Nicolaas A. Franken began to study biology at the University of Leiden, The Netherlands in 1974. He obtained his PhD in 1988 also at the University of Leiden. He is now head of the Radiobiology group and principal investigator at the Amsterdam University Medical Centers, AMC, Laboratory of Experimental Oncology, Department of Radiation Oncology. His main fields of research are hyperthermia and predicting normal tissue radiation damage. The hyperthermia research focuses on the addition hyperthermia to the treatment of cervical cancer and on the DNA damage response following combined treatment with hyperthermia and ionizing radiation. Recently, his group showed that hyperthermia selectively targets HPV in cervical cancer via p53-dependent apoptosis. His research is sponsored by the Dutch Cancer Society Koningin Wilhelmina Fonds.

He is a (co)-author of over 100 peer-reviewed publications, several book chapters, and has held more than 100 lectures worldwide. In 2011, Dr Franken received, together with the other authors, the Cozzarelli prize of the proceedings of the National academy of Sciences for the best biological article ‘Mild hyperthermia inhibits homologous recombination, induces BRCA2 degradation, and sensitizes cancer cells to poly(ADPribose) polymerase-1 inhibition’.

Dr Franken is Secretary/treasurer of the Netherlands Society for Radiobiology, as well member of the Dutch Committee of Radiation Dosimetry (NCS), member of the council of the European Radiation Research Society and the International Association of Radiation Research.