

Curriculum Vitae

Personal information **Hubert Niesters**

Work experience

1 FEB 2007 – CURRENT – Groningen, Netherlands

**DIRECTOR, LABORATORY OF CLINICAL VIROLOGY –
UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER GRONINGEN**

Bert Niesters (1958) studied biology and chemistry in Nijmegen, the Netherlands. After obtaining his PhD in Utrecht (Prof. dr. M. Horzinek and Prof. dr. B. van der Zeijst, 1987) on the molecular epidemiology of infectious bronchitis virus, he worked as a post-doctoral fellow with Prof. dr. Jim Strauss at the California Institute of Technology (Pasadena, USA) on the replication of Alphaviruses. He received a Niels Stensen fellowship (The Netherlands) and an E.S. Gosney fellowship (Caltech) during this period.

After returning to the Netherlands (1989), he became a research associate in medical microbiology at the Diagnostic Medical Center (Delft) but moved back to clinical virology as a senior research associate in 1991 at the Erasmus University Medical Center Rotterdam (Head Prof. dr. Ab Osterhaus). From 1993 till 2007, he was responsible for the molecular diagnostics unit. During this period, he has been involved in the discovery and characterization of several new viruses and variants. In 2007, he became full professor and director of the Laboratory of Clinical Virology within the Department of Medical Microbiology at the University Medical Center Groningen and University of Groningen.

He has been actively involved in the implementation and development of new technologies like real-time amplification and automation within clinical virology. He has been focusing on molecular diagnostics and its use and the clinical value in a transplant setting as well as in monitoring treatment of hepatitis viruses. Recently, his interest focusses on rapid regional epidemiology, automation including MiddleWare solutions for molecular diagnostics, as well as the cost-benefit of rapid point-of-impact molecular testing. Special interest is focused on raising awareness for the detection of enteroviruses (enterovirus D68) and its relationship with acute flaccid myelitis (AFM).

Since 2017, he is the chair of the executive board of QCMD (Quality Control of Molecular Diagnostics, Glasgow). He is an auditor and team leader for the Dutch Council of Accreditation and Co-Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of

Clinical Virology.

He is an (co)-author of more than 340 peer reviewed papers, chapters and reviews including emerging viruses like enterovirus D68 and hepatitis E virus (H-index 82).

For his entire work, he received in 2016 the “**Ed Nowakowski Senior Memorial Clinical Virology Award**” from the Pan American Society for Clinical Virology.

1 SEP 2007 – CURRENT – Glasgow, United Kingdom

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF QCMD (QUALITY CONTROL OF MOLECULAR DIAGNOSTICS) GLASGOW

As board member of QCMD, I am involved and responsible for running external quality control programs in molecular diagnostics.

1 APR 2017 – CURRENT – Utrecht, Netherlands

LEAD ASSESSOR FOR THE DUTCH COUNCIL OF ACCREDITATION (RVA) ON ISO15189:2012 and ISO15189:2022

I am a lead assessor for the Dutch accreditation body for ISO15189:2012. I am involved as an expert in point-of-care (ISO22870) as well in ISO17025.

October 2021-May 2022: Chair and acting Head, Department of Medical Microbiology & Infection Prevention

The University of Groningen, University Medical Centre Groningen, Groningen, The Netherlands

2004-February 2007: Unit Head, Section of Clinical Virology, Erasmus MC, University Medical Centre Rotterdam

Department of Virology, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

May 1991-February 2007: Senior Research Associate in Clinical Virology, University Hospital Rotterdam, Department of Virology, Dr. Molewaterplein 40, 3015 GD Rotterdam, The Netherlands

February 1989-April 1991: Research Associate, Diagnostic Centre SSDZ, Department of Molecular Biology, Reinier de Graafweg 7, 2625 AD Delft, The Netherlands

Education and training

1 MAY 1987 – 1 FEB 1989

POSTDOC – California Institute of Technology, California, U.S.A.

