

## **EUROSEAS CONFERENCE, OXFORD 16-18 August 2017**

### Panel

Title: A Medical Journal in the Dutch East Indies, 1852-1942

#### Description of panel:

For future historians on the (medical) history of the Dutch East Indies the Medical Journal of the Dutch Indies (Geneeskundig Tijdschrift voor Nederlandsch-Indië, hereafter GTNI) is a rich source. It is the oldest regular Dutch language medical journal and perhaps also one of the eldest medical journals in Asia. During its existence, thus from 1852 to 1942, about 7,000 articles were written most of them case studies. Before 1920 the subjects of the case studies were mainly, and not surprisingly, on beriberi (Eijkman et al.) and infectious diseases (epidemics of cholera and plague). The turn of the century marked the introduction of the microscopy as a tool in clinical work (enhanced by Robert Koch), and a wave of new insights in various infectious diseases and their agents. The twenties and thirties showed more attention on heart-disease, cancer, physiology, intoxication, childcare and obstetrics (a general phenomenon in many medical journals throughout the world, the epidemiological shift). Also the number of contributions by indigenous physicians and researchers enormously increased.

It is no surprise, that most studies were from Java, especially Jakarta, and some were from the plantations on Sumatra. Some contributions deal with Surinam, a colony in the Dutch West Indies. Important medical innovations were brought to the colony shortly after their introduction in the home country, probably partly for military reasons.

In the panel we will dwell on leprosy (Leo van Bergen; comparing the ideas of Dutch doctors working in the East Indies, Surinam doctors and Indies doctors); the contributions of Indonesian and Chinese doctors in the Medical Journal (Liesbeth Hesselink); the development of psychiatry in the colony (Hans Pols); medical laboratories in Java and Sumatra (Jan Peter Verhave).

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In the panel we will compare early developments with those of the late thirties (until the Japanese occupation)

Convener: Prof. Dr Frank Huisman, University Utrecht (medical historian)

Presenters: Leo van Bergen (Institute of Military History, the Hague, the Netherlands); Liesbeth Hesselink (independent researcher, Leiden, the Netherlands); Hans Pols (Associate Professor and Director Unit for History and Philosophy of Science, University of Sydney, Australia); Jan Peter Verhave (independent researcher)