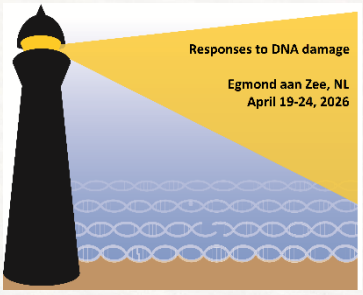
12th Quinquennial Conference on

Responses to DNA damage

Egmond aan Zee, The Netherlands, April 19-24, 2026



Organizing Committee:

Haico van Attikum (chairman)	Joyce Lebbink, Rotterdam	Titia Sixma, Amsterdam
Jessica Downs, London	Martijn Luijsterburg, Leiden	Marcel Tijsterman, Leiden
Jacqueline Jacobs, Amsterdam	Jurgen Marteijn, Rotterdam	Wim Vermeulen, Rotterdam
Puck Knipscheer, Utrecht	Sylvie Noordermeer, Leiden	Marcel van Vugt, Groningen

Meeting Secretariat: Ingrid Braxhoven (Leiden) & Jasperina Erades (Rotterdam)

Program

SUNDAY APRIL 19

13:00 – 17:00 Registration open (*Room 523*)

16:00 **Opening meeting by Haico van Attikum** (*Zuiderduinzaal)*

Plenary Session I: New perspectives on genome maintenance (Chair: Haico van Attikum)

16:10 – 16:50 **'Elsevier' Keynote speaker**: Johannes Walter (Harvard Medical School, USA)
"In silico discovery of protein-protein interactions in genome maintenance and beyond"

17:00 – 17:25 Simon Boulton (Francis Crick Institute, UK)
"Replication stress tolerance in ALT cancers"

17:45 *Welcome drinks* *(The Pub)*

18:30 – 19:45 *Dinner* *(Restaurant)*

20:00 – 22:00 **Poster viewing session I** (free drinks) *(Room 522, Lounge 2 & Abdijzaal)*
A-I: Replication stress
B-I: Nucleotide excision repair & transcription stress
C-I: Double-strand Break repair (NHEJ/TMEJ)

22:00 *Jam-session* *(van Speijkzaal/The Pub)*

MONDAY APRIL 20

From 07:00 Breakfast (*Restaurant)*
08:00 – 10:00 Registration open *(Room 523)*

Plenary Session II: Double Strand Break repair (Chair: Jacqueline Jacobs)

09:00 – 09:25 Petr Cejka (IRB, CH) *"**Mechanism of KU removal from DNA ends in DNA end resection**"*

09:25 – 09:50 Andre Nussenzweig (NIH, USA) ***"Genome stability in mitotic & post-mitotic cells**"*

09:50 – 10:05 Philipp Oberdoerffer (Johns Hopkins, USA) ***"G quadruplex DNA facilitates a pervasive path to homologous recombination"***

10:05 – 10:20 Kara Bernstein (University of Pennsylvania, USA) ***"High-throughput mapping of 6,888 RAD51D variants identifies distinct biochemical functions needed for homologous recombination"***

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee/tea Break

Plenary Session III: Double Strand Break repair (Chair: Sylvie Noordermeer)

11:00 – 11:25 Patrick Sung (Texas University, USA) *"**Homologous recombination licensing role of the BRCA1-BARD1 tumor suppressor complex**"*

11:25 – 11:50 Xiaodong Zhang (Imperial College London, UK) *"**Structures and molecular mechanism of RAD51 modulators in genome maintenance**"*

11:50 – 12:05 Lauren de Haan (UMCG, NL) ***"Tetramerization of CIP2A via its C-terminus is essential for mitotic DNA repair"***

12:05 – 12:20 Arnab Ray Chaudhuri (Erasmus MC, NL) ***"Disrupting replication fork remodeling by loss of RAD51 paralog SWSAP1 confers therapeutic vulnerability in BRCA2 deficient cells"***

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch

Plenary Session IV: Transcription stress (Chair: Martijn Luijsterburg)

13:45 – 14:10 Tomoo Ogi (Nagoya University, JP) "***Molecular pathogenesis and animal models of transcription coupled repair disorders***"