1 MAR 1983 – 1 MAY 1989

PHD THESIS – University of Utrecht, The Netherlands

1 SEP 1976 – 15 MAR 1987

STUDY OF BIOLOGY AND CHEMISTRY (B4) – Catholic University Nijmegen, The Netherlands

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Mother tongue(s): DUTCH

Other language(s):

	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
	Listening	Reading	Spoken production interaction	Spoken interaction	
ENGLISH	C2	C1	C1	C1	C1
GERMAN	C1	A2	C1	C1	A1

Levels: A1 and A2: Basic user; B1 and B2: Independent user; C1 and C2: Proficient user

DIGITAL SKILLS

Microsoft Office: Word, Excel, Access, Power Point, Outlook. Social media communicator, Social Media Management (Twitter, LinkedIn)

Additional information

Publications

2023

Gore EJ, Gard L, Niesters HGM and Van Leer-Buter CC. (2023) Understanding Torque tenovirus (TTV) as an immune marker. *Front. Medicine. Sec. Infectious Diseases: Pathogenesis and Therapy* Volume 10 - 2023 | [doi: 10.3389/fmed.2023.1168400](https://doi.org/10.3389/fmed.2023.1168400).

[Helfferich J, Neuteboom RF, de Lange MMA, Benschop KSM, Van Leer-Buter CC, Meijer A, Bakker DP, de Bie E, Braakman HMH, Brandsma R, Niks EH, Niermeijer JM, Roelfsema V, Schoenmaker N, Sie LT, Niesters HG, Te Wierik MJM, Jacobs BC and Brouwer OF \(2023\). Pediatric acute flaccid myelitis: Evaluation of diagnostic criteria and differentiation from other causes of acute flaccid paralysis.](#)

Eur J Paediatr Neurol. May;44:28-36. doi: 10.1016/j.ejpn.2023.03.002. Epub 2023 Mar 22. PMID: 36996587

Cassidy H, Lizarazo-Forera E, Schule L, Van Leer-Buter C and Niesters HGM (2023). Off-season circulation and characterization of enterovirus D68 with respiratory and neurological presentation using whole-genome sequencing. *Front. Microbiol* 13:1088770. Doi: 10.3389/fmicb.

Rondaan C, Gard L, Niesters HGM, Van Leer-Buter C and Zhou X. (2023). COVID or no COVID: interpreting inconclusive SARS-CoV-2 qPCR results in different populations and platforms. *J. Clin. Virol. Plus* doi.org/10.1016/j.jcvp.2023.100145.

Piek A, Knoester M, Gard L, Lokate M, Niesters HGM and Van Leer-Buter CL. (2023). SARS-CoV-2 antigen tests for screening of healthcare workers; experience with over 48,000 combined antigen tests and RT-PCR tests. *J. Clin. Virol.* 158, doi.org/10.1016/j.jcv.2022.105326.

Aitken CA, Inturrisi F, Kaljouw S, Nieboer D, Siebers AG, Melchers WJG, van den Brule AJC, Molijn A, Hinrichs JWJ, Niesters HGM, van Kemenade FJ, Berkhof J and Kok IMCM (2023). Sociodemographic characterization and screening outcomes of women preferring self-sampling in the Dutch cervical cancer screening programme: a population based study. *Cancer Epidemiol. Biomarkers and Prevention*, Feb 6;32(2):183-192. doi: 10.1158/1055-9965.EPI-22-0712.

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2022

Helfferich J, [de Lange](#) MMA, Benschop KSM, [Jacobs](#) BC, [Van Leer-Buter](#) CC, [Meijer](#) A, [Bakker](#) DP, [de Bie](#) E, Braakman HMH, [Brandsma](#) R, [Neuteboom](#) RF, [Niks](#) EH, Niermeijer J-M, Roelfsema V, Schoenmaker N, [Sie](#) LT, [Niesters](#) HG, [Brouwer](#) OF and te Wierik MJM (2022). Epidemiology of acute flaccid myelitis in children in the Netherlands, 2014 to 2019. *Euro Surveill.* 2022;27(42):pii=2200157. <https://doi.org/10.2807/1560-7917.ES.2022.27.42.2200157>.

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Cassidy H, Schule L, Niesters HGM, Van Leer-Buter C and Lizarazo-Forera E. (2022). Genomic characterization of coxsackievirus A22 from a regional university hospital in the Netherlands. *J. Clin Virol.* 156, doi.org/10.1016/j.jcv.2022.105272.

