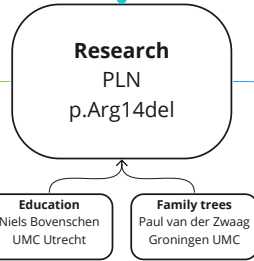
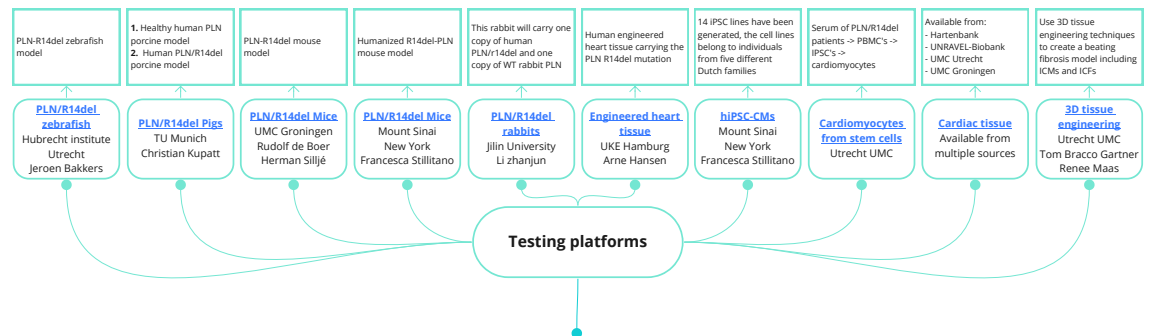


Legend	
.....	Research is not funded by the PLN foundation
—	Research funded by the PLN foundation
⌋	Research is part of the cure PLaN consortium
⌋	Research project is finished



Etiologic research

Research at Gene level

- Gene expression**: Eva van Rooij, Hubrecht institute Utrecht. 1. Gene expression analysis with high spatial resolution of PLN/R14del patient explanted hearts using Tomo-seq. 2. Using patient-derived cultures to identify the cellular origin and molecular mechanisms of fibro-fatty tissue deposition.
- Whole genome sequencing**: Peter van Tintelen, UMC Utrecht. Part of cure PLaN (aim 1)
- Potential druggable targets in R14del PLN cardiomyopathy**: Jiayi Pei, Magdalena Harakalova, UMC Utrecht. 1. Restore the activities of PPARα and KLF15 in R14del and healthy cardiomyocytes and study the energetic metabolism. 2. Suppress the activities of RUNX1 and ETN4S in cardiomyocytes and monitor the downstream fibrotic signalling. 3. Investigate the distribution of accumulated lipid droplets in cardiomyocytes and in the extracellular matrix using human engineered cardiac tissues.
- Global Screening Array in Lifelines**: UMC Groningen. More information will follow
- Epigenetics**: Magdalena Harakalova, Jiayi Pei, Folkert Asselbergs, UMC Utrecht. Using cardiac tissue of PLN R14del patients and donors, we identified differentially acetylated promoters and enhancers (H3K27ac ChIP-seq), annotated enriched transcription factor (TF) binding motifs located in those regions, and identified differentially expressed genes (RNA-seq).

Research at Protein level

- Nuclear magnetic resonance**: Marc Baldus, UMC Utrecht. 1. Analysis of the folding and aggregation behaviour of PLN/R14del. 2. Analysis of the interaction landscape of PLN. 3. Analysis of PLN in cells.
- Proteomics**: Manuel Mayr, King's college London. 1. Analyses of mouse models carrying the PLN/R14del mutation. 2. Comparison of human hearts and engineered heart tissues carrying PLN/R14del. 3. Analysis of plasma samples from PLN/R14del carriers. 4. Analysis of cardiac myosin-binding protein C.
- Super-resolution imaging & PLN-specific proximity proteomics**: Stephan Lehnhart, UMC Göttingen. Part of cure PLaN (aim 2 & 3)
- PLN in the nuclear envelope**: Mu Chen, Krannert Institute of Cardiology Indianapolis. Not funded by the PLN foundation or cure PLaN
- PLN and mechanical stretch of the nuclear envelope**: Zhiyong Lei, UMC Utrecht. Discover the role of PLN/R14del in the mechanical stretch of the nuclear envelope

