Professor Marieke van Ham obtained her PhD from the University of Amsterdam, after having performed the research of her PhD project at the Academic Medical Center University of Amsterdam (AMC), the National Institute of Public Health and Environmental Protection (RIVM) and the Max-Planck-Institute for Biology, Tübingen, Germany. Her research focused on bacterial vaccination components (*Haemophilus influenzae* fimbriae). She went on to become a scientific staff member at the Human Immunogenetics Laboratory at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, London, United Kingdom, before returning to the Netherlands to do a Postdoc at the Netherlands Cancer Institute, Amsterdam. Between 2000 and 2003, Professor van Ham was Assistant and then Associate Professor, at the Free University Medical Center in Amsterdam. In 2003, she moved to the Sanquin Blood Supply Institute in Amsterdam where she headed the research group "Antigen Presentation", before becoming the head of the Department of Immunopathology in 2005. Since 2010, she is Full Professor in Biological Immunology, Faculty of Science, University of Amsterdam. Throughout her career, Professor van Ham has received numerous awards and has been a referee and evaluation panel member for several scientific organisations and journals. She is well versed in the work that EFIS does as she served as President of the 6th European Congress of Immunology, held in Amsterdam in 2018.