

EU-LIFE Woman Postdoc Mentoring Programme

Short bios of mentors



Renee Beekman

Group leader

CRG (Centre for Genomic Regulation)

Barcelona, Spain

Dr. R. Beekman holds a Master of Science Degree in Molecular Medicine (2005), a Medical Degree (2007, non-practicing) and a PhD Degree in Hematology (2013), all obtained at the Erasmus University, Rotterdam, the Netherlands. She is experienced in Epigenetics, Chromatin, Three-Dimensional Chromatin Structure, Genetics, Bioinformatics, Cancer, Hematology, Acute Myeloid Leukemia and Mature Lymphoid Malignancies. She obtained her PhD Degree in the group of Prof. Dr. I.P. Touw, focusing on genetics in acute myeloid leukemia. From 2013-2019 she was a postdoctoral fellow in the groups of Prof. Dr. E. Campo and Dr. J.I. Martin-Subero in the IDIBAPS, Barcelona, Spain. During her postdoc she focused on the epigenetic characterisation of lymphoid leukemias and lymphomas. In 2018 she received the La Caixa junior leader fellowship to start her own research line to study the role of epigenetic heterogeneity and stochastic gene expression events in development and disease. In January 2020 she started as group leader in the CRG, Barcelona, Spain where she is heading the Single Cell Epigenomics and Cancer Development lab. In her current research she focuses on understanding the accumulation of epigenetic events in normal and malignant B cells using single-cell technologies as well as on using genome-editing strategies to generate and characterise lymphoma-associated pre-malignant in vitro models.

As mentor Dr. R. Beekman can offer a view on different types of research fields and on her personal journey, from translational to basic research. She can furthermore elaborate on how to adapt when moving between these different research environments. Finally, as a mother of three, she can give insight on how to combine a scientific career with having a family.