



Personal Information Early Stage Researcher EUTRAIN project:



Contact information

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Summary of Curriculum Vitae

In 2007, I started my Bachelor's degree Biomedical Sciences at Utrecht University, The Netherlands. During my Bachelor's degree I wrote my Bachelor's thesis about the PD-1:PD-L pathway in diabetes and allergic asthma in the group of Prof. B. Prakken in the department of Paediatric Immunology, Centre for Molecular and Cellular Intervention, University Medical Centre Utrecht, The Netherlands.

After receiving my Bachelor's degree and because of my interest in the field of immunology and infection, I started a Master's degree in Infection and Immunity at Utrecht University, The Netherlands. As part of this programme, I performed a nine-month internship in the group of Prof. B. Prakken in the department of Pediatric Immunology, Centre for Molecular and Cellular Intervention, University Medical Centre Utrecht, The Netherlands. My project focused on the role of the PD-1 pathway in immune regulation in Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (JIA). More specifically, I examined the role of the PD-1 pathway in induction of regulatory T cells using several cellular immunological techniques. Furthermore, I was involved in the project of my supervisor Dr. E. Wehrens about the resistance of effector T cells to suppression by regulatory T cells from which the data are published (Wehrens et al., 2011). In addition to my internship in the group of Prof. Prakken, I performed a second, eight-month internship in the group of Dr. H. Cheroutre at the La Jolla Institute for Allergy and Immunology (LIAI), La Jolla, San Diego, USA. The aim of my project was to identify potential antigen(s) for CD8 $\alpha\alpha$ TCR $\alpha\beta$ intra-epithelial lymphocytes (IEL). Potential antigen(s) for CD8 $\alpha\alpha$ TCR $\alpha\beta$ IEL were investigated by screening different antigen preparations presented by various types of antigen presenting cells to different TCR $\alpha\beta$ expressing T cell clones.

During my Master's degree, I wrote my thesis about the serotype-dependent interactions between *Streptococcus pneumoniae* and the host during colonization and disease under supervision of Dr. K. Trzçinski in the department of Paediatric Immunology and Infectious Diseases, University Medical Centre Utrecht, The Netherlands.

Recently, I received my Master's degree in Infection and Immunity at Utrecht University, The Netherlands. In January 2013, I became part of the EUTRAIN Network, joined the group of Prof. L. Wedderburn and became a PhD student in her group at the Institute of Child Health, University College London, United Kingdom. My project will initially focus on the function of CD161 expressing regulatory T cells in JIA at the site of inflammation and the role of TGF β signalling in the mechanisms of action of methotrexate (MTX), a commonly used drug in JIA treatment.

My personal expectations for EUTRAIN

I expect my project will lead to exciting science and to crucial insights into the mechanisms of disease in JIA to improve and optimize the therapeutic strategies currently used in the clinic. In addition, I hope EUTRAIN will help in building a lasting translational network which will create a platform of knowledge and experience to initiate development of more effective therapeutic strategies and optimization of currently used strategies. Most importantly, I hope JIA patients will benefit from the creation of a lasting translational network. In the coming three years, I hope to become a successful translational researcher, receive my PhD and that my research will help in establishing the important bridge between basic research and the clinic.