**Clinical chemist at Isala clinics**

After earning my doctorate at ACAS (now called BioMolecular Analysis (BMA)), I began training to become a clinical chemical engineer at the Isala clinics in Zwolle. Clinical chemistry combines applied science, complex medical issues and management.

**What is a clinical chemist?**
The clinical chemist examines all biochemical parameters (determinants) in blood and other bodily fluids. Based on the results, the medical specialist is advised and supported in making a diagnosis. The clinic chemist also monitors and assures the quality of these determinations.

**What does a clinical chemist do?**
The clinical chemist has several main tasks, including supervising a (large) group of blood sample collectors, doctor’s assistants, and analysts in a hospital clinical chemistry lab (or primary care practice lab). Besides these managerial and organisational functions, the clinical chemist also assumes professional responsibility for lab diagnostic procedures.

**How do you become a clinical chemist?**
People from various (chemical/medical) disciplines may qualify for further training as a clinical chemist. Generally speaking, this is a post-doctoral research study programme. Chemists like me do need to concentrate on acquiring a lot of medical knowledge, and the reverse applies to those with a medical background. But in the four-year programme, this happens automatically.

*Dr Hans Krabbe, Clinical Chemist, Isala clinics*