

# Newsletter P4O2

July 2025



As summer has started and the P4O2 PIT meetings have been cancelled over these months, we would like to update you via this newsletter. The last couple of months have flown by, filled with a lot of P4O2-related activities.

Personally, I started a new function as head of the department of Genetics at the UMCG (Groningen) on the 1st of April. The program management of P4O2 is now also executed from Groningen. While getting used to the new working environment, we produced the end reports of two P4O2 projects and drafted the consortium agreements of two other projects. The P4O2 foundation is founded and both its board and its supervisory board have been appointed. As foundation, we worked on the P4O2 pre-application of the Health~Holland Program Call, which would provide great opportunities for P4O2. After summer, more news on the activities of the foundation and how to join us will be provided. We are looking forward to a longer and successful collaboration!

Enjoy your summer! Best Wishes, also on behalf of Yolanda,

Anke-Hilse

## **P4O2 foundation**

On the 1st of April 2025, the P4O2 foundation was officially founded. The daily board consists of Anke -Hilse Maitland-van der Zee, Reinoud Gosens, Hermelijn Smits and Yolanda de Wit. The full board consists of the daily board plus Susanne Vijverberg, Irene Heijink, Maarten van den Berge, and Sami Simons. We are currently filling the last two positions; the patient representative and a representative from industry. Agnes Boots is appointed as advisory board member and communication strategist. The supervisory board (RvT) consists of Bernard Mulder, Pancras Hogendoorn, and Aletta Kraneveld.

## **P4O2 networking drinks during the ERS - Monday 29 September 2025**

This year, the European Respiratory Society Congress takes place in Amsterdam. You are invited to join the P4O2 networking drinks during the ERS Congress, a great opportunity to discuss plans that can potentially be submitted to the P4O2 program and to meet new but also existing collaborators!

Where: Amstel boathouse, Amsteldijk 223, 1079 LK, Amsterdam (20 min. walk from the RAI).  
When: Monday September 29th from 17.30u till 19.30u

Please register here before 12 September: <https://forms.office.com/e/N8CjiEvUCC>

### **P4O2 program grant and other grants**

Together with Longfonds and TNO, the P4O2 foundation submitted a pre-application for the P4O2 Program at the Program call of Health~Holland. Upon this pre-application, we are invited to submit a full proposal (deadline 3 October 2025). We plan to request 8 million euro at Health~Holland that the Program can then grant to ~16 projects in three rounds during 3 subsequent years. The first round will be on interception and early diagnosis, the second round will be on therapeutic interventions and the third round will concern all these topics. To adhere to the regulations of Health~Holland, academic centers will contribute a part of the costs, companies will cover part of the costs and the remainder can be funded by Health~Holland. The projects need to (have the intention to) deliver products, have a positive impact on the Dutch economy as well as on public health with a specific focus on the population with a lower social economic status. We will keep you involved in the writing of the full proposal, which we will start when the program committee returns from holidays.

### **End reports P4O2 mother project and P4O2 COVID**

Recently, we have also financially reported on the P4O2 mother project and the P4O2 COVID project. The files that were submitted are approved. Health~Holland has asked us to explain a bit more about the non-financial content of the P4O2 COVID report, which we did last week. They did not yet reply to our non-financial report of the mother project. We will come back to you with any further decisions or requests of Health~Holland regarding those projects.

### **Consortium Agreements P4O2 COPD-PARASOL-ILD and LIMIT**

The LIMIT project (Long COVID microbiome and inflammation trial) has started in December 2024 and the consortium agreement has now been signed by all partners. The consortium agreement for the COPD-PARASOL-ILD project (started on the 1st of September) is a bit more complex, but we are getting closer to the final version. In the meantime, approximately 10 persons are included in the ILD cohort, some are seen for the follow up already, and the PExA sample collection is going well. In the COPD cohort, the follow up visits have started. In PARASOL, inclusions are also going well, but it has proven to be a bit more difficult to also include people at high risk for developing lung disease.

### PhD defenses

In the last months, multiple P4O2 theses have been successfully defended! We congratulate Dr. Nadia Baalbaki, Dr. Jelle Blankestijn, Dr. Merel Cornelissen and Dr. Aida Bazdar. A link to the digital copy of their theses can be found on the website. We wish you all a great career and thank you for all your hard work in P4O2. We are happy to announce that Dr. Jelle Blankestijn will stay involved in P4O2 (LIMIT project). Dr. Nadia Baalbaki was awarded a STIMAG grant and will perform additional research in the P4O2 Long COVID data.



### P4O2 COVID participants information evening

On the 28th of May, P4O2 organized the second participants information evening for persons in the P4O2 COVID cohort. The participants were informed about the latest findings, about the outpatient clinics and about two new studies where P4O2 is involved. In LIMIT (Long COVID microbiome and inflammation trial) 75 participants will receive a symbiotic of Vitakruid for 6 months. The effects will be compared with the effects in 75 patients treated with a placebo. In LIMIT we will also test the effect of inhibiting SMURF-1 (involved in inflammation) with a product of Novartis in nasal cells of patients in vitro. In LIBERATE advanced imaging is used to examine tissue inflammation, repair and scarring.

We wish you all a great summer!

On behalf of the daily board of the P4O2 foundation,

Anke-Hilse Maitland-van der Zee, Reinoud Gosens, Hermelijn Smits and Yolanda de Wit

Agnes Boots (advisory board member and communication strategist P4O2)