



**Personal Information Early Stage Researcher EUTRAIN project:**



**Contact information**

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**Berent Prakken (MD, PhD) is a professor of immunology** and pediatrics at the Utrecht Medical Center Utrecht, the Netherlands. He studied Medicine at the University of Groningen, specialized into paediatrics at the University of Utrecht. He did a fellowship in clinical immunology and started basic research at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in Utrecht (with prof. van Eden). He received his PhD cum laude in 1997 at the University of Utrecht. He continued his research at the University of California San Diego (with prof. Albani). Since 2000 he is heading a research group that studies the regulation of inflammation in chronic inflammatory diseases. The main focus of his research is on the role of regulatory cells in the control of inflammation; the development of immune therapy for arthritis; and the role of heat shock proteins as targets for specific immune regulation. The work of his group has received numerous national and international awards. Prakken is board member of the Eureka Institute for Translational medicine ([www.eurekainstitute.org](http://www.eurekainstitute.org)) and co-director of He Center for Molecular and Cellular Interventions (CMCI).

Berent Prakken heads a translational research lab that focuses on regulation of inflammation and biomarker development in human inflammatory diseases. He and his group received various prestigious national and international awards and grants. The Prakken lab hosted a core facility for the Immune Tolerance Network of the NIH, and is an international expertise centre for the luminex technology. Prakken serves as an editor and associate editor of several journals including the Annals of Rheumatic Diseases and the European Journal of Immunology, and is a regular reviewer for most major journals in his field. Berent Prakken was among others chair of the standing committee of pediatric rheumatology in EULAR, and member of the PRES council and the EULAR executive committee. He is member of the steering committee of UCAN (international federation facilitating biological research in arthritis) and (thanks to a 1 million euro grant from the Dutch Arthritis foundation) set up the first international platform for biological studies in arthritis (UCAN-U). He is coordinator of EUTRAIN, an awarded EU FP7 Marie Curie Integrated Training Network for translational research in pediatric rheumatology.

***My personal expectations for EUTRAIN***

For EUTRAIN I hope and expect that this will not only lead to exciting science and to crucial progress in the field of rheumatic diseases, but also that EUTRAIN will catalyze hopefully very successful careers in translational medicine for all trainees. Most importantly, I hope that EUTRAIN will help to build a lasting translational network that will ultimately benefit patients with chronic inflammatory diseases.