



# meet the PhD jury

for the public defense of Noah Bonine

**Jan Molenaar, PMC,  
Utrecht**

**&**

**Joachim Siaw, Lund  
University**

**3<sup>rd</sup> of October 2025, 2PM-3:30PM**

**L5 in FSVM II - Technologiepark - Zwijnaarde**

**host: Katleen De Preter (TOBI, VIB-UGent)**





## 14u-14u45: Decoding neuroblastoma pathogenesis and microenvironmental dialogues using spatial transcriptomics

Joachim Siaw is a post-doctoral researcher at Lund University, where he focuses on spatial investigations of neuroblastoma. He obtained a PhD studying the role of anaplastic lymphoma kinase (ALK) in neuroblastoma pathogenesis and differentiation at the University of Lund (2016-2020). After this, he joined the lab of Prof. Jimmy Van den Eynden (2021-2024) as a postdoctoral researcher. Recently, he has moved back to Lund University where he is continuing neuroblastoma research. Dr. Joachim Siaw has recently published the first spatial transcriptomics investigation on neuroblastoma patient samples, revealing potential novel avenues for therapeutic interventions (Siaw et al., 2025, *The Journal of Pathology*).

*Key publications:* [paper 1](#), [paper 2](#), [paper 3](#)

► Dr. Joachim Siaw, Lund University, Sweden

# 14u45-15u30: New therapeutic approaches for pediatric neuroblastoma



Jan Molenaar is a professor at the department of pharmaceutical sciences at the Utrecht University and a group leader in the Princess Maxima Center for pediatric oncology. His group is aiming at translational research in pediatric solid tumors. Molecular and immunologic findings are translated in new therapeutic interventions to improve curation with optimal quality of life. His group has initiated the iTHER precision medicine program for pediatric cancer patients in the Netherlands and his team is running the Maxima compound screening facility. Jan is the chair of the European ITCC (Innovative Treatments for Children with Cancer) solid committee, a member of the SIOPEN New Drug Development steering committee and a member of the Princess Maxima Clinical Research Committee.

*Key publications:* [paper 1](#), [paper 2](#), [paper 3](#)

▶ Prof. Jan Molenaar, PMC, Utrecht