Tami A, van der Gun BTF, Wold KI, Vincenti-González MF, Veloo ACM, Knoester M, Harmsma VPR, de Boer GC, Huckriede ALW, Pantano D, Gard L, Rodenhuis-Zybert I, Upasani V, Smit J, Dijkstra A, de Haan J, van Elst J, van den Boogaard J, O' Boyle S, Nacul L, Niesters HGM and Friedrich AW (2022).

The COVID HOME study research protocol: Prospective cohort study of non-hospitalised COVID-19 patients. *Plos One*, 17(11) : e0273599. Doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0273599..

Horemheb-Rubio G, Eggeling R, Schmeißer N, Pfeifer N, Lengauer T, Gärtner BC, Prifert C, Kochanek M, Scheid C, Adams O and Kaiser R; Respiratory Virus Network (2022). Respiratory viruses dynamics and interactions: ten years of surveillance in central Europe. *BMC Public Health.* 2022 Jun 11;22(1):1167. doi: 10.1186/s12889-022-13555-5.PMID: 35690802

Van Doesum WB, Gard L,Knijff LWD, Niesters HGM, van Son WJ, Stegeman CA, van den Berg A, Groen H, van den Born J, Riezebos-Brilman A and Sanders JS (2022). Longitudinal monitoring of BKPyV miRNA levels in kidney transplant patients with BKPyV-related pathology reflects viral

DNA levels and remain high in viremia patients after clearance of viral DNA. *Transpl. Infect. Dis.* 2022; e13927. doi.org/10.1111/tid.13927.

Zhou X, de Kleine RH, Lexmond WS, Scholvinck EH, Niesters HGM and von Eije KJ. (2022). Wereldwijde toename acute hepatitis bij kinderen na 2 jaar COVID-19-pandemie: stand van zaken. *TVI* 17(4): pp 128-134.

Donoso Mantke O, Corman VM, Taddei F, McCulloch E, Niemeyer D, Grumiro L, Dirani G, Wallace PS, Drosten C, Sambri V and Niesters HGM (2022). Importance of external quality assessment for SARS-CoV-2 antigen detection during the COVID-19 pandemic. *J. Clin. Virol. PiII* S1386-6532(22)00155-X. DOI 10.1016/j.jcv.2022.105222

Hodcroft EB, Dyrdak R, Andrés C, Egli A, Reist J, Martinez de Artola DG, Niesters HGM, Antón, A, Poelman R, Reynders M, Wollants E, Neher RA and Albert J (2022). Evolution, geographic spreading, and demographic distribution of Enterovirus D68. *Plos Pathogens*. doi.org/10.1371/journal.ppat. 1010515 May 31.

Hoek RA, Verschuuren EA, de Vries RD, Vonk JM, van Baarle D, van der Heiden M, van Gemert JP, Gore EJ, Niesters HG, Erasmus M, Hellemons ME, Scherbeijn SM, Wijbenga N, Mahtab EAF, GeurtsvanKessel CH, and Van Leer-Buter CC (2022) . High torque tenovirus (TTV) load before first vaccine dose is associated with poor serological response to COVID-19 vaccination in lung transplant recipients. *J Heart Lung Transplant.* 41(6):765-772. doi: 10.1016/j.healun.2022.03.006. Epub 2022 Mar 16.PMID: 35606065.

Cassidy H, van Leer-Buter C and Niesters HGM (2022). [Enterovirus Infections in Solid Organ Transplant Recipients: a Clinical Comparison from a Regional University Hospital in the Netherlands.](#) *Microbiol Spectr.* Feb 23;10(1):e0221521. doi: 10.1128/spectrum.02215-21. Epub 2022 Feb 9.PMID: 35138120.

Helfferrich J, Roodbol J, de Wit MC, Brouwer OF, Jacobs BC. Enterovirus D68 Acute Flaccid Myelitis Working Group and the Dutch Pediatric GBS Study Group (2022). Acute flaccid myelitis and Guillain-Barre syndrome in children: A comparative study with evaluation of diagnostic criteria. *Eur J Neurol.* 2022 Feb;29(2):593-604. doi: 10.1111/ene.15170. Epub 2021 Nov 24.PMID: 34747551.

