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Short biography

Maria van Genderen graduated in Medicine in 1981 (University of Utrecht) and completed her training as ophthalmologist in 1991 at Leiden University. Since 1992, she works as a pediatric ophthalmologist at Bartiméus, an institute for visually impaired people. She obtained her PhD in 2006 with a thesis on “Electrophysiology in Visually Impaired Children”. She is head of the Bartiméus Diagnostic Center for complex visual disorders, which has long standing expertise in diagnosing congenital or acquired visual system disorders in children. The clinical and research interests of her team focuses on hereditary retinal and optic nerve disorders and cerebral visual impairment. In 2017 she was appointed Professor of Ophthalmology at the University Medical Centre Utrecht. She is a board member of the Dutch Society for Visual Rehabilitation and chair of the Dutch Working Group Electro-ophthalmology. She teaches at the Netherlands Institute of Health Sciences in Rotterdam and the School of Orthoptics in Utrecht.

Research interests

Maria van Genderen’s main research interest is in hereditary retinal and optic nerve disorders and electrophysiology. She collaborated on several studies identifying novel genes for retinal dystrophies. In 2006, she authored a paper describing for the first time a condition with misrouting and foveal hypoplasia without pigmentation defect, later called FHONDA, and was co-author on the paper identifying the FHONDA gene in 2013. As a clinician, she is especially interested in the association between genetics and clinical signs and symptoms. In 2018, her PhD student Charlotte Kruijt published a study on the phenotypic spectrum of a large cohort of albinism patients and defined diagnostic criteria for albinism. She also investigated the optimal electrophysiological methods to diagnose misrouting. She works closely together with the ophthalmogenetics department of the University Medical Center Amsterdam (head prof. Arthur Bergen), which does fundamental research in albinism. She maintains close contact with the Dutch albinism patient’s organisation.