14:10 – 14:35 Jesper Svejstrup (Copenhagen University, DK) *"**Balancing transcription and genome stability**"*

14:35 – 14:50 Janne van Schie (LUMC, NL) ***"The elongation factor LEO1 initiates transcription-coupled DNA repair"***

14:50 – 15:20 Coffee/tea Break

Plenary Session V: Consequences of replication/transcription stress (Chair: Jurgen Marteijn)

15:30 – 15:55 Karlene Cimprich (Stanford University, USA) *"**Mechanisms for RNA-mediated genome instability**"*

15:55 – 16:20 Helle Ulrich (IMB Mainz, GER) *"**Regulation of DNA damage bypass by the ubiquitin system**"*

16:20 – 16:35 Natàlia de Martín Garrido (ICR, UK) ***"Visualisation of stepwise derepression of TFIIH in global-genome nucleotide excision repair"***

17:00 – 18:30 **Poster discussion session I** (3 parallel sessions)
A-I: Replication stress *(zaal 558*)
B-I: Nucleotide excision repair & transcription stress *(zaal 559)*
C-I: Double-strand break repair (NHEJ/TMEJ) *(Zuiderduinzaal)*

18:30 – 19:45 dinner

20.00 - 22.00 **Poster viewing session II** (free drinks) (*Room 522, Lounge 2 & Abdijzaal*)
A-II: Double-strand break repair (HR/general)
B-II: Translesion synthesis & mutagenesis
C-II: DNA damage signaling & consequences of DNA damage

22:00 Jam-session (van Speijkzaal/The Pub)

TUESDAY APRIL 21

From 07:00 Breakfast (*Restaurant)*

Plenary Session VI: Consequences of replication/transcription stress (Chair: Wim Vermeulen)

09:00 – 09:25 Kristijan Ramadan (Nanyang University, SG) "***Nucleophagy as a DNA-replication coupled repair pathway***"

09:25 – 09:50 David Cortez (Vanderbilt University, USA) *"**Replication-coupled repair mechanisms to maintain genome stability**"*

09:50 – 10:05 Kumar Somyajit (University of Southern Denmark, DK) ***"Built-in limits of human genome duplication"***

10:05 – 10:20 Cindy Blom (Erasmus MC, NL) ***"Integrator complex removes lesion-stalled RNA polymerase II after transcription-coupled repair to facilitate transcription restart"***

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee/tea Break

Plenary Session VII: DDR and Cell cycle (Chair: Marcel van Vugt)

11:00 – 11:25 Matthias Altmeyer (Zurich University, CH) ***"Yin and Yang of cell cycle-controlled genome maintenance"***

11:25 – 11:50 Andrew Blackford (University of Copenhagen, DK) *"**DNA damage responses during mitosis**"*

11:50 – 12:05 Jo Morris (University of Birmingham, UK) ***"SUMOylation controls double-strand break repair in mitosis"***

12:05 – 12:20 Magdalena Rother (LUMC, NL) ***"Exoribonuclease 1 (ERI1) ensures DNA replication by maintaining balanced histone pools"***

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch

Plenary Session VIII: Excision and crosslink repair (Chair: Joyce Lebbink)

13:45 – 14:10 KJ Patel (MRC, UK) ***"Persistent and transferable formaldehyde base adduction can propagate DNA crosslinks"***

14:10 – 14:35 Julien Duxin (Copenhagen University, DK) "***Mechanisms of TOP2cc repair***"

14:35 – 14:50 Koichi Sato (Hubrecht Institute, NL) ***"Mechanistic insight into BRCA2 activation for RAD51 recombinase assembly"***

15:00 – 15:30 Coffee/tea Break

Plenary Session IX: Excision and crosslink repair (Chair: Puck Knipscheer)

15:30 – 15:55 Julian Stingele (University of Munich, GER) *"**Cellular responses to RNA damage**"*

15:55 – 16:20 Lori Passmore (MRC, UK) ***"Mechanisms of DNA crosslink repair"***

16:20 – 16:35 Stefania Di Ciccio (Hubrecht Institute, NL) ***"Molecular mechanisms of gastric mutagenesis"***

