



Alumni Interview

Dr Cecile van ELS

ADVAC 2010

“We need to accelerate the development and release of safe new and improved vaccines to prevent disease and death caused by many (re-)emerging infectious diseases.”

What did ADVAC bring to you on both a personal and professional level?

Personally, ADVAC brought me new friendships among a group of very engaged people from different backgrounds in the world. We had many interesting conversations, which was very inspiring and eye-opening. At the professional level ADVAC strengthened my knowledge on the on the full breadth of the vaccinology field and made me feel proud of our collaborative work.

What in your opinion have been the most important advances and challenges in vaccinology over the past 20 years?

- Step by step closing gaps in vaccine R&D by new technologies, e.g. subunit vaccines, structural vaccinology, reverse vaccinology;
- Step by step generating insight into mechanisms of protection and realizing quality of immune mechanisms may be more important than quantity;
- Global programs and alliances on child-immunization;
- R&D of adjuvants

Why does this field remain so important?

We need to accelerate the development and release of safe new and improved vaccines to prevent disease and death caused by many (re-)emerging infectious diseases.