

Professor Ingemar Merkies



Prof. dr. Ingemar S.J. Merkies, Neurologist, Clinimetrician, and working as Medical Director Curaçao Medical Center, Willemstad, Curaçao, Professor at Maastricht University Medical Center.

Prof dr. Ingemar S.J. Merkies received his medical training at the Fee University Medical Centre in Amsterdam (*cum laude*) and his neurology training at the Erasmus Medical Centre, Rotterdam, the Netherlands. In 2001, he got his PhD in medical neurosciences (*cum laude*) (Thesis title: Evaluation of scales and measurements in immune-mediated neuropathies). He was also trained at the neurorehabilitation department at Leeds University, Leeds, UK in applying the Rasch methodology as a modern technique to transform ordinal-based outcome measures to interval measures.

He has been the tutor for years, training young doctors in affiliation with Amsterdam UMC. At current stage, he works as the medical director of Curaçao Medical Center, Willemstad, Curaçao and as a scientific board member at the department of neuromuscular disorders of the Maastricht University Medical Centre, Maastricht, the Netherlands. His scientific work (> 200 peer-reviewed papers published) focuses on clinimetrics science and painful neuropathies. He has organized several workshops on outcome measures getting consensus on a core set of measures for future trials in various neuromuscular disorders that are gaining interest since there are potential genetic therapies. He has served as a steering committee member on several multi-centre international past and ongoing studies, particularly in GBS and CIDP. A second line of science is painful neuropathies, particularly focusing on small fiber neuropathies (SFN). He is co-responsible for linking SFN to new mutations in the gene responsible for the activity of sodium channels 1.7, 1.8, and 1.9, suggesting part of SFN being a sodium channelopathy. The SFN study group has received an award from the American Neurological Association for the unique contribution to neurosciences on the paper linking SFN to Nav1.7 mutations. His main current goal is improving the hospital quality of care in Curaçao to the international standards.