

Meyler Prize 2021 for Jet Westerink

De Meijler Prijs 2021 is toegekend aan Jet Westerink. Bij de uitreiking van deze prijs aan haar op 23 januari 2022 op de Winter Meeting 2022 georganiseerd door het Utrecht WHO Collaborating Centre for Pharmaceutical Policy and Regulation. Prof. dr. Eugène van Puijenbroek hield hierbij de volgende laudatio.

The Leo Meyler price is facilitated by the Dutch “Bijwerkingenfonds” and awarded annually to a medical- or pharmacy or student in health sciences for the best thesis or publication in the field of drug safety. Why this prize especially for students? The Bijwerkingenfonds feels that especially in the early stages of training and education, attention for the safety of drug is important.

This prize is named after Prof. Leopold Meyler, a specialist in internal medicine in Groningen and the first professor of Clinical Pharmacology at Groningen University in 1968. Meyler was a pioneer for drug safety. Shortly after the war he started the systematic collection of information he adverse-drug reactions reported in literature. Based on this wrote his textbook 'Side effects of Drugs', which was first published in 1951 and it still is the most important and comprehensive textbook in drug safety.

This year's prize was awarded to **Jet Westerink**, student medical biology of Radboud University Medical Centre in Nijmegen, track Science, Management and Innovation with her master thesis *“A conceptual framework for the rheumatic patient-reported burden of Adverse Drug Reactions of biologicals and comparison to the rheumatologist's perspective”* for which she also submitted a publication. Jet was supervised by Lean Kosse and Naomi Jessurun of Pharmacovigilance centre Lareb.



We already knew there is a discrepancy between the view of the health care professionals' (HCPs) and patients' in respect to the burden of Adverse Drug Reactions. But what actually characterizes this burden is not clear. This study aimed to give more insight into the reasons why ADRs are perceived as burdensome in patients with inflammatory rheumatic diseases. In addition she compared the patient en healthcare perspective on this burden.

The Award Committee felt that the prize should be granted to Jet, since she addressed a relevant topic, choosing an approach that really allows for the detection of new information. This well conducted study gives us a new perspective on the perception of adverse drug reactions by those who are using them.

This knowledge is needed to allow patients and HCPs to understand the nature of the impact of ADR. Not to abstain from treatment, but to anticipate on it and by doing so hopefully increase compliance.