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## Mapping the maze: advancing atrial fibrillation models and therapies

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# List of publications

## Full Publications

Majumder R, De Coster T, Kudryashova N, Verkerk AO, Kazbanov IV, Ördög B, **Harlaar N**, Wilders R, de Vries AA, Ypey DL, Panfilov AV, Pijnappels DA. Self-restoration of cardiac excitation rhythm by anti-arrhythmic ion channel gating. *Elife*. 2020;9:e55921.

**Harlaar N**, Verberkmoes NJ, van der Voort PH, Trines SA, Verstraeten SE, Mertens BJA, Klautz RJM, Braun J, van Brakel TJ. Clamping versus nonclamping thoracoscopic box ablation in long-standing persistent atrial fibrillation. *J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg*. 2020;160:399-405.

**Harlaar N**, Dekker SO, Zhang J, Snabel RR, Veldkamp MW, Verkerk AO, Fabres CC, Schwach V, Lerink LJS, Rivaud MR, Mulder AA, Corver WE, Goumans MJTH, Dobrev D, Klautz RJM, Schalijs MJ, Veenstra GJC, Passier R, van Brakel TJ, Pijnappels DA, de Vries AAF. Conditional immortalization of human atrial myocytes for the generation of in vitro models of atrial fibrillation. *Nat Biomed Eng*. 2022;6:389-402.

**Harlaar N**, Oudeman MA, Trines SA, de Ruiter GS, Mertens BJ, Khan M, Klautz RJM, Zeppenfeld K, Tjon A, Braun J, van Brakel TJ. Long-term follow-up of thoracoscopic ablation in long-standing persistent AF. *Interact Cardiovasc Thorac Surg*. 2022;34:990-998.

Nyns ECA, Portero V, Deng S, Jin T, **Harlaar N**, Bart CI, van Brakel TJ, Palmén M, Hjortnaes J, Ramkisoensing AA, Zhang GQ, Poelma RH, Ördög B, de Vries AAF, Pijnappels DA. Light transmittance in human atrial tissue and transthoracic illumination in rats support translatability of optogenetic cardioversion of AF. *J Intern Med*. 2023;294:347-357.

## Letters

**Harlaar N**, Pijnappels DA, de Vries AAF. Conditional immortalization of human cardiomyocytes for translational in vitro modeling of cardiovascular disease. *Cardiovasc Res*. 2022;118:e105-e107.

## Selected peer-reviewed abstracts

**Harlaar N**, Liu J, Volkers L, Ramkisoensing AA, Schalijs MJ, Klautz RJM, van Brakel TJ, Pijnappels DA, de Vries AAF. Massive expansion of native human atrial cardiomyocytes through immortogenetics: generation of the hiAM cell lines. *Eur. Heart J*. 2019;40;ehz748.0187

**Harlaar N**, Oudeman MAP, Trines SA, de Ruiter GS, Khan M, Zeppenfeld K, Tjon A, Braun J, van Brakel TJ. Long-term follow-up of thoracoscopic ablation for long-standing persistent atrial fibrillation. *Eur. Heart J*. 2020;41;ehaa946.0625

**Harlaar N**, Dekker SO, Zhang J, Schalijs MJ, Klautz RJM, van Brakel TJ, Pijnappels DA, de Vries AAF. Modelling of atrial fibrillation at physiologically relevant scales enabled by massive expansion of native human atrial cardiomyocytes. *EP Europace*. 2021;23; euab116.553.

# List of abbreviations

*Alphabetical order*

**4-AP**, 4-aminopyridine

**AAD**, antiarrhythmic drug

**AF**, atrial fibrillation

**AFL**, atrial flutter

**AM**, atrial myocyte

**AP**, action potential

**APA<sub>max</sub>**, maximal AP amplitude

**APA<sub>plat</sub>**, AP plateau amplitude

**APD**, action potential duration

**APD<sub>20/50/80/90</sub>**, action potential duration at 20, 50, 80 and 90% of repolarization

**AT**, atrial tachycardia

**Box**, left atrial posterior wall

**bp**, base pairs

**BP**, biological process

**BSA**, bovine serum albumin

**CC**, cellular component

**CFAE**, complex fractionated atrial electrograms

**CHA<sub>2</sub>DS<sub>2</sub>-VASc score**, congestive heart failure, hypertension, age, diabetes, stroke, vascular disease and sex score

**CHA<sub>2</sub>DS<sub>2</sub>-VA score**, congestive heart failure, hypertension, age, diabetes, stroke and vascular disease score

