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Author: Soonawala, Darius

Title: Travel, infection and immunity

Issue Date: 2016-03-31

Travel, infection and immunity

Darius Soonawala

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D. Soonawala

PhD Thesis, Leiden University, Leiden, The Netherlands

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ISBN/EAN: 978-90-9029601-2

Printed by: Mostert & Van Onderen, Leiden, the Netherlands

Lay-out & cover design: Nina Kleingeld | Stikstof Studio, Leiden, The Netherlands

Cover drawings by: Mrs. P.D. Soonawala in Soonawala DF. Preventive medicine, social medicine & hygiene. Bombay 1959.

The research presented in this thesis was performed at the Department of Infectious Diseases, Leiden University Medical Centre, Leiden, The Netherlands.

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Travel, infection and immunity

PROEFSCHRIFT

ter verkrijging van
de graad van Doctor aan de Universiteit Leiden,
op gezag van Rector Magnificus prof. mr. C.J.J.M. Stolker,
volgens besluit van het College voor Promoties

te verdedigen op donderdag 31 maart 2016
klokke 13.45 uur

door

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geboren te Leiden in 1977

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Car il est bien plus beau de savoir quelque chose de tout que de savoir tout d'une chose.
Blaise Pascal - Pensées

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PREFACE

The content of this thesis is based on research that was conducted at the travel and vaccination clinic at Leiden University Medical Centre (LUMC). This clinic provides pre-travel care to the general population, and to special groups of travellers, such as patients who use immunosuppressants or who have chronic diseases. The clinic is closely connected to the department of Infectious Diseases at LUMC. A team of specialized nurses provides pre-travel care. The setting of a travel clinic within an academic medical hospital, provides unique circumstances for medical research, like an experienced team of nurses, expertise regarding immunization, a constant flux of travellers and the knowledge and infrastructure that is required for research into microbiology, virology and parasitology. Examples of research that stem from this clinic are projects on immunization against malaria,^{1,2} yellow fever,³⁻⁶ travellers' diarrhea,^{7,8} poliomyelitis⁹ and hepatitis B,¹⁰ vaccination of immunocompromised patients,¹¹⁻¹⁴ and projects on travel related acquisition of extended spectrum β -lactamase producing Enterobacteriaceae¹⁵ and on the utility of post-travel screening of asymptomatic travellers for parasites.¹⁶ We hope that the research that is conducted at our travel clinic, will be of benefit to travellers and to the population at large.

