ICRS Global Access Fellowship 2025 Dr. Do Weon Lee

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I am deeply honored to have been selected as a recipient of the ICRS Global Access Fellowship 2025, which provided me with the unique opportunity to attend the *Hands-On Lab Skills Course: Cell-Based Therapies & 3D Bioprinting*, held from April 14 to 16, 2025, in Utrecht, The Netherlands. This intensive three-day program brought together a diverse group of participants and faculty, fostering knowledge exchange and skill development at the interface of basic science and clinical orthopaedics.

Hosted by the University Medical Center (UMC) Utrecht, the course offered not only cutting-edge instruction but also showcased an environment of true translational excellence. The integration of world-class laboratory infrastructure, strong clinical insight, and a multidisciplinary research ecosystem enables UMC Utrecht to lead transformative developments in cartilage regeneration and joint preservation.

Under the direction of **Dr. Jos Malda** and **Dr. Roel Custers**, the program provided a well-curated blend of didactic lectures, hands-on laboratory experiences, and clinical translational perspectives. Faculty members such as **Dr. Jaqueline Lourdes Rios** and **Dr. Jasmijn Korpershoek** played instrumental roles in guiding participants through practical sessions on chondrocyte isolation, cartilage and bone scoring, and in vitro modeling. These sessions were both technically enriching and intellectually stimulating.



The course began with an inspiring keynote lecture by **Dr. Daniel Grande**, who shared his decades-long journey in cartilage regeneration and joint preservation. His reflections on the evolution of cell-based therapies and translational orthopaedic research were particularly impactful, setting a thoughtful and motivating tone for the days that followed. Another highlight was the lecture by **Professor Keita Ito** on in vitro cartilage modeling, which provided compelling insights into the mechanobiological foundations of regenerative strategies.

The visit to the Veterinary Faculty, where the horse was introduced as a translational large animal model, further emphasized the importance of bridging preclinical models with clinical applicability. Beyond the scientific program, the faculty dinner at Stadskasteel Oudaen offered a wonderful setting for informal exchange, exceptional food, and meaningful professional networking.



As an orthopedic surgeon with a clinical and academic focus on joint preservation and the development of disease-modifying osteoarthritis drugs (DMOADs), the knowledge and collaborations gained through this experience will inform both my clinical practice and future research.

My sincere thanks go to ICRS and the incredible faculty at UMC Utrecht for making this experience possible.

From Dr. Daniel Grande's inspiring reflections, to the advanced lab training led by Dr. Rios and Dr. Korpershoek, to the innovative equine model demonstrations—this course has left a lasting impression on my clinical and academic goals in joint preservation and osteoarthritis research.