
Dear NKRV members,

In this newsletter, we will inform you about the upcoming NKRV activities and other topics that might be of interest. If you have items to be listed in the next newsletter or on our website, please contact us via info@nkrv.nl. Your input and ideas will be appreciated.

The coming NKRV Workshop in 2025

Save the date! The upcoming NKRV workshop will be on **Friday 31st of January 2025 at the ErasmusMC**. The program will be sent to you as soon as possible and registration will open this fall.



We are looking forward to the workshop and hope to see you all at the ErasmusMC in Rotterdam!

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Look back to the 33rd NKRV Workshop on the 20th of June at the TU Delft.

This time the NKRV meeting was held at the TU Delft with a total of 100 participants of various backgrounds ranging from physics, radiochemistry, biology, or pharmacy and representing both academia and industry. The meeting was started by our local host Robin de Kruijff and chair of the NKRV board Sandra Heskamp. Thereafter a poll was held amongst all the participants to identify the main missing topics in education to further discuss this in the round table. This was followed by a very elucidating education session held once again by our host, Robin, on the practical aspects of radionuclide production. Special attention was paid to the difference between production facilities, as well as the various strategies for radionuclide purification.



Round table discussions were on the topics: Carbon-11; In vitro assays for QC of radiopharmaceuticals and Radiopharmaceuticals Education. There was a lot of interest and good discussions and interactions between the participants. In addition, part of the participants were able to enjoy a tour at the HOR (hoger onderwijs reactor) of the TU Delft | Reactor Institute.



After a nice lunch, we had a Plenary lecture by Giulia Tamborino on dosimetry for radionuclide therapy. In the afternoon, there were poster pitches and presentations by young researchers. The meeting was closed with drinks and bites in the café-bar “the Lab” including a poster-award ceremony. The first prize was handed out to Esther Spruit from the TU Delft and second prize to Jeffrey Stuijt from the VUmc. Edwin Pietersveld from the Radboudumc received the most votes from the participants and won the public prize. The travel grants were handed by Elysia-raytest. Additionally, an extra price was given to Jan de Jong from Erasmus MC for his excellent Pitch!

We want to thank all participants for their contributions and we were very happy to see so many enthusiastic young researchers attending our workshop.

New NKRV board members



In June 2024, Inês F. Antunes (Groningen MC) and Uta Funke (Amsterdam UMC) became board members of the NKRV. We look forward to their contribution to our society. Inês and Uta replace Gert Luurtsema and Danielle Vugts, who have concluded their time as NKRV board members after 8 years. Their contribution to our society is highly appreciated. We would like to thank them very much for all the work they did for the NKRV.

News about Clinical Radiochemist

Philip Elsinga and Bert Windhorst, founders of the Clinical Radiochemist initiative, supported by board members Erik de Blois, Danielle Vugts, and Gert Luurtsema are working on the accreditation. Currently, they are going through and updating the accreditation criteria documents and are defining a guarantee committee consisting of experts who cover the different professions within our field. The aim is to have the first new clinical radiochemist exam in 2025. New information will be shared in the newsletter, on our website, and during the upcoming NKRV workshops.



Travel grants



Currently, we have awarded eleven travel grants awarded in 2024. For the rest of the year, four more travel grants are still available. So this is **your chance to apply!**

The reimbursement of registration costs for symposia is set at a maximum 500 euro per person and you can apply once every three years. To be eligible you have to be a member of NKRV (attended at least one workshop in the past year), you are a technician or PhD student working in our field, received no other grants, send us proof of accepted abstract.

How to apply for a travel grant:

- Download and fill in the travel grant form, available at the NKRV website (<https://www.nkrv.nl/>)
- Send an email with your request to info@nkrv.nl, including the application form and other required documents
- Required documents are: Proof of acceptance (poster or oral), Letter of supervisor, Proof of registration, and payment.

