemic sclerosis is a severe inflammatory conditions culminating in fibrosis. Although fibroblasts have been the primary focus the past decade, interest has more recently moved towards the role of immune cells including T cells and B cells. Our group has focused on the role of genetics and dendritic cells subsets by harnessing a systems biology approach. This work led to a paradigm shift in our thinking how chronic inflammation leads to ageing thereby directly driving profibrotic responses. In addition, extrapolation of the systems biology approach has led to a better insight in systemic lupus erythematosus, Sjögren’s syndrome and various arthritic conditions that form the focus of our work.

### ***About the Speaker:***

Timothy Radstake has joined the UMC Utrecht in 2012 as professor of Translational Immunology within the departments of Rheumatology & Clinical Immunology and on the Laboratory of Translational Immunology. After receiving his MD (2000, Cum Laude) and PhD (2003, Cum Laude) at the University of Nijmegen he finished he started his clinical training as rheumatologist and simultaneously started up his own research group on the role of genetic factors and dendritic cells in inflammatory diseases. From 2007 – 2008 he did a post-doctoral fellowship at the Scleroderma Centre of the Boston University School of Medicine from where he started the research line to decipher the role of the immune system in Scleroderma and other chronic inflammatory diseases. After finishing his training as a Rheumatologist in 2011 he rapidly build out his research group, which is now internationally recognized. In Utrecht he leads the systems biology initiative with the ultimate goals to a) change medicine’s view and initiate precision medicine of patients with chronic inflammatory diseases on their molecular taxonomy rather than on their clinical diagnosis and b) to identify the molecular pathways interlinking chronic inflammation, immune-ageing and fibrosis. Rheumatology focus areas of his group are Systemic sclerosis, Sjogrens syndrome, Systemic Lupus erythematosus, anti-phospholipid syndrome, psoriasis, psoriatic arthritis and ankylosing spondylitis. Prof. Radstake is now also leading the ophthalmo-Immunology, dermatology and neuro-inflammation groups. As director of the UMC Utrecht Infection and Immunity FOCIS center of Excellence he continuously strives to optimize translational immunology from molecule to man. Currently Radstake is a committee member of the EULAR standing committee on investigative Rheumatology, board member of the Dutch Society for Rheumatology and editor in chief of Expert Reviews in Clinical Immunology.