

**2017 EUROSPINE TFR Pilot Study Grant (€ 30,000) Recipient: Rene Castelein**

Can differences in collagen remodeling lead to disc wedging, degeneration and scoliosis?

*Rene Castelein, Keita Ito, Laura Cremers, Moyo Kruijt, Tom Schlosser; the Netherlands*

**Why do you think the research you have been funded for is important?**

Because I believe the role of the disc in the initiation and progression of scoliosis deserves much more research. Scoliosis is not a bony disorder, the changes in the disc are much more impressive. Normal and abnormal maturation of the disc is largely terra incognita, we intend to put a big effort into elucidating this important field and I am sure that this grant, that is meant to carry out a pilot study, will enable us to come with data that justify a larger study, for which we will also certainly apply for funding.

**What do you think it will change for patients / the clinical outcome of the study?**

If we understand the behaviour of the disc in the normal growing spine as compared to the scoliotic spine, it will help our understanding of the disorder, add to our etio-pathogenetic knowledge and in the ideal world may provide opportunities to intervene in an innovative way and earlier in the process.

**For your research group, does this mean that you will go further and will apply for further funding?**

ABSOLUTELY!!

**Do you think that the process of the application was smooth with EUROSPINE?**

YES!