

# **FWO awards the Oswald vander Veken Prize of 25,000 EUR**

Every three years, the Flemish FWO foundation (**Foundation for Scientific Research**) awards the Oswald VANDER VEKEN Prize for an original and/or in-depth study on the knowledge of musculoskeletal tumours, their ethiology, prevention, diagnosis and/or treatment. The prize is 25,000 EUR and is reserved for researchers who live and work in a member state of the European Union.

This year, the prize was awarded to:

## **Pancras Hogendoorn**

Ph.D. in pathology (NL)

Professor of pathology at Leiden University and Network coordinator of EuroBoNeT (NL)



For his work on:

“Molecular tumour pathology of tumours of the musculoskeletal system esp. cartilaginous tumours.”

Musculoskeletal tumours in general are rare, however among them cartilaginous tumours as a group are the most frequent. As a result of their relative rarity and complex clinicoradiological presentation and pathological and molecular make up, unraveling their nature has been challenging. Dr. Hogendoorn and his research group have focused over the past years on diagnostics and molecular understanding of these tumours aiming at finding potential treatment options. With regard to diagnostics the emphasis was on closely correlating conventional as well as dynamic MRI findings to histopathology leading to an optimal set of diagnostic criteria, while on the (immuno)histological level criteria were put forward separating benign- from malignant tumours. Using an array of molecular techniques the genetic make up of these tumours were studied which led to the identification of the causative (tumour suppressor) role and mechanism of the EXT genes in hereditary and none hereditary osteochondromas and the identification of the cascade of downstream targets of the EXT pathway in osteochondroma, chondrosarcoma, chondroblastoma and chondromyxoid fibroma. Finally a syndrome was identified involving breast cancer and cartilaginous tumours. His group at Leiden University Medical Center at present leads a European network of excellence focusing on pathology and genetics of bone tumours ([www.eurobonet.eu](http://www.eurobonet.eu)).