

NRS Swierenga Medal

The selection committee of the NRS Swierenga Penning has deliberated on the two nominated candidates for the 2024 award.

It was a more than difficult decision this year as both candidates, in the opinion of the committee, can be qualified as laureates. They are both highly esteemed individuals who for many decades have been very active in the area of respiratory diseases, each from different medical specialties. And both have great merit in their contribution to respiratory health care, have been very productive in research and with high impact, and have special societal merits.

After careful consideration, the committee has therefore decided, as a major exception, to recommend both Prof. dr. W. Timens and Prof. dr. M. Drent as laureates to the board of the Netherlands Respiratory Society (NRS).

In addition to the above motivation the following considerations contributed in particular to the decision to award Prof. dr. W. Timens:

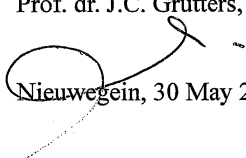
Throughout his career, Prof. Timens has made major contributions as distinguished translation scientist to advance the field of respiratory pathology across a wide spectrum of respiratory diseases including COPD, lung cancer and Covid-19. In doing so, he always had a keen eye for connecting with clinical and scientific perspectives of adjacent disciplines. He also plays a major role in building a strong foundation and network within and outside of the Netherlands, to advance a strong position of the respiratory research field in the Netherlands and abroad

The decision to also award Prof. dr. M. Drent the medal was particularly determined by her distinctive contribution to the field of ILD and sarcoidosis care. She has worked tirelessly for decades to improve the lives of patients and their families suffering from these relatively rare disorders. Also, she has contributed majorly to more focus on fatigue, small fiber neuropathy and the impact of these symptoms on quality of life. Finally, she has played an important pioneering role in the multidisciplinary care of these complex disorders, which is now standard care in many specialized centers, not only in The Netherlands but worldwide.

The medal ceremony will take place during the Dutch Lung Congress on June 27th-28th in the Van Der Valk Hotel in Utrecht.

On behalf of the members of the selection committee, consisting of Prof. dr. A.M.W.J. Schols, Drs. H. Van Velzen-Blad, and myself,

Prof. dr. J.C. Grutters, chairman


Nieuwegein, 30 May 2024