

# 2023 HTRS Mentored Research Award



**Roelof Bekendam, MD, PhD**

**Instructor**

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center /  
Harvard Medical School

## **Project Title**

"Dysregulation of Megakaryocyte Biology in the Bone Marrow  
Niche of ITP Patients"

## **Mentors**

Joseph Italiano, PhD | Robert Flaumenhaft, MD, PhD

Dr. Roelof (Rolf) Bekendam is a Hematology/Oncology fellow at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, Massachusetts. He pursued his medical training at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands and obtained his PhD in Vascular Pathology at Aix-Marseille University/INSERM in Marseille, France. His PhD thesis investigated the role of protein disulfide isomerase (PDI) inhibition in models of thrombosis and evaluation of S-nitrosylation as a post-translational modification controlling thiol isomerases within the vasculature. Dr. Bekendam subsequently completed internal medicine residency at the Boston Medical Center. He is now under the mentorship of Drs. Joseph Italiano and Robert Flaumenhaft at Boston Children's Hospital, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Harvard Medical School. Dr. Bekendam is interested in how megakaryocytes are involved in the pathophysiology of immune thrombocytopenia. His research focuses on identifying subsets of megakaryocytes and to evaluate dysregulation of megakaryocyte function within the bone marrow in models of immune thrombocytopenia.

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