

Eline Willemse is working as a postdoc researcher at the Neurochemistry laboratory at the Amsterdam UMC, location VUmc in the Netherlands on the clinical implementation of novel biomarkers for neurological disorders.

Her main research ambition is to have a direct impact on patient care by performing translational biomarker research in the field of neurological diseases. Her goal is to accelerate the implementation of promising biomarkers in the clinic. Simultaneously, she aims to use biomarker studies to support the elucidation of the biology underlying human brain diseases, to eventually find effective therapy.

Eline started her Bachelor studies Biomedical Sciences at Utrecht University in 2007. In 2010, she finished her degree and continued her Master studies in Neuroscience and Cognition at Utrecht University. She first studied the role of genetic susceptibility in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) at the Experimental Neurology Laboratory of the University Medical Centre Utrecht. Next, she went to Buenos Aires (Argentina) to investigate the role of the progesterone receptor in multiple sclerosis (MS) at the Institute of Biology and Experimental Medicine (IByME-CONICET), which resulted in a Master's degree. In 2013, Eline started her PhD training at the Neurochemistry Laboratory and the Alzheimer Center of the VU University Medical Center, under supervision of prof.dr.ir. Charlotte Teunissen and prof. dr. Wiesje van der Flier. From November 2016 – April 2017 Eline had the opportunity to work in the Reference Center for Biological Markers for Dementia at the Institute Born-Bunge of the University of Antwerp under supervision of prof. dr. Sebastiaan Engelborghs and dr. Maria Bjerke to perform part of her PhD project. Eline presented at several international conferences, has been involved in international biomarker consortia and received several travel fellowships for conference visits and research secondments abroad (Buenos Aires Argentina, Antwerp Belgium). Eline's PhD thesis was entitled 'Optimising biomarkers in cerebrospinal fluid – how laboratory reproducibility improves the diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease' and successfully defended in October 2018. In April 2019, she started on a project funded by the Weston Brain Institute and Selfridges Group Foundation to translate CSF NfL results to blood NfL results to accelerate the definition of cut-off values and clinical implementation of blood NfL in clinical practice.