DECISIVE

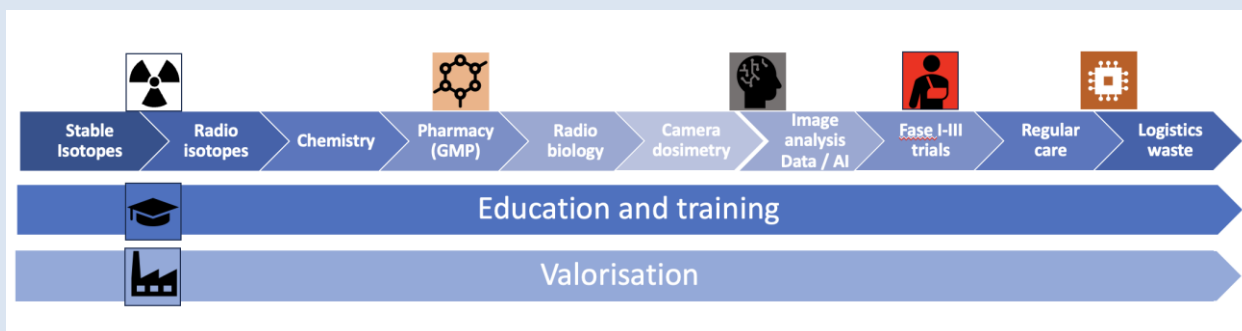
Last sprint it was announced that the National Growth Fund will be phased out and that rounds 4 and 5 will be cancelled. Despite this disappointing news, the DECISIVE initiative is still actively looking for opportunities to strengthen the Dutch Nuclear Medicine ecosystem. To discuss future steps, a partner meeting was held on the 14th of June. The goal of this meeting was to develop concrete plans on how we can jointly realize our ideas, even without the National Growth Fund. With more than 50 participants, we had fruitful discussions. Follow-up meetings will be planned right after the summer. If you are interested in joining on one of the topics, ranging from radioisotope production to clinical care, you can contact Erik

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de Blois (r.deblois@erasmusmc.nl) or Sandra Heskamp (sandra.heskamp@radboudumc.nl). An overview of the topics of interest is depicted below.



Educational program by the NKRV

Last year, intending to increase the possibilities for a radiochemistry-based education, Mark Rijpkema (Radboud UMC) together with NKRV, launched an online questionnaire for the NKRV community to get a better understanding of what is out there and what is lacking in The Netherlands. In general, the response was positive. The main point that emerged, in addition to freely accessible online lectures, was the need for on-site practical sessions. In practice, this turns out to be very challenging to organize, as these types of sessions require quite some resources (money, time, manpower), which appears to be the major hurdle to overcome. There was a large focus on education in the most recent NKRV meeting in Delft. At the start of the workshop, a poll amongst all the participants helped to identify the main missing topics in education: radiochemistry, radiobiology, radionuclide production, practicals, radiopharmacy, and nuclear physics. Furthermore, a round table session was dedicated to the topic of education, where it became clear that some of these courses do exist already but are hard to find at the moment. The need for having an up-to-date, easily accessible overview of already available courses was highlighted. A broader collaboration between academia and industry was valued in general, including internships, exchange of knowledge and resources, guest lectures, and joint training/workshops/practical courses. Finally, creating societal awareness and enthusiasm for the field was recognized as important, considering the shortage of qualified staff and the aging population of experts in the field. The NKRV will be taking these recommendations, from the questionnaire, the poll, and the round table discussion, and work on providing an overview of available radiochemistry-related courses as well as identifying the gaps. Opportunities to create new teaching material will be investigated in a demand-driven way, aligning academia and industry interests.

Meetings and workshops in 2024/2025

There are a lot of opportunities to participate in interesting symposia, these include:

19-24 October 2024, EANM annual meeting in Hamburg, Germany

11-14 March 2025, EMIM in Bilbao, Spain

11-15 May 2025, ISRS in Gold Coast, Australia

13-16 May 2025, TAT13, 13th International Symposium on Targeted Alpha Therapy in Oslo, Norway

21-24 June 2025, SNMMI annual meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

There will be also a TEAMS meeting to discuss Annex 1

Open positions

Are you looking for a new colleague? We can post your vacancy on our website. For more information, please contact info@nkrv.nl. Are you looking for a new position yourself, please have a look [here](#).

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