

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

PROF DR **Carol E Garber**  
PROF DR **Joseph Czerniecki**  
PROF DR **Mike McNamee**  
DR **Claudio Perret**

## THEMES

EXERCISE AND TESTING  
PHYSICAL ACTIVITY  
TRAINING AND INTERVENTION

## POSTER SESSIONS

POSTER SESSION I WILL START AT  
11.45, IN THE HALLWAY BETWEEN  
THE FONTEINPATIO AND THE UMCG  
MAIN ENTRANCE

## DINNER

GROUP DINNER WITH THE OTHER  
GUESTS. THIS IS INCLUDED IN THE  
CONFERENCE FEE. IT WILL BE IN THE  
RESTAURANT OF THE UMCG

## PUBTOUR

THE PUBTOUR WILL START TONIGHT  
AFTER THE DINNER

## WEATHER

21° 10%

### Background:

#### Guest of Honour Prof Dr Willem Eisma

With the aid of a walking stick, Mr Eisma takes his time to walk to his reserved seat. At first sight this man looks like his career is over and his time has come to “sit behind the geraniums” (a Dutch expression for being old and doing nothing but watching the neighbors). After the first few words, however, we realized that this assumption was completely wrong. This man is still going strong. He has placed the geraniums on hold for a bit longer and is still medical advisor of a health insurance company and in the board of the Beatrixoord-foundation.



This is quite impressive if you hear about his past working career. In 1964 he started as a doctor assistant in the UMCG and nine years later he was already head of the rehabilitation department. During those years, he started to realize that research should be more embedded in the field of rehabilitation. As a result of this idea, since then there have been many students human movement sciences graduates, helping to improve treatments in rehabilitation. The creation of the study human movement sciences embedded within the UMCG environment, did not come about without any resistance. After all, there were already similar studies in Amsterdam and Maastricht. Nevertheless, after a short flirt with the social sciences department and some trials in court, the creation of a new study was completed.

As is the aim of this congress, collaboration between the rehabilitation research centers within the Netherlands was one of the aims of prof dr Eisma. Quickly after the foundation of the research department in Groningen this became reality. Satisfied could therefore be the word explaining the feelings of Mr. Eisma about the international and Dutch collaborations at the moment best. Thinking over the borders was also something he has done during his career. Although literally Curacao is not over the border for a Dutch man, the foundation of a rehabilitation center on that island in the Caribbean can be seen as a major achievement in the amelioration of health care on an international scale.

Sitting behind a table near the exposition area, he overlooks the other researchers as a father observing his children playing in the garden. As described above, he is not a man to look back and spend his time supporting the “everything used to be better than nowadays” - paradigm, but during the Wednesday of this congress there seems to be room for some proud feelings on the achievements made since the early 80's.

After some thoughts on the past, the focus is shifted immediately to the future. Besides the occupations he currently has, there is still room for another project: evidence-based classification in golf for disabled people. To date, little research has been done on the classification of athletes in adapted sports. To bring a sport on the Paralympic calendar, however, the IOC prefers to receive evidence-based classification methods. The next goal, thus, is developing these methods in golf, so that in the near future a new Tiger Woods hopefully will exist in adapted golf as well. Until that moment, there is still a lot of work to do. According to the founding father of human movement sciences in Groningen, the research in this field has still to become more mature and first has to overcome the problems that come with a being a young profession. Under the supervision of prof dr Eisma, these problems will be faced with courage. Starting with golf, but probably more sports will follow.

The geraniums can wait.