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## **COVID-19 – collaboration is key for organ-on-chip approaches and rapid tests**

**The Heart-on-a-Chip network (TFF-ResOOC) and the International Network for Lab-on-a Chip technologies hosted their 11<sup>th</sup> Joint Network Meeting as a virtual event on October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

COVID-19 has been on everyone's mind since the beginning of the year and has had a major impact on our daily life. Organ-on-chip models for the lung and heart can help understand COVID-19 disease mechanisms and can be used for testing treatment approaches. Furthermore, highly sensitive and easy-to-use rapid COVID-19 tests are desperately needed for identifying infections, but also for patient stratification.

In order to discuss the latest developments in the field of COVID-19, Saxion University of Applied Sciences and the Network for Lab-on-a-Chip Technologies invited their partners to join the 11<sup>th</sup> Joint Network Meeting. The meeting was hosted in a web meeting format.

The conference agenda included presentations from influential researchers and highly innovative companies in the field of COVID-19 patient stratification biomarker research and point of care testing, such as Prof. Dr. Martin Bennink (Saxion University), Dr. Ronny Schmidt (Sciomics GmbH) and Dr. Christian Mathis-Ullrich (SuSoS AG, guest speaker).

After the presentations the attendees were cordially invited to contribute to different break-out sessions. One session was centered on the improvement of organ on chip models for COVID-19 and similar diseases. In the other session novel biomarkers for COVID-19 and point of care tests with innovative sensing modalities were discussed.

### **About the Network for Lab-on-a-Chip technologies:**

The following companies and research institutions are represented in the ZIM network for Lab-on-a-Chip Technologies:

AMO GmbH (DE)

ibidi GmbH (DE)

Ionovation GmbH (DE)

inno-spec GmbH (DE)

microFab Service GmbH (DE)

42 life Sciences GmbH (DE)

Dynamic Biosensors GmbH (DE)

The Leibniz Institute of Surface Engineering (IOM) (DE)

Bremen Institute for Metrology, Automation and Quality Science (BIMAQ) (DE)

Coburg University, Institute for Sensor and Actuator Technology (DE)

miprolab GmbH (DE)

Sciomics GmbH (DE)

HNP Mikrosysteme GmbH (DE)

PreciPoint GmbH (DE)

BianoScience GmbH (DE)

Lightfab GmbH (DE)

Center for Research Promotion in  
Paediatrics (Zentrum für Forschungs-  
förderung in der Pädiatrie GmbH, DE)

PolyAn GmbH

NMI Reutlingen

Saxion University (NL)

Artecs B.V. (NL)

CE-Mate B.V. (NL)

Micronit Microtechnologies B.V. (NL)

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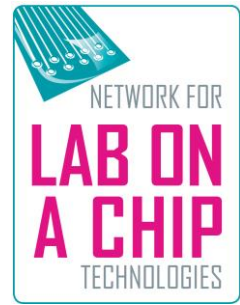
**About the Heart on a Chip Network:**

Heart diseases are one of the leading causes of death worldwide. Advances have been made to use the Organ-On-a-Chip technology to mimic organs and its (patho)physiology. The NanoBio Research Group focuses on the heart and is developing a resealable organ-on-a-chip platform for drug screening. The main goal of this project is to set up a fully integrated device to culture and pace heart cells and electrically monitor the cellular activity and drug responses, which can serve as a platform to test efficacy of drugs and to study heart diseases, without the use of animal testing.

This Saxion University of Applied Sciences project involves the collaboration of various Dutch and German industrial partners (SMEs) and leading academic research institutes.

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Head of the NanoBio Research Group



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