

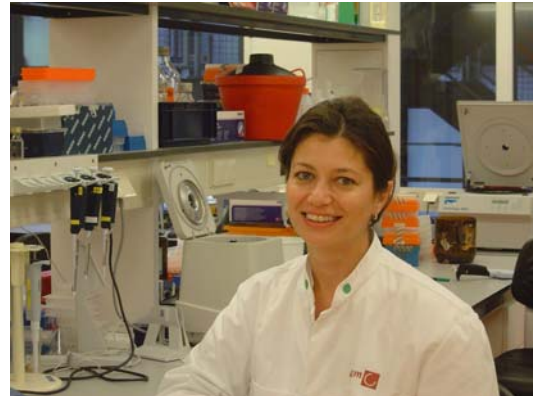
# **Dr. Connie Bezzina** **B. Pharm. (Hons.),** **Ph.D.**

**(and Brandon Scicluna MSc)**

Associate Professor  
Molecular Geneticist  
Amsterdam Medical Centre  
Speciality : Cardiogenetics

## **Personal Profile**

Connie Bezzina was born in Qormi, Malta, and lived most of her childhood there. She graduated *cum laude* in pharmacy at the University of Malta and subsequently obtained her PhD in the molecular biology of blood clotting disorders, becoming one of the first to graduate with a scientific PhD from the University of Malta. She worked for a time in the UK and then took up a position in the Netherlands where she has remained to this day. She is married to Ralph van Erp, an advisor for Dutch governmental departments and they have two young children, Benedict and Olivia. Connie and Ralph travel frequently to Malta for their holidays and love staying in Birgu.



## **Research Profile**

Connie's research focuses on the hereditary aspects of cardiac disease in particular arrhythmias. This involves studying families wherein young people die suddenly from fatal arrhythmias, to identify genes which contribute to this risk. She has published her results in outstanding scientific journals such as *Nature Genetics* and *The Journal of Clinical Investigation*.. Since a couple of years, Dr. Bezzina is supervising Brandon Scicluna, a Maltese PhD student. Brandon has also previously worked at the University of Malta.

Brandon Scicluna working in Dr. Bezzina's lab on cardiac genetics



### **Other interests.**

Apart from being a scientist, and dedicated wife and mother, Connie loves cooking and finds regular time to sport. She also loves Malta's beautiful scenery.

### **Relevant Links or info**

For further information about Connie's research into sudden cardiac death, please visit: [http://www.allianceagainstscd.org/contact\\_amsterdam.php](http://www.allianceagainstscd.org/contact_amsterdam.php) or [http://www.amc.nl/index.cfm?pid=2427&itemid=166&contentitemid=705&handler=display\\_engels](http://www.amc.nl/index.cfm?pid=2427&itemid=166&contentitemid=705&handler=display_engels)