Prof. Ody Sibon

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- Her PhD in molecular cell biology (University of Utrecht, The Netherlands,1990-1994) and postdoctoral training in biochemistry and Drosophila genetics (State University of Stony Brook, NY, USA, 1994-1997) provided her with a background in fundamental cell and developmental biology.
- In 1998, she started as a P.I. at the University Medical Center Groningen, The Netherlands.
- Two early career starting grants of the Dutch Organization for Scientific Research, allowed her to perform curiosity driven fundamental research. This resulted in the discovery of a novel link between coenzyme A (CoA) metabolism, neurodegeneration and cardiac diseases. It was because of this unforeseen outcome that her lab entered the CoA field.
- The Sibon lab subsequently performed in-depth investigations of CoA homeostasis leading to knowledge and insights, deviating from what was reported in textbooks. They found evidence for alternative routes for cells and organisms to maintain CoA homeostasis via the uptake of CoA precursors other than the well-known precursor: vitamin B5. Sensitive detection methods for CoA-derivatives were developed and models to manipulate CoA homeostasis were generated.
- Her research group tested the usage of alternative CoA-precursors in animal models of various CoA-linked diseases. Diseases characterised by inborn errors of CoA homeostasis, including PKAN (neurodegenerative disease), CoPAN (neurodegenerative disease) and PPCS-deficiency (dilated cardiomyopathy). While the fundamental research is ongoing, the Sibon lab also use the obtained knowledge to develop possible treatments for CoA-linked diseases.