Within our research group we are searching ways to make major improvements in the outcome of patients with thoracic malignancies, in the form of developing completely novel treatment concepts which are driven by the translation from preclinical results to bedside care.

Our focus lies on using the immune system as a novel therapeutic strategy in cancer. We explore novel immunological mechanisms and link these to patient data and integrate this knowledge in the development of clinical studies. We are involved in many basic, translational and clinical studies in lung cancer. We thereby focus on the role of the immune system in lung cancer development, personalized treatment options and response mechanisms.

Within our research laboratory a novel form of immunotherapy for patients with mesothelioma has been developed. After a decade of laboratory research, this approach was proven tolerable and safe in a phase I trial, for which the team received multiple achievement awards of public funders. In collaboration with the department of Surgery of Erasmus MC, this form of immunotherapy is now also investigated for other forms of cancer, such as pancreatic cancer and abdominal mesothelioma.