Cassidy H, Schuele L, Lizarazo-Forero E, Couto N, Rossen JWA, Friedrich AW, van Leer-Buter C and Niesters HGM (2022). [Exploring a prolonged enterovirus C104 infection in a severely ill patient using nanopore sequencing.](#) *Virus Evol.* Mar 18;8(1):veab109. doi: 10.1093/ve/veab109. eCollection 2022.PMID: 35317350.

Cassidy H, van Genne M, Lizarazo-Forero E, Niesters HGM and Gard L (2022). [Evaluation of the QIAstat-Dx RP2.0 and the BioFire FilmArray RP2.1 for the Rapid Detection of Respiratory Pathogens Including SARS-CoV-2.](#) *Front Microbiol.* Mar 24;13:854209. doi: 10.3389/fmicb.2022.854209. eCollection 2022.PMID: 35401449.

Sotomayor CG, Giubergia F, Groothof D, Ferreccio C, Nolte IM, Navis GJ, Gomes-Neto AW, Kremer D, Knobbe TJ, Eisenga MF, Rodrigo R, Touw DJ, Bakker SJL and TransplantLines Investigators (2022). Plasma Lead Concentration and Risk of Late Kidney Allograft Failure: Findings From the TransplantLines Biobank and Cohort Studies. *Am J Kidney Dis.* 2022 Jul;80(1):87-97.e1. doi: 10.1053/j.ajkd.2021.10.009. Epub 2021 Dec 4. PMID: 34871698.

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Cassidy H, van Genne M, Lizarazo-Forero E, Gard L and Niesters HGM (2021). A discussion of syndromic testing in clinical care. *J. Antimicrob. Chemother.* 76 (suppl3), iii58-iii66. doi:10.1093/jac/dkab243.

Niesters, HGM (2021) A Brief History of the Development of Diagnostic Molecular-Based Assays. In: Bamford, D.H. and Zuckerman, M. (eds.) *Encyclopedia of Virology, 4th Edition, vol. 5*, pp. 22–26. Oxford: Academic Press.

Boef AGC, van Wezel EM, Gard L, Netkova K, Lokate M, van der Voort PHJ, Niesters HGM and Van Leer-Buter C. (2021). Viral load dynamics in intubated patients with COVID-19 admitted to the intensive care unit. *J. of Critical Care* 64: 219-225.

Rankin A, Massey A, Falvey ÉC, Ellenbecker T, Harcourt P, Murray A, Kinane D, Niesters HG, Jones N, Martin R, Roshon M, McLamon ME, Calder J, Izquierdo D, Pluim BM, Elliott N and Heron N. (2021). Infographic. COVID-19 RT-PCR testing for elite athletes. *Br J Sports Med* doi:10.1136/bjsports-2020-103751. [Epub ahead of print].

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2020

Matheussen V, Corman VM, Donoso Mantke O, McCulloch E, Lammens C, Goossens H, Niemeyer D, Wallace PS, Klapper P, Niesters HGM, Drosten C, Ieven M, on behalf of the RECOVER project and collaborating networks . International external quality assessment for SARS-CoV-2 molecular detection and survey on clinical laboratory preparedness during the COVID-19 pandemic, April/May 2020. *Euro Surveill.* 2020;25(27): pii=2001223. <https://doi.org/10.2807/1560-7917.ES.2020.25.27.2001223>

Bhide Y, Dong W, Meijerhof T, de Vries-Idema J, Niesters HG, Huckriede A. (2020). Characterization of humoral immune responses and degree of protection induced by influenza vaccine in cotton rats: Effects of low vaccine dose and single vs booster vaccination. *Immun Inflamm Dis*. doi: 10.1002/iid3.303. [Epub ahead of print]

Pleguezuelos O, Dille J, de Groen S, Oftung F, Niesters HGM, Islam MA, Næss LM, Hungnes O, Aldarij N, Idema DL, Perez AF, James E, Frijlink HW, Stoloff G, Groeneveld P, Hak E. (2020). Immunogenicity, Safety, and Efficacy of a Standalone Universal Influenza Vaccine, FLU-v, in Healthy Adults: A Randomized Clinical Trial. *Ann Intern Med*. 172(7):453-462. doi: 10.7326/M19-0735. Epub 2020 Mar 10.

