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!