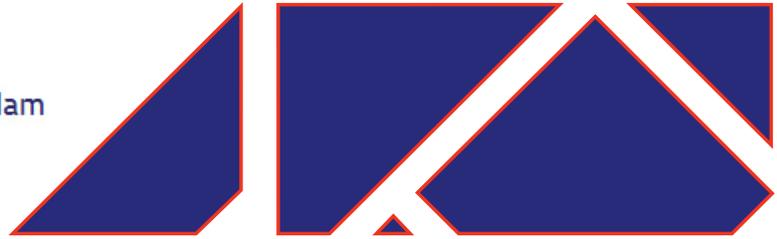




Onderzoekschool Oncologie Amsterdam
Oncology Graduate School



A JOINT GRADUATE SCHOOL OF:





OOA FOLDER

The Oncology Graduate School Amsterdam (Onderzoekschool Oncologie Amsterdam – OOA) is a joint graduate school of the VU University Medical Center (VUmc), the Netherlands Cancer Institute (NKI) and the Academic Medical Center (AMC). We have joined forces in the field of oncological research and education. The OOA has developed a varied course program to teach PhD students in all aspects of basic and clinical oncology.

This brochure gives you a taste of ongoing research and our educational program. Please check our website www.ooa-graduateschool.org for more detailed information.

STRONG INTEGRATION OF BASIC, TRANSLATIONAL AND CLINICAL ONCOLOGY RESEARCH

The OOA is a large research school dedicated to the training of PhD students working in the field of Oncology. We have been accredited by the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences since 1993. The scientific output is averaged to over 1,500 papers registered each year.

One of the strengths of OOA comes from the integration of basic, translational and clinical oncology research of three strong academic centres; from basic to bedside research. Scientists involved in OOA organize specialized courses on a multitude of topics. OOA-based specialists as well as national and international experts are invited to participate in these courses. This way, OOA graduate students have the unique opportunity to learn about the latest developments in oncology at an outstanding level. As a consequence they are not only trained in their own, mainly highly specialized type of research, but also in other areas of the field.

EXCELLENT FUTURE PERSPECTIVES

Over 320 PhD students are currently working towards a PhD degree. Graduate students are essential for maintaining a vigorous research program. Students receive instructions from the scientific staff and likewise, the staff scientists of the OOA benefit greatly from the yearly influx of new students.

The future perspectives of the graduated OOA PhD students are excellent.



RESEARCH PROGRAMME

The research programme is very broad and ranges from basic molecular biology of the cell to clinical bedside research. The interaction between different scientific disciplines in the school creates a stimulating atmosphere. Research carried out within the three OOA participating institutes has an excellent (inter)national status, as demonstrated by the large number of research projects granted in open national and international calls, and by the large high impact scientific output. The OOA research program is divided in two main programs; Experimental Biology and Experimental Clinical Research.

• RESEARCH PROGRAMME 'EXPERIMENTAL BIOLOGY'

Transformation of normal cells into a malignant tumor requires multiple (epi)genetic alterations affecting key genes controlling cellular pathways. Also, deregulation through, but also of, the tumor stroma plays a key role in this process. Studying genes and proteins involved in these pathways results in better understanding of tumor development, progression and therapy resistance. Using innovative research tools and advanced mouse models, novel components of major cancer-relevant pathways are further unravelled.

• RESEARCH PROGRAMME 'EXPERIMENTAL CLINICAL RESEARCH'

Molecular imaging and genomics provide new opportunities to study the biology of a malignancy in individual patients and allows for development of highly valuable indicators for diagnosis and prediction of disease outcome. Modern state-of-the-art techniques like CT, MRI, SPECT and PET enable imaging methods with high precision and unique molecular and biological information at the tissue level. Targeted cancer therapy, is yet another research focus. Patient-tailored therapy should ensure optimal treatment benefits. Many patient-oriented trials are performed at the clinical sites to improve the daily management of cancer.

RESEARCH FACILITIES

Apart from excellent IT facilities, electronic learning environments and library facilities, the three participating institutes provide state-of-the-art research facilities in all areas relevant to the study of cancer. This often occurs in the context of research programs in which PhD students as well as master students, during their rotations, are actively involved.





TEACHING PROGRAMME

The teaching program of OOA consists of specialized courses that cover cutting edge scientific topics in the field of oncology, an annual graduate student retreat, as well as seminars, masterclasses and meetings with international experts. Students make a selection out of these courses, in compliance with their research interests and background. OOA graduate students are expected to spend two weeks per year on these events. Over time the number of courses has increased and recently also more clinically focused courses have been organized. Attention is also given to general skills like writing and presenting in scientific English and statistics.

In principle only OOA graduate students can attend the OOA courses. However, when possible also Research Master Oncology and graduate students outside the OOA are allowed to participate.

GRADUATE RETREAT

The three-day annual graduate student retreat, focussing entirely on research conducted by the graduate students themselves, is a highlight every year. First-year students give a poster presentation of their work. In subsequent years, students give an oral presentation. The PhD students are responsible for chairing the sessions, participate in peer review of presentations, and award students for the best poster and best oral presentations. For a short report of last year's OOA retreat, please check our website.



A CAREER IN SCIENCE

Our educational programme aims to provide students and professionals with an excellent educational environment, and to encourage (young) researchers from the Netherlands and abroad to perform research at the highest level. In 2013 NWO awarded us with the 'Graduate Program' grant. This program specifically designed for outstanding Master's (of Science) students who would like to write and undertake their own PhD research project at OOA. Four students that complete the rotation program and write a research proposal will be selected for a PhD position in one of the participating groups. OOA will fund this PhD positions.

Are you a highly motivated, (Bio)Medical and/or Life Sciences student with an interest in the research performed in the groups affiliated with the OOA research institutes? Then this program offers you the unique chance to get to know the different research groups at OOA and work with the one that best fits your interests and ambitions. Our website provides you with more information about this talent programme.



More information: www.ooa-graduateschool.org

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