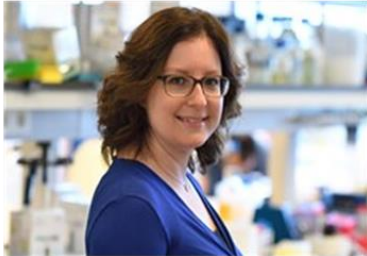


## EU-LIFE Woman Postdoc Mentoring Programme

Short bios of mentors



### **Daniela Thommen**

Group leader

NKI (The Netherlands Cancer Institute)

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Daniela Thommen is a Group Leader and permanent staff member at the Netherlands Cancer Institute. She received her MD and PhD from the University of Basel, Switzerland. She then trained and specialized as a medical oncologist in Switzerland. In parallel to her clinical training, she worked as a research fellow in tumor immunology in the lab of Prof. Alfred Zippelius at the Department of Biomedicine in Basel. In 2016, she joined the lab of Prof. Ton Schumacher at the Netherlands Cancer Institute in Amsterdam as a postdoctoral fellow. In 2020 she started her own lab at the Netherlands Cancer Institute as a Junior Group Leader and received tenure in 2023. Daniela Thommen has been recognized by multiple personal distinctions including a KWF Bas Mulder Award (2018), the Swiss Pfizer Research Prize in Oncology (2019), a NWO VIDI (2022) and an Aspasia award (2023).

### **Focus areas**

Thommen's research aims at connecting clinical questions with functional analyses in human cancer tissues. To this end, her lab is developing and using patient-derived 3D tumor models that maintain the human tumor microenvironment and allow to functionally perturb this ecosystem. They are applying these technologies to understand the role of intratumoral immune cell heterogeneity for therapy response and to develop novel biomarkers and personalized immunotherapy strategies.

### **Expertise**

Daniela Thommen's scientific expertise relates to the areas of immunology, bioengineering and translational oncology. In addition, she has ample experience with mentoring, either as a mentee herself or as a mentor for PhDs, postdocs and young oncologists. She can also offer insights into the challenges of combining clinics and research, how to plan and pursue a scientific career, how to get funded, and how to (not) achieve a work life balance.