



Name	Stefan Nierkens	
Current Position	Medical Immunologist	
Country	The Netherlands	
Major Field	Immunology	

## Educational Background

Dr. Nierkens is a distinguished researcher in the field of Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation (HCT) who obtained his PhD from Utrecht University in the Netherlands. Recognized for his expertise in tumor immunology, he was awarded a Fellowship by the Dutch Cancer Society and pursued postdoctoral research at both the Radboud Academic Medical Center in Nijmegen, the Netherlands, and the La Jolla Institute for Immunology in San Diego, California, USA.

Complementing his academic achievements, Dr. Nierkens underwent specialized training at the University Medical Center Utrecht, where he became a Laboratory Specialist in Medical Immunology in accordance with the guidelines established by the College of Medical Immunologists of the Dutch Society of Immunology. Presently, Dr. Nierkens is associated professor and leads a research team on HCT and Immune Therapy and has a pivotal role within an ISO15189-accredited laboratory, where he focuses on key areas such as Hemato-oncology, Immune Monitoring, and Cell and Functional diagnostics. His unwavering dedication to the field of medical immunology and his comprehensive skill set in translational immunology make him an invaluable asset to the scientific community.

## Professional Experience

Dr. Nierkens is Associate Professor and Group Leader specializing in Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation and Immune Therapy at the Princes Máxima Center for Pediatric Oncology and the Center for Translational Immunology, located within the UMC Utrecht in the Netherlands. In his role, Dr. Nierkens has been entrusted with the responsibility of fostering collaborative projects on Tumor Immunology between these two renowned centers of expertise.

At the forefront of his research efforts, Dr. Nierkens and his laboratory strive to enhance the safety and efficacy of cell transplantation procedures by developing innovative strategies that promote optimal immune reconstitution while mitigating immune dysregulation following hematopoietic cell transplantation (HCT). Furthermore, he dedicates himself to pioneering novel immunotherapy treatments specifically tailored for pediatric cancer patients. He established a sophisticated platform for advanced immune monitoring, closely integrated with Pharmacokinetic and Pharmacodynamic modeling, aimed at predicting and enhancing immune reconstitution post anti-tumor therapy.

As a Medical Immunologist, Dr. Nierkens has earned recognition for his ability to translate research findings into tangible advancements in clinical patient care.

## Other Experience and Professional Memberships

Dr. Nierkens is board member of the Dutch Society of Immunology (NVVI), core member of the EuroFlow consortium, Board member of Dutch Foundation for Quality Assessment in Medical Laboratories (SKML) section Immunological and Molecular Cell diagnostics (IMCD);



---

Board member of Dutch Society for Cytometry (NVC), section Immune monitoring and broncho-alveolar lavage; and member of the trans-Atlantic consortium on Immune Reconstitution and microbiome in allo-HCT recipients (with MSKCC, Stanford, Harvard, Bambino Gesù Hospital (OPBG-Rome)).

---

## Main Scientific Publications

---

1. Dekker L, Calkoen FG, Jiang Y, Blok H, Veldkamp SR, De Koning CCH, Spoon M, Admiraal R, Hoogerbrugge P, Vormoor BJ, Vormoor HJ, Visscher H, Bierings M, Van Der Vlugt M, Van Tinteren H, Nijstad AL, Huitema ADR, Van Der Elst KCM, Pieters R, Lindemans CA, Nierkens S. Fludarabine Exposure Predicts Outcome after CD19 CAR T-Cell Therapy in Children and Young Adults with Acute Leukemia. *Blood Adv.* 2022 Feb. 8:bloodadvances.2021006700. doi: 10.1182/bloodadvances.2021006700. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 35134115.
  2. Cornel AM, Dunnebach E, Hofman DA, Das S, Sengupta, van den Ham F, Wienke J, Strijker JGM, van den Beemt DAMH, Essing AHW, Koopmans B, Engels SAG, Lo Presti V, Szanto CS, George RE, Molenaar JJ, van Heesch S, Dierselhuis MP, Nierkens S. Epigenetic modulation of neuroblastoma enhances T- and NK-cell immunogenicity by inducing a tumor cell lineage switch. *Journal for Immunotherapy of Cancer*, 2022 Dec;10(12):e005002. doi: 10.1136/jitc-2022-005002. PMID: 36521927; PMCID: PMC9756225.
  3. Sengupta S, Das S, Crespo AC, Cornel AM, Patel AG, Mahadevan NR, Campisi M, Ali AK, Sharma B, Rowe JH, Huang H, Debruyne DN, Cerda ED, Krajewska M, Dries R, Chen M, Zhang S, Soriano L, Cohen MA, Versteeg R, Jaenisch R, Spranger S, Romee R, Miller BC, Barbie DA, Nierkens S, Dyer MA, Lieberman J, George RE. Mesenchymal and adrenergic cell lineage states in neuroblastoma possess distinct immunogenic phenotypes. *Nat Cancer.* 2022 Sep 22. doi: 10.1038/s43018-022-00427-5. PMID: 36138189.
  4. de Koning C, Prockop S, Roessel IV, Kernan NA, Klein E, Langenhorst J, Szanto CL, Belderbos ME, Bierings M, Boulad F, Bresters D, Cancio MI, Curran KJ, Kollen WJ, O'Reilly RJ, Scaradavou A, Spitzer B, Versluys B, Huitema A, Lindemans CA, Nierkens S\*, Boelens JJ\*. \*Shared. CD4+ T-cell reconstitution predicts Survival Outcomes after acute Graft-versus-Host-Disease; a dual center validation. *Blood.* 2021 Feb 11;137(6):848-855. doi: 10.1182/blood.2020007905. PMID: 33150379.
  5. Lo Presti V, Cornel AM, Plantinga M, Dünnebach E, Kuball J, Boelens JJ, Nierkens S\*, van Til NP\*. \*Shared. Efficient lentiviral transduction method to gene modify cord blood CD8+T cells for cancer therapy applications. *Mol Ther Methods Clin Dev.* 2021 Mar 23;21:357-368. doi: 10.1016/j.omtm.2021.03.015. PMID: 33898633; PMCID: PMC8056177.
-