

# 2016 Ed Nowakowski Senior Memorial Clinical Virology Award

*Made possible by an unrestricted educational grant from MBL-Bion International*

## **Hubert Guillaume Maria Niesters, Ph.D.**



Bert Niesters (1958) studied biology and chemistry in Nijmegen, the Netherlands. After obtaining his Ph.D. in Utrecht (Prof.dr. M. Horzinek and Prof.dr. B. van der Zeijst, 1987) on the molecular epidemiology of infectious bronchitis virus, he worked as a post-doctoral fellow with Prof. dr. Jim Strauss at the California Institute of Technology (Pasadena, USA) on the replication of Alphaviruses. He received a Niels Stensen fellowship (The Netherlands) and an E.S. Gosney fellowship (Caltech) during this period.

After returning to the Netherlands (1989), he became a research associate in medical microbiology at the Diagnostic Medical Center (Delft), but moved back to clinical virology as a senior research associate in 1991 at the Erasmus University Medical Center Rotterdam (Head Prof. dr. Ab Osterhaus). From 1993 till 2007, he was responsible for the molecular diagnostics unit. During this period, he has been involved in the discovery and characterization of several new viruses and variants. In 2007, he became professor and director of the new laboratory of Clinical Virology within the Department of Medical Microbiology at the University Medical Center Groningen.

He has been actively involved in the implementation and development of new technologies like real-time amplification and automation within clinical virology. He has been focusing on molecular diagnostics and its use and the clinical value in a transplant setting as well as in monitoring treatment of hepatitis viruses. Recently, his interest focuses on rapid regional epidemiology, automation including MiddleWare solutions for molecular diagnostics, as well as the cost-benefit of rapid point-of-impact molecular testing.

He is active as a board member in several national and international societies. Since 2000, he is scientific advisor and executive member within QCMD (Quality Control of Molecular Diagnostics, Glasgow). He is also an auditor and team leader for the Dutch Council of Accreditation. Furthermore, he is an executive member of the Dutch Society of Medical Microbiology and Co-Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Clinical Virology. He is an (co)-author of more than 250 peer reviewed papers, chapters and reviews including emerging viruses like enterovirus D68 and hepatitis E virus.