Grasshopper & Máxima Butterfly Training School 2026 – Provisional Programme

New Treatment Options for Pediatric Cancers

2–4 November 2026 | Princess Máxima Center | Utrecht, The Netherlands

Monday | 2 November 2026

Location: Auditorium (6th Floor), Princess Máxima Center

Talks are open to all Princess Máxima Center research team members and supervisors.

Time	Programme
08:30–08:50	Registration with coffee & tea Poster set-up in foyer on poster boards
08:50–09:00	Welcome – Marcel Kool & Jan Molenaar
	GRASSHOPPER & BUTTERFLY FLASH TALKS ***Chair:*** *Mianyong Ding*
09:00–09.45	Translation Pharma to Academic – **Hubert Caron**, Former Group Medical Director at Roche – Genentech (30min + 10min Q&A)
09:45–10:00	Fraction-dependent dose dynamics and clinical safety in high-risk neuroblastoma treated with [177Lu]Lu-DOTATATE – **Leonor Teles,** Butterfly PhD student, van Noesel group (12min + 3min Q&A)
10:00–10:15	The Milkyway; A Breast Organoid Journey – **Emma Bokobza,** Grasshopper, PhD student, Rios group (12min + 3min Q&A)
10:15–10:25	Exploring Osteosarcoma's Down Under: Exploiting Replication Stress Through Combined BET and MCL-1 Inhibition – **Nora Looze,** Grasshopper, PhD student, van Noesel & Molenaar (12min + 3min Q&A)
10:25–10:40	Coffee Break
	Immunotherapy & Small Molecules Session ***Chair:*** *Céline Debou*
10:40–11:10	New small molecules – **Prof. Dr. Jan Molenaar,** Group leader Princess Máxima Center (25min + 5 min Q&A)
11:10–11:25	Unraveling epigenetic therapeutic vulnerabilities in ALT-positive neuroblastomas – **Fenja Fahrig,** Butterfly PhD student, Molenaar group (12min + 3min Q&A)
11:25–11:40	Beyond tazemetostat: identifying novel strategies for GD2 upregulation in neuroblastoma – **Beatrice Piotto,** Butterfly PhD student, Molenaar & Wienke group (12min + 3min Q&A)
11:40–12:40	Group Photo & Lunch

The Máxima Butterfly & GRASSHOPPER staff exchange projects are funded by the European Union's Horizon MSCA programme, project numbers 101081481 & 101182922, respectively.

Monday Afternoon Session *Chair: Franziska Oberhammer*

Time	Programme
12:40–13:30	**Keynote Lecture – Local targeting of tumor-draining lymph nodes for cancer immunotherapy** - **Prof. Tanja de Gruijl**, Translational Tumor Immunology, Head Immunotherapy lab & Immune monitoring unit, Amsterdam UMC. (40min + 10min Q&A)
	Group Leader – Butterfly PhD Duo Session 1
13:30–14:10	Title TBD – **Caroline Lindemans,** MD, PhD, BMT specialist and pediatric immunologist, UMC Utrecht & Butterfly co-supervisor (30min + 10 min Q&A)
14:10–14:30	Exploring the cellular effects of steroid treatment in pediatric patients after stem cell transplantation– **Hannah Kunstek,** Butterfly PhD student, Nierkens group (15min + 5min Q&A)
14:30–15:30	**Poster Session & Networking**
	Research Presentation ***Chair:*** *Martina Jovancheva*
15:30–15:45	An international data findability infrastructure **– Menno de Vries,** Research IT Coordinator, Princess Maxima Center & Grasshopper (10min + 5min Q&A)
	Group Leader – Butterfly PhD Duo Session 2
15:45–16:25	Understanding the mutational landscape of pediatric cancer through bioinformatics and big data – **Prof. Patrick Kemmeren** (30min + 10min Q&A)
16:25–16:40	The Landscape of Chromosomal Instability in Pediatric Solid Tumors – **Roula Farag** – recorded presentation, Butterfly PhD student (10min + 5min Q&A) .
16:40–16:50	Closing Remarks
16:50–17:50	Networking Drinks

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Tuesday | 3 November 2026

Location: Kleine Zaal (6th Floor), Princess Máxima Center

Reserved for Butterfly students and Grasshopper Staff Exchange participants.

Night Science Interactive Workshop

Discover the creative side of scientific research during this interactive workshop. Learn practical techniques to generate innovative ideas, approach scientific challenges from new perspectives, and strengthen interdisciplinary collaboration. Through engaging discussions and hands-on exercises, you will develop tools that complement traditional scientific thinking. Join us for an inspiring session designed to spark curiosity, creativity, and new discoveries.

Time	Programme
08:30–08:50	Registration & Coffee
08:50–09:00	Welcome – **Jan Molenaar**
09:00–11:00	*Introduction to the Night Science Workshop* – ***Oliver Bogler*** • *The dichotomy of the scientific process* • *Openness guides discovery* • *It takes two to think* Break – 5 min
11:00–12:30	• *The import/Export Tool* • *A hypothesis is a liability* • *AI Hallucinations*
12:30–13:00	Lunch
13:00–15:00	• *Puzzle Switching* • *Discoveries & Jokes* • *Discovery & Awe* Break – 5 min
15:05–17:00	• *Puzzle Switching (cont.)* • *Discoveries & Jokes (cont.)* • *Discovery & Awe (cont.)*
17:00–17:10	Closing Remarks
17:30	Departure to Utrecht City Centre
18:00 onwards	**Networking Dinner** – Bar Patine

Networking Dinner

Bar Patine, Oudegracht 101–103 3511 AE Utrecht

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Wednesday | 4 November 2026

Location: Auditorium (6th Floor), Princess Máxima Center

Talks are open to all Princess Máxima Center research team members and supervisors.

Time	Programme
08:30–08:50	Registration & Coffee
08:50–09:00	Welcome – **Marcel Kool** ***Chair:*** *Avi Pandey*
09:00–09:30	Scientific integrity is essential for science and even more for research at the PMC – **Prof Jan Hoeijmakers,** Erasmus University MC, Princess Maxima Center (20 min talk + 10min Q&A)
09:30–10:35	Imposter Syndrome & Managing Self-Identity - **Pieter Govers**, Educator in learning and development, AP Hogeschool, Antwerp.
10:35–10:50	Coffee Break - Lobby 7th floor

Patient Advocacy Session ***Chair:*** *Marnik Paeps*

10:50–11:50	Title TBD **– Leona Knox,** Head of research, Solving Kids Cancer, UK (40 min talk) Q&A Session (20 mins) with: **Leotine Heisen**, Founder Villa Joep, patient advocacy group and foundation & **Liselot Hoornweg**, Coordinator Research participation at Vereniging KinderKanker Nederland (VKKN), Patient advocacy group.
11:50–12:00	Closing Remarks – **Jan Molenaar & Marcel Kool**
12:00–13:00	Grasshopper Lunch - Atrium 2nd floor
12:00–12:5	Butterfly Programme Update – **Martina O'Flaherty -** Location 7D1/7D2
13:00–14:00	Tour of the Princess Máxima Center for Grasshoppers

Scan the QR code for more information

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