



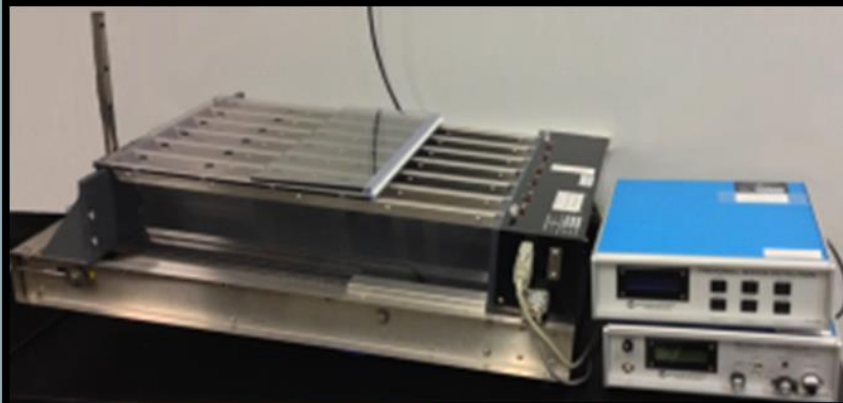
Leids Universitair
Medisch Centrum
MOLEPI
molecular epidemiology

KU LEUVEN

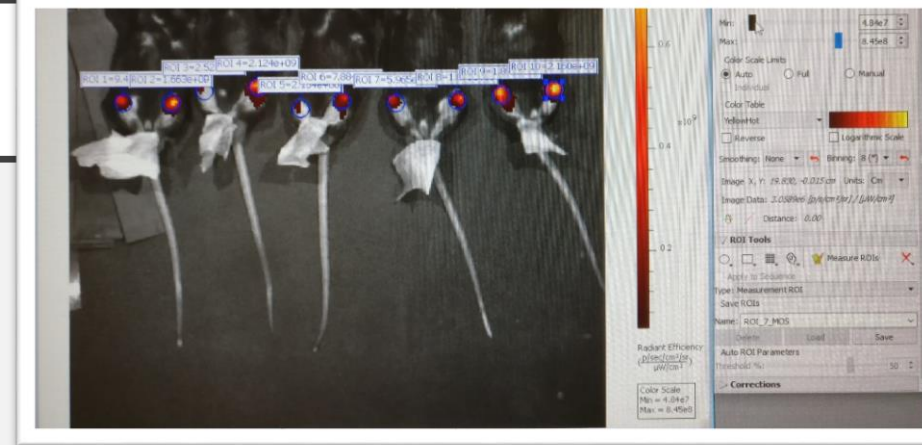


**EVELYN
HOUTMAN**

2019 OARSI
Belt and Road
Scholarship Recipient



SUMMARY



- I was fortunate enough to receive the OARSI Belt and Road Scholarship in 2019. This grant gave me the opportunity to visit the Tissue Homeostasis and disease (THD) group of **Prof. Rik Lories** at KU Leuven in Belgium. A previous collaboration between our two groups has already resulted into new insights for the disease by combining our knowledge of human 3D *in vitro* models with their knowledge of *in vivo* mouse models of osteoarthritis (OA).
- Our collaborative research project aimed at investigating whether inhibition of the thyroid conversion by D2 using the pharmacological agent Iopanoic acid could be a possible treatment in an *in vivo* running induced mouse model of OA.
- As a PhD student it was a great experience to go abroad to this excellent research group. It has not only given me relevant scientific output, but it has also helped with my personal ambition to be trained as a multidisciplinary, internationally oriented scientist in the field of OA. Moreover, by obtaining experience with *in vivo* OA models, I have been able to extent my skills regarding handling of the animals and imaging techniques. We are currently still collaborating with the group of Rik Lories on further work in this project.
- I would like to take this opportunity to thank OARSI for giving me this opportunity and broadening my scientific and personal horizon. I would advise anyone with the opportunity to go abroad to apply for this scholarship.