

Short CV: Catharien Hilkens

Catharien Hilkens obtained her PhD in Immunology at the University of Amsterdam, where she studied the role of dendritic cells in regulating the differentiation and function of human T helper cell subsets. She then was awarded a fellowship from the European Molecular Biology Organisation (EMBO) to work at the Cancer Research UK London Research Institute. Here she studied how Type I Interferons regulate the function of T-cells and dendritic cells. At Newcastle University, which she joined in 2003, one of her main research lines is the development of a tolerogenic antigen-presenting cell (tolAPC) based therapy for rheumatoid and inflammatory arthritis. Her other main focus is to understand the function of APC in synovial tissue – and how these cells drive inflammatory arthritis. She is one of the founders of the European network Action to Focus and Accelerate Cell-based Tolerance-inducing Therapies (AFACTT - <http://www.afactt.eu>). She is part of the Arthritis Research UK Rheumatoid Arthritis Pathogenesis Centre of Excellence (RACE - <http://www.race-gbn.org>).