

Anthal Smits is Assistant Professor *In Situ* Cardiovascular Tissue Engineering in the Soft Tissue Biomechanics and Tissue Engineering group in the Department of Biomedical Engineering at Eindhoven University of Technology. His research is focused on modulation of the biomaterial-induced inflammatory response to achieve endogenous tissue regeneration under the influence of biomechanical and biophysical stimuli. His research has an interdisciplinary nature, bridging the fields tissue engineering, mechanobiology and biomechanics, materials science, and immunology.

Anthal holds a B.Sc. degree in Mechanical Engineering (2004) and a M.Sc. degree in Biomedical Engineering (2008), both from Eindhoven University of Technology. As part of his studies, he did a research internship at the Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, GA, United States on the validation of a modular bioreactor for the *ex vivo* (patho)physiological culture of heart valves. In September 2008 he started his PhD research at Eindhoven University of Technology in the group of prof. Frank Baaijens on the modulation of the immune response for *in situ* cardiovascular tissue engineering, in close collaboration with the University Medical Center Utrecht. He defended his PhD thesis in February 2014. After his PhD research, Anthal spent two years working as a Project Engineer at LifeTec Group BV, a dedicated R&D company specializing in accelerating the clinical translation of innovative medical therapies and devices. In July 2015, he joined the group of Prof. Carlijn Bouten as a postdoc, after which he was appointed Assistant Professor in July 2016.

Expertise: cell-biomaterial interactions, tissue engineering, immunomodulation, dynamic *in vitro/ex vivo* models (bioreactors), stem cells, cardiovascular tissues, regenerative medicine.