

## Course-proof with changing winds

Born in 1946 it was my privilege to participate in the postwar development of our society and in the modernisation of rheumatology in particular .

My medical education originated at the dutch Radboud University of Nijmegen in 1964 . After certification as rheumatologist in 1978 I started my practice in the neighbouring Maartenskliniek Nijmegen , a center of excellence for rheumatology , rehabilitation and orthopedics in the Netherlands .

Rheumatologists are dedicated to the medical cure and care of patients with rheumatic complaints due to inflammatory , degenerative or metabolic diseases of the musculoskeletal system of the human body . Also connective tissue diseases and psychosocial deficiencies belong to the spectrum of rheumatological disorders .

The modern approach to diagnosis and treatment is characterised by teamwork , professional efficiency and customized attention . In the past 40 years huge technological advances have improved antireumatic medication , orthopedic rheuma surgery and rehabilitation technique. Nowadays we use biological substances to combat destructive inflammation alongside the other more traditional chemical drugs with great success to avoid disability and handicap .