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Nico started his career in 1985 at the Thorax Center (Department of Cardiology, Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, The Netherlands) in the catheterization laboratory with some pioneers in interventional cardiology, Professors Patrick Serruys and Pim de Feyter. Simultaneously, he studied technical computer sciences and after graduating in 1993; he joined the Department of Digital Cardiology at the Thorax Center as a scientist, which department he currently leads.

His passions and activities lie in scientific computer-based innovations that advance cardiovascular care. His prior research focused primarily on cardiovascular imaging and signal processing to evaluate new therapies, and they have used his developed methods and techniques in several first-in-man clinical interventional studies. One of these new techniques was the development of three-dimensional (3D) echocardiography. In 1998, he defended his thesis - "Quantitative 3D echocardiography of the heart and coronary arteries" under the supervision of Prof. Jos R.T.C. Roelandt.

His current work is fully related to research and implementation of Digital Health within Cardiology. He is developing this field on an international scale as the inaugural editor-in-chief of The European Heart Journal - Digital Health. Within the European Society of Cardiology (The ESC), home of the journal, he is Vice-chair of the Digital Health Committee, Topic Coordinator Digital Health within the Congress Program Committee, nucleus member of the ESC's Cardiovascular Round Table and the Think Tank on innovation in Cardiology and advisor for the Patient Forum on Digital Health.