

**Saskia N. de Wildt**

### **Personal statement**

As pediatric intensivist and professor of Clinical Pharmacology, at Radboudumc in Nijmegen, the Netherlands, I have been active in PICU and pharmacology research (>180 publications, >8 million euros (co)PI-funding) for over 20 years aiming to understand variability in drug disposition to optimize drug dosing in children, but also as coordinator of sedation and pain trials. These trials have taught us that daily sedation interruption has no added benefit to continuous sedation in the PICU and that paracetamol IV is a good primary analgesic after large abdominal and non-cardiac thoracic surgery. I am also the Director of the Dutch Pediatric Formulary and its international affiliates in Germany, Austria and Norway, by which we provide harmonized dosing guidelines for children to all prescribers, including dosing for children in the PICU.

I have been an active member of ESPNIC for over 10 years, have presented our research at several ESPNIC meetings, held leadership roles at ESPNIC and just became mentor in the ESPNIC mentorship program. My experience in leadership roles in other learned societies (national, European and American) and research networks (e.g. Dutch Pediatric ICU research network) will contribute to a successful role as co-chair of the Pharmacology section.

I fully support the application of Dr Amigani as Chair and hope to support her as Co-chair in her efforts to further strengthen her plans to promote pharmacology research in the PICU. As the Director of the Pediatric Formulary, I bring expertise and a multi disciplinary network to translate research findings into practical dose advices for the PICU, including for ECMO and CRRT patients.

One of my other goals is to further connect the ESPNIC community, both researchers and clinicians, including nurses, with Conect4children (C4c, [www.conect4children.org](http://www.conect4children.org)), where I have leadership roles. C4c (conect4children) is a large collaborative European network, funded by 140 million euros, that aims to facilitate the development of new drugs and other therapies for the entire paediatric population. As clinical trials in the PICU often require large number of patients, multicenter, international recruitment are needed to be successful. At this time an efficient European PICU trial network is lacking, my aim is to make ESPNIC members aware of C4c and to stimulate collaboration, to make trials more efficient and avoid duplication of efforts. Moreover, C4c provides advice service to design the best innovative and patient friendly trials. Involvement of ESPNIC members (physicians and nurses) in these advices will also improve the feasibility of trials. C4c already has a PICU advice group, chaired by ESPNIC members, Prof Matthijs de Hoog and Dr Tuuli Metsvath. I aim to further to connect this group with the ESPNIC membership.

