

**Biography:** Dr. Debby Gawlitta is an associate Professor working on maxillofacial (bone) tissue regeneration, at the department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Special Dental Care of the University Medical Center in Utrecht, the Netherlands. She is inspired by the natural mechanisms of the body for bone development and repair in her regenerative strategies. Consequently, one of her research lines revolves around recapitulation of the natural direct mechanism for bone formation (intramembranous), which is accompanied by blood vessel formation. Additionally, she received various prestigious personal grants to support her work on bone regeneration from a cartilage template (endochondral), which for example naturally occurs in the growth plate.

Research keywords include clinical translation, biomaterials, stem/progenitor cells, bioreactors, and 3D bioprinting. Her group is working mostly on stem cell and biomaterial based regeneration in the RMCU (Regenerative Medicine Center Utrecht). The potential of new biomaterials and of biofabrication are explored for regenerative purposes.

3D biofabrication of the mandibular condyle and condylar cartilage is a challenging project that is currently ongoing. Also, in collaboration with Prof. Groll, a biofabricated vascular graft has been designed and realized that supports heterotypic cell differentiation. Furthermore, Dr. Gawlitta has gained ample experience on 3D bioprinting of hydrogels and biofabrication for cartilage and bone tissue engineering.

Further, Debby Gawlitta developed and coordinates the 2-year Master's program 'Regenerative Medicine and Technology' (RMT). Since 2012, RMT is a collaborative educational program of the UMCU, Utrecht University and Eindhoven University of Technology. Additionally, she has served as a board member of the Dutch Society of Matrix Biology and was a member of the local organizing committee of the European Society for Biomaterials 2018 meeting in Maastricht.

**Motivational statement:** Because of my extensive experience in the field of biofabrication and because I strongly believe that biofabrication will remain an integral part of regenerative medicine strategies in the upcoming decades, I would love to be elected as a board member of the International Society representing Biofabrication. As a board member, I will aim to specifically represent the interests of the young generation of scientists: education, collaboration and recognition are key to conducting good science and building a career.