Research at Macroscopic level

- Curing cardiac fibrosis**: Tom Bracco Gartner, Renee Maas, Joost Sluiter, UMC Utrecht. 1. Generate ICMs en ICFs from a PLN/R14del patient, the mutation-corrected and the healthy control iPSC cell lines. 2. Use 3D tissue engineering techniques to create a beating fibrosis model including ICMs and ICFs. 3. Model the fibrosis in vitro. 4. Screen antifibrotic compounds in the fibrosis model. 5. Read-outs.
- Echo project**: Arco Teske, Karim Taha, UMC Utrecht. 1. Exploring deformation characteristics in different stages of PLN-associated cardiomyopathy, and correlating these characteristics to other clinical parameters and adverse clinical events. 2. Predicting disease progression and interventional successes.
- ECG**: René van Es, UMC Utrecht. ECG interpretation and home cardiac monitoring.
- Inflammation in heart failure**: Saskia de Jager, UMC Utrecht. This research investigated whether an antibody-mediated inflammatory response is involved in the development of heart failure of patients with a mutation in the PLN protein.
- Fatback**: Magdalena Harakalova, UMC Utrecht. 1. Measure acylcarnitine profiles in plasma samples PLN/R14del carriers and correlate the measured values with objective signs of ACM disease progression. 2. Perform super resolution microscopy for the presence of lipid droplets inside failing cardiomyocytes in cardiac tissue and functional experiments to collect evidence for the PPARα- and KLF15-mediated FAO downregulation in cardiomyocytes.
- Molecular mechanisms of PLN R14del DCM**: Jort van der Geest, Joost Sluiter, UMC Utrecht. Modeling the disease in human induced pluripotent stem cell-derived cardiomyocytes (iPSC-CMs) by, knock-in of the R14del mutation, and knock out of the PLN gene using the CRISPR-Cas9-mediated genome editing.

CURE PLaN

- Aim 1 Van Tintelen / de Boer / Asselbergs / Stilitano / Costar / Sanaoudou**: Elucidate genotype-phenotype relationships in a cohort of PLN/R14del carriers to specifically address why and when some carriers manifest specific disease symptoms.
- Aim 2 Sanaoudou / Karakikes / Lehnhart / Mercola / Costa**: Define the mechanisms underlying the disease phenotype, using human cell-based in vitro models. Delineate the underlying molecular basis for the disruption of normal cardiomyocyte function.
- Aim 3 Stilitano / Costa / Kranias / Doevendans**: Characterize the functional significance of the PLN/R14del in vivo using knock-in mouse models (specific studies will be extended to knock-in pig models). Evaluate the time-dependent changes in cardiac contractility and structure as well as monitor for ventricular arrhythmias and response to stress conditions.
- Aim 4 Stilitano / Costa / Mercola / de Boer**: Translate our current knowledge and the newly gained insights to develop corrective therapies with the ultimate goal of moving to the clinic, improving prognosis. The immediate goal is to advance gene therapy and pharmacological therapeutics.

Research area DNA

- Prime Editing**: Joost Sluiter, UMC Utrecht. 1. Establish and optimize prime editing system for PLN/R14del genome corrections. 2. Functionally correct the PLN/R14del in iPSC-derived mutated myocytes. 3. Screen for the most efficient prime editing guide RNAs. 4. Construct and produce AAV virus for in vivo delivery of prime editors and pgRNAs. 5. Functionally correct the PLN/R14del in established PLN/R14del mouse model.
- Prime editing**: Ioannis Karakikes, Stanford. Not funded by the PLN foundation or cure PLaN
- CRISPR-Cas**: Francesca Stilitano, Mount Sinai New York. Part of cure PLaN (aim 4)
- Gene therapy**: Geert Boink, Amsterdam UMC. Supporting the cure of Phopholamban induced cardiomyopathy

Research area RNA

- Short interfering RNA**: Ioannis Karakikes, Stanford. Part of cure PLaN (aim 4)
- Short hairpin RNA**: Anke Tijssen, Yigal Pinto, Amsterdam UMC. 1. Develop an as-shRNA that selectively inhibits the PLN/R14del allele in iPSC-CM with this mutation. 2. Assess the effect of the developed as-shRNA on the R14del iPSC-CM phenotype in 3D EHTs.
- Antisense RNA**: Niels Grote Beverborg, Rudolf de Boer, UMC Groningen. 1. Investigate treatment mechanism and potential side effects. 2. Investigate treatment and potential reversal of the phenotype with late onset start of treatment. 3. Assess effects of the PLN-ASO in general heart failure models. 4. Assess effects of a human PLN-ASO in human cardiomyocytes/ cardiac tissue.

Research area Existing medication

- Unfolded protein response**: Mark Mercola, Ioannis Karakikes, Dries Feyen, Stanford. Study the identified UPR pathway targets in the in vivo PLN/R14del models.
- Sarcomere**: Sakthi Sadayappan, University of Cincinnati. 1. Determine the regulatory mechanisms of contractile function in normal and mutated cardiomyocytes to elucidate the functional readout of increased contractile protein levels. 2. Determine if functional deficits can be rescued by small-molecules, or pharmacological compounds.
- Metformine**: Allen Teng, University of Toronto. 1. Study if metformin would promote PLN/R14del degradation via enhanced autophagy in cell culture and in vivo.
- Metformine**: Niels Bovenschen, Renee Maas, UMC Utrecht. 1. Study the influence of metformin on cell viability and apoptosis. 2. Create a visualization of autophagic activity and PLN aggregates. 3. Test the physiological functioning of cardiomyocytes.
- Jstaroxime**: Antonio Zaza, University of Milano. Waiting for publication
- High throughput screening**: Mark Mercola, Stanford. Part of cure PLaN (aim 4)