



EU-LIFE Woman Postdoc Mentoring Programme

Short bios of mentors



Colinda Scheele

Group leader

VIB-KU Leuven

Leuven, Belgium

Colinda Scheele is a junior group leader at VIB-KU Leuven Center for Cancer Biology as of June 2020 in Leuven, Belgium. Colinda received a Master in Biomedical Sciences from Utrecht University. She performed her PhD research in the lab of Prof. Jacco van Rheenen (at the Hubrecht Institute (Utrecht) and the Netherlands Cancer Institute (Amsterdam)) which she completed in 2020 with highest honours.

During this time, she pioneered unbiased lineage tracing approaches, 3D whole organ imaging techniques and intravital microscopy strategies to study mammary stem cell dynamics and branching morphogenesis (Scheele*, Hannezo* et al., 2017, Nature; Hannezo*, Scheele* et al., 2017, Cell; Corominas-Murtra*, Scheele* et al., 2020, PNAS). She received several awards for her work, including the Boehringer Ingelheim Fonds fellowship and the Antoni van Leeuwenhoek award.

Directly after her PhD she started her independent group at VIB Center for Cancer Biology and KU Leuven (Belgium). Her lab studies how healthy mammary tissue architecture prevents or promotes the different steps of tumorigenesis. Her lab uses advanced imaging approaches and organoid models. These tools are complemented with (spatial) omics and quantitative modelling to further elucidate the mechanisms of tissue transformation.

I am open to discussing science in general, (breast) cancer, organoids, and imaging more specifically. In addition, I am very happy to share my personal experiences and advice on transitioning to an independent PI position at an early career stage (both the pro's and con's).