17:00 -18:30 **Poster discussion session II** (3 parallel sessions)
A-II: Double-strand Break repair (HR/general) *(zaal 558)*
B-II: Translesion synthesis & mutagenesis *(zaal 559)*
C-II: DNA damage signaling & consequences of DNA damage *(Zuiderduinzaal)*

18:30 – 19:45 Dinner

20:00 – 22:00 **Poster viewing session III** (free drinks) (*Room 522, Lounge 2 & Abdijzaal*)
A-III: Clinical/translational aspects
B-III: DNA damage repair & genome organisation
C-III: Crosslink, base excision & mismatch repair

22:00 Jam-session (van Speijkzaal/The Pub)

WEDNESDAY APRIL 22

From 07:00 Breakfast (*Restaurant)*

Plenary Session X: Stability and evolution of the Genome (Chair: Marcel Tijsterman)

09:00 – 09:25 Dan Durocher (Tanenbaum Research Institute, CAN) *"**Charting genome maintenance mechanisms**"*

09:25 – 09:50 David Pellman (Howard Hughes Boston, USA) *"**Molecular mechanisms driving rapid evolution of the genome**"*

09:50 – 10:05 Karen Lane (ICR, UK) ***"Functional profiling of SWI/SNF complexes through base editing screens identifies a role in maintaining fitness and genome stability through G quadruplex binding"***

10:05 – 10:20 Román González-Prieto (Cabimer, ESP) ***"RNF25 Ubiquitin E3 activity safeguards genome integrity by coordinating DNA replication, transcription and translation"***

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee/tea Break

Plenary Session XI: DNA repair and nuclear organization (Chair: Jessica Downs)

11:00 – 11:25 Evi Soutoglou (Sussex University, UK) *"**DNA damage at lamina-associated domains triggers nuclear envelope reorganization and chromatin detachment to prevent genome stability**"*

11:25 – 11:50 Gaëlle Legube (Toulouse University, FR) *"**Chromatin and chromosome dynamics at DSBs**"*

11:50 – 12:15 Nitika Taneja (Erasmus MC, NL) *"**Mechanisms of chromatin re-organization in response to replication stress**"*

12:15 – 12:30 Federico Teloni (Vienna Biocenter, AUT) ***"Cohesin guides homology search during DNA repair using loops and sister chromatid linkages"***

12:45 – 13:45 Lunch

13:45 – 15:30 **DNA Curtains Flow Cell Demo by 1NA**

Free afternoon and evening

*Diner on your own (**NO** diner provided by the program)*

THURSDAY APRIL 23

From 07:00 Breakfast (*Restaurant)*

Plenary Session XII: End-joining repair (Chair: Marcel Tijsterman)

09:00 – 09:25 Raphael Ceccaldi (Institut Curie, FR) ***"Novel insights into mitotic DNA repair by Pol Theta"***

09:25 – 09:50 Agnel Sfeir (Sloan Kettering Institute, USA) ***"MMEJ chronicles: from mitosis to ecDNA"***

09:50 – 10:05 Joost Schimmel (LUMC, NL) ***"Life without Polymerase Theta - Inborn loss of POLQ reveals that Theta-Mediated End Joining is dispensable for human health"***

10:05 – 10:20 Priyanka Verma (Washington Univerity, USA) ***"HMCES prevents Pol-theta activity and promotes PrimPol-dependent repriming for error-free re-start of forks stalled by abasic sites"***

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee/tea Break

Plenary Session XIII: DNA damage and mutagenesis (Chair: Titia Sixma)

11:00 – 11:25 Serena Nik-Zainal (MRC, UK) ***"Influence of DNA damage and repair on indel and structural variation signatures"***

11:25 – 11:50 Kasper Fugger (University College Londen, UK) ***"Detoxification of modified nucleotides by MTH1 safeguards genome stability"***

11:50 – 12:05 Percy Tumbale (NIH, USA) ***"Molecular basis for RNA discrimination by human DNA ligase 1"***

12:05 – 12:20 Martin Reijns (University of Edinburgh, UK) ***"Human EXO1 facilitates APE2-mediated processing of TOP1-induced DNA lesions at genome-embedded ribonucleotides"***

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch

Plenary Session XIV: DNA damage signaling (Chair: Bert van de Kooij)