Leonard Schuele L, Cassidy H, Lizarazo E, Strutzberg-Minder K, Schuetze S, Loebert S, Lambrecht C, Harlizius J, Friedrich AW, Peter S, Niesters HGM, Rossen JWA and Couto N. (2020). Assessment of Viral Targeted Sequence Capture Using Nanopore Sequencing Directly from Clinical Samples. *Viruses*, 12, 1358; doi:[10.3390/v12121358](https://doi.org/10.3390/v12121358)

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Gore EJ, Gomes-Neto AW, Wang L, Bakker SJL, Niesters HGM, de Joode AAE, Verschuuren EAM, Westra J, Leer-Buter CV. (2020). Torquetenovirus Serum Load and Long-Term Outcomes in Renal Transplant Recipients. *J Clin Med*. 9(2). pii: E440. doi: 10.3390/jcm9020440.

Meyers L, Dien Bard J, Galvin B, Nawrocki J, Niesters HGM, Stellrecht KA, St George K, Daly JA, Blaschke AJ, Robinson C, Wang H, Cook CV, Hassan F, Dominguez SR, Pretty K, Naccache S, Olin KE, Althouse BM, Jones JD, Ginocchio CC, Poritz MA, Leber A, Selvarangan R. (2020). Enterovirus D68 outbreak detection through a syndromic disease epidemiology network. *J Clin Virol*. 124:104262. doi: 10.1016/j.jcv.2020.104262. Epub 2020 Jan 16.

Poelman R, van der Meer J, van der Spek C, Riezebos-Brilman A, Knoester M, Van Leer-Buter C, Friedrich AW and Niesters HG. (2020). Improved diagnostic policy for respiratory tract infections essential for patient management in the emergency department *Future Microbiology*, May;15:623-632. doi: 10.2217/fmb-2019-0119. Epub 2020 Jun 3.

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2019

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Aitken CA, van Agt HME, Siebers AG, van Kemenade FJ, Niesters

HGM, [Melchers](#) WJG, [Vedder](#) JEM, [Schuurman](#) R, [van den Brule](#) AJC, [van der Linden](#) HC, [Hinrichs](#) JWJ, [Molijn](#) A, [Hoogduin](#) KJ, [van Hemel](#) BM and de Kok IMCM. (2019). Introduction of Primary Screening Using High-Risk HPV DNA Detection in the Dutch Cervical Cancer Screening Programme: A Population-Based Cohort Study. *BMC Med.* 17:228. Published 2019 Dec 11. doi:10.1186/s12916-019-1460-0

Niesters HGM. (2019). RSV testing in the adult; Comments on paper by Drew et al. *JCV* 117, 2019, pp 27-32. *J Clin Virol.* 119:59. doi: 10.1016/j.jcv.2019.08.007. Epub 2019 Aug 24.

Helfferrich J, Knoester M, Van Leer-Buter CC, Neuteboom RF, Meiners LC, Niesters HG and Brouwer OF. (2019). Acute flaccid myelitis and enterovirus D68: lessons from the past and present. *Eur J Pediatr.* 2019 Jul 23. doi: 10.1007/s00431-019-03435-3. [Epub ahead of print] Review.

van Genne MK, Poelman R, Cassidy H, Meessen NEL and Niesters HGM. (2019). Interdependence of diagnostics and epidemiology, a European perspective: Position paper on the need for an intrinsic cooperation and data sharing. *J Clin Virol.* 2019 Jul 4; 118:6-8. doi: 10.1016/j.jcv.2019.07.002. [Epub ahead of print] Review.

- Dalaglu AE, Mutlu D, Saglik I, Sarinoglu RC, Mutlu E, Niesters HGM and Cilek D. (2019). Evaluation of the two different real time polymerase chain reaction methods used for BK virus (BKV) quantification and BKV genotype assignment. *Microbiyoloji* 53: 285-296.

