



# RECOGNITION PROJECT KNOWLEDGE

The 9th Paulo Gontijo International Award for Medicine was awarded to researcher Marka Van Blitterswijk (M.D.Ph.D) and assistant professor of neuroscience in Mayo Clinic (Jacksonville, FL, EUA).

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**Dr. Marka** van Blitterswijk (M.D., Ph.D.) is an Assistant Professor of Neuroscience at Mayo Clinic (Jacksonville, FL, USA). She tries to understand why there is so much variability amongst patients with ALS, including in the age at which the first symptoms occur, presence of dementia, disease progression, and survival. Most of her patient-oriented research has focused on one particular cause of ALS: a mutation in a gene called C9ORF72. Together with her colleagues, she has examined specific