**CI**, confidence interval

**CL**, cycle length

**CPM**, counts per million

**CS**, coronary sinus

**CTI**, cavotricuspid isthmus

**CV**, conduction velocity

**DEG**, differentially expressed gene

**DI**, DNA index

**DMEM**, Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium

**DMSO**, dimethylsulfoxide

**dox**, doxycycline

**FBS**, foetal bovine serum

**FC**, flow cytometry

**FDR**, false discovery rate

**FSC**, forward scatter

**GO**, gene ontology

**haAM**, human adult atrial myocyte

**hESC-AM**, human embryonic stem cell derived atrial myocyte

**hESC**, human embryonic stem cell

**hfAM**, human foetal atrial myocyte

**hiAM**, human immortalized atrial myocyte

**hiPSC**, human induced pluripotent stem cell

**hPSC-AM**, human pluripotent stem cell derived atrial myocyte

**hPSC**, human pluripotent stem cell

**HR**, hazard ratio

**HRP**, horseradish peroxidase

**IAS**, interatrial septum

**ICC**, immunocytochemistry

**ICD**, implantable cardioverter defibrillator

**ICR**, interquartile range

**ILR**, implantable loop recorder

**LA**, left atrium

**LAA**, left atrial appendage

**LAAI**, left atrial appendage isolation

**LAVI**, left atrial volume index

**LPV**, left pulmonary veins

**LSPAF**, long-standing persistent atrial fibrillation

**LT**, large T

**LUMC**, Leiden University Medical Center

**LV**, lentiviral vector

**MI**, mitral isthmus

**MTS**, modified Tyrode's solution

**NDS**, normal donkey serum

**OR**, odds ratio

**PBMC**, peripheral blood mononuclear cell

**PBS**, phosphate-buffered saline

**PC**, principal component

**PD**, population doubling

**PV**, pulmonary vein

**RA**, right atrium

**RAA**, right atrial appendage

**RCS**, reduced Chi-square

**RF**, radiofrequency

**RMP**, resting membrane potential

**RPV**, right pulmonary veins

**RT**, room temperature

**SD**, standard deviation

**SE**, standard error

**SEM**, standard error of the mean

**shRNA**, short hairpin RNA

**SR**, sinus rhythm

**SSC**, side scatter

**SV40**, simian virus 40

**SVT**, supraventricular tachycardia

**T3**, triiodo-L-thyronine

**TIA**, transient ischemic attack

**TPM**, transcripts per million

**VCS**, vena cava superior

**V<sub>max</sub>**, maximum AP upstroke velocity

**WB**, western blot

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# Curriculum Vitae

Niels Harlaar was born on August 8, 1995 in Alkmaar. He obtained his atheneum diploma *cum laude* in 2013 at the Jac. P. Thijssse College in Castricum, after which he started medical training that same year at Leiden University. During his second year, he was selected to participate in the MD/PhD-program of the Leiden University Honours College, for which he joined the Laboratory of Experimental Cardiology under the supervision of prof. dr. D.A. Pijnappels and dr. A.A.F. de Vries. After obtaining his Bachelor degree *cum laude* in 2016, he decided to turn this line of research into a full-time PhD program, now also involving the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery with the additional guidance of dr. T.J. van Brakel. For this research, he obtained a PhD-fellowship from the LUMC Executive Board as a part of the MD/PhD-program. The results obtained during his PhD training are described in this thesis. During his training he won several awards, including the Young Investigator Award at EHRA 2021 and the Hugo van Poelgeest award from Stichting Proefdiervrij. He finished his medical training in 2023 and became a Cardiology resident at the Leiden University Medical Centre in 2025 (supervisor dr. Trines), currently in the pre-Cardiology phase in Internal Medicine at the Alrijne Ziekenhuis (supervisor dr. L. Hardi).

## *Selected grants and awards*

2022 - Winner Hugo van Poelgeest Award (Stichting Proefdiervrij)

2021 - Winner Young Investigator Award (EHRA congress)

2019 - PhD-fellowship (LUMC Executive Board)

2019 - Best oral presentation (Rembrandt Symposium, Noordwijkerhout)

2019 - Travel grant (EHRA congress, Lisbon)

2019 - Highest rated abstract award (NVT spring congress, Utrecht)

2019 - Basic science travel grant (ESC congress, Paris)

2019 - Finalist Young Investigator Award competition (CES/HRS, San Francisco)

2018 - Basic science travel grant (ESC congress, Munich)

2015 - MD/PhD program starting grant (LUMC)