13:45 – 14:10 Shan Zha (Colombia University MC, USA) ***"Ku in primates - at the crossroads of DNA repair and RNA biology"***

14:10 – 14:35 Martin Taylor (Edinburgh University, UK) ***"Genetic background shapes the response to DNA damage"***

14:35 – 14:50 Stephanie Panier (Max Planck Institute, GER) ***"A new role for SLX4IP in controlling replication stress and fork stability"***

15:00 – 15:30 Coffee/tea Break

Plenary Session XV: DNA damage signaling (Chair: Hannes Lans)

15:30 – 15:55 Niels Mailand (Novo Nordisk Foundation, DK) ***"Histone biogenesis and genome maintenance"***

15:55 – 16:20 Björn Schumacher (Köln University, GER) ***"Genome stability in aging and disease: new perspectives form C. elegans"***

16:20 – 16:35 Bennett Van Houten (University of Pittsburgh, USA) ***"Watching base excision repair at the single molecule level: binding kinetics of PARP1 and LIG3a-XRCC1 engaging DNA nicks and chromatin"***

16:35 – 16:50 Ruben van der Lugt (NKI, NL) ***"Genome-wide genetic screen identifies a new RUVBL1/2–PIKK regulatory axis in ATM-mediated DNA damage signaling"***

17:15 – 18:45 **Poster discussion session III** (3 parallel sessions)

A-III: Clinical/translational aspects *(zaal 558)*

B-III: DNA damage repair & genome organisation *(zaal 559)*

C-III: Crosslink, base excision & mismatch repair *(Lamoraalzaal)*

19:30 *Conference dinner including poster prize ceremony*

± 22:00 *Jam-session, extended* *(van Speijkzaal/The Pub)*

FRIDAY APRIL 24

Plenary Session XVI Genome Instability and disease (Chair: Sylvie Noordermeer)

09:00 – 09:25 Claus Storgaard Sørensen (BRIC, DK) **"*Decoding genome stability pathways by quantitative allele and phosphosite editing*"**

09:25 – 09:50 Steve Jackson (Cambridge University, UK) "***Cellular responses to DNA damaging anti-cancer agents: mechanistic insights and clinical implications"***

09:50 – 10:05 Alessandro Vindigni (Washington University, USA) ***"A p53-mediated molecular switch prevents gap formation, unveiling a new PARP inhibitor sensitivity mechanism in HR-proficient cancers"***

10:05 – 10:20 Mats Ljungman (University of Michigan, USA) ***"Targeting DNA repair "scars" in the cancer genome using CRISPR"***

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee/tea Break

Plenary Session XVII Genome Instability and disease (Chair: Haico van Attikum)

11:00 – 11:25 Chris Lord (Institute for Cancer Research, UK) *"**Understanding synthetic lethality in the DDR**"*

11:25 – 11:50 Ross Chapman (Oxford University, UK) *"**Beyond HR: a new function for BRCA1 in tumour suppression**"*

11:50 – 12:35 '**Elsevier' Keynote speaker:** Wei Yang (NIH, USA) *"**The choreographed movement of protein and DNA in nucleotide excision repair**"*

12:35 **Closure meeting by Haico van Attikum**

12:45 – 13:45 Lunch and departure

12:45 – 14:30 busses to airport

POSTER DISCUSSION SESSIONS

Session	A	B	C
I	**Replication stress** Chairs: Claus Sørensen Karen Lane	**Nucleotide excision repair & transcription stress** Chairs: Jurgen Marteijn Stephanie Panier	**DSB repair – NHEJ/TMEJ** Chairs: Bert van de Kooij Marcel Tijsterman
II	**DSB repair - HR/general** Chairs: Kara Bernstein Sylvie Noordermeer	**Translesion synthesis & mutagenesis** Chairs: Juan Garaycoechea Jacqueline Jacobs	**DNA damage signaling and consequences of DNA damage** Chairs: Martin Reijns Marcel van Vugt
III	**Clinical/translational aspects** Chairs: Aura Carreira Haico van Attikum	**DNA damage repair and genome organisation** Chairs: René Medema Amelie Fradet-Turcotte	**Crosslink, base excision and mismatch repair** Chairs: Koichi Sato Titia Sixma