HUB Organoids / Merck Visit

Maxima Butterfly Training School

Program Overview: Tuesday 25 February 2026, 14:00 – 17:00

Location: HUB Organoids, Yalelaan 62 | 3584 CM Utrecht

Welcome & Introduction (Farzin Pourfarzad, Principal Scientist)	
14:00 – 14:15	- Welcome by HUB Organoids / Merck representative - Introduction to Merck Life Science and HUB Organoids - Overview of the visit & safety briefing
HUB Organoids: From Patient to Platform	
14:15 – 14:45	- What are organoids? (brief overview) - Building and maintaining living biobanks - Applications in oncology and drug development - Differences between academic and industry use of organoids
Lab Tour	
14:45-15:30	- Organoid culture laboratories - Automation and screening platforms (if applicable) - Biobank and quality control workflows
15:30 – 15.45	Coffee break and Group Photo
Interactive Workshop: Academia vs Industry – From Target to Therapy	
15:45 – 16:45	- Case study: Translating a discovery from PhD research into a drug development project - Discussion of roles in industry - Key differences Academia vs Industry in timelines, data standards, IP, and decision-making - Open discussion with students
Careers at Merck/HUB & Q&A	
16:45 – 17:00	- Career paths in industry - Skills and profiles sought by Merck/HUB - Final questions and discussion

The Máxima Butterfly project is funded by the European Union's Horizon MSCA 2021 co-fund programme, project number 101081481