

Jan Sakoltchik



About me

I enrolled in the medical training program in Rotterdam in 2015. One thing I liked about medicine, is that one can apply their knowledge directly to help patients, but also to contribute to improving healthcare overall through research. In 2018 I had the opportunity to combine my medical studies with a Master's degree in Molecular Medicine, which gave me a stronger foundation in molecular biology.

Prior to starting my current project, I did two one-year lab internships: first in the lab of Niels Galjart, studying plus-end tracking microtubule-associated proteins by making transgenic stem cells and live-cell imaging, and a second year with the Sixma group at the Dutch Cancer Institute, freezing a protein complex (PDB: 9HNW) down to -200°C for experimental determination of its structure (together with several nice wet-lab experiments to learn more about its function).

During my medical rotations and an elective internship in pathology, I came to appreciate the specialty for its visual aspects, the prominence of molecular techniques in diagnostic practice and the close collaboration with translational science. This positive experience as a medical intern contributed to me coming to the Department of Pathology and Clinical Bioinformatics for my PhD in 2023.

In my current research I work closely with scientists from the Department of Developmental Biology and the Department of Epidemiology. We use FFPE material from our tissue bank, combined with bioinformatics and nationwide cancer registration data, to better understand what's going on during cervical pre-cancer progression to overt cervical carcinoma.