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Van Leer Buter CC, de Voogd DWK, Blokzijl H, de Joode AAE, Berger SP, Verschuuren EAM and Niesters HGM. (2019). Antiviral-resistant cytomegalovirus infections in solid organ transplantation in the Netherlands. *J. Antimicrob. Chemother.* 74:2370-2376. doi: 10.1093/jac/dkz196.

- Baylis SA, Wallace P, McCulloch E, Niesters HGM and Nübling CM (2019). Standardization of nucleic acid amplification tests: the approach of the World Health Organization. *J. Clin. Microbiol.* 57: pii: e01056-18. doi: 10.1128/JCM.01056-18.

Knoester M, Helfferrich J, Poelman R, Van Leer-Buter CC, Brouwer OF and Niesters HGM on behalf of the 2016 EV-D68 AFM Working Group (2019). Twenty-nine cases of Enterovirus-D68 associated acute flaccid myelitis in Europe 2016: a case series and epidemiological overview. *Pediatric Infect. Dis. Journal.* 38: 16-21. doi: 10.1097/INF.0000000000002188.

2018

Cassidy H, Poelman R, Knoesters M, Van Leer-Buter CC and Niesters HGM (2018). Enterovirus D68 – The new polio? *Frontiers Microbiology* Nov 18.

Weiner V, Niesters HG, Diedrich S and H-J Christen. (2018). Plötzlich gelähmt – die akute schlaffe Myelitis bei Kindern in der Post-Polio- Ära. (**Suddenly paralysed – acute flaccid myelitis of children in the post-polio-era**) Pädiatrische Praxis 90: 222-233.

Messacar K, Asturias EJ, Hixon AM, Van Leer-Buter C, Niesters HGM, Tyler KL, Abzug MJ and Dominguez SR. (2018). Enterovirus D68 and Acute Flaccid Myelitis—Evaluating the Evidence for Causality. *Lancet Infect Dis*. 18: e239-e247. doi: 10.1016/S1473-3099(18)30094-X.

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Herrera-Rodríguez, J, Meijerhof T, Niesters HGM, Stjernholm G, Hovden A-O, Sørensen B, Ökvist M, Sommerfelt MA and Huckriede A. (2018). A novel peptide-based vaccine candidate with protective efficacy against influenza A in a mouse model. *Virology*, 515: 21-28.

2017

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Gard L, van Doesum W, Niesters HGM, van Son WJ, Diepstra A, Stegeman CA, Groen H, Riezebos-Brilman A, Sanders JS. (2017). A delicate balance between rejection and BK polyomavirus associated nephropathy; A retrospective cohort study in renal transplant recipients. *PLoS One*. 12: e0178801. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0178801.

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2016

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Projects

Memberships MEMBERSHIPS:

1990-present:	Member of the "Dutch Clinical Virology Study Group".
1991-2019:	Member of the "European Society for Clinical Virology".
1992-present:	Member of the "American Society for Microbiology".
1996-present:	Member of the "Dutch Society for Gastroenterology and Hepatology".
1996-present:	Member of the "Dutch Society for Medical Microbiology".
1997-2006:	Member of the "Rotterdam Liver Research Foundation".
1997-present:	Member of the Molecular Diagnostics Working Party of the "Dutch Clinical Virology Study Group".
1998-2007:	Co-opted executive member of the "European Society for Clinical Virology".
2001-2012:	Member of the Scientific Advisory Board of QCMD (Quality Control in Molecular Diagnostics).
2001-2004:	Chairman of the working group on quality control for blood-borne viruses (QCMD).
2004-2007:	Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board of QCMD.

2006-present: Member of the “Pan American Society for Clinical Virology”.

2012-present: Member of the “European Society for Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases”.

2015-present: Member of the “SoGat Committee Standardisation of Genome Amplification Techniques”.

AWARD

2016 The “*Ed Nowakowski Senior Memorial Clinical Virology Award*”, from the Pan American Society for Clinical Virology. In recognition of his outstanding contributions to the field of clinical virology.

Other Relevant Information

HONOURS AND AWARDS

4 MAY 2016

Ed Nowakowski Senior Memorial Clinical Virology Award – Pan American Society for Clinical Virology

The “Ed Nowakowski Senior Memorial Clinical Virology Award”, from the Pan American Society for Clinical Virology. In recognition of his outstanding contributions to the field of clinical virology.