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Universiteit Leiden



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Curriculum vitae

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Curriculum vitae

Willemijn Marie-Antoinette Passtoors was born on the 28th of August 1980 in Haarlem. In 1998 she finished her VWO at the Veurs Lyceum in Leidschendam and after a one year break she started Biomedical Science at the University of Amsterdam in 1999. Her first research internship was at the department of Molecular Carcinogenesis at the Dutch Cancer Institute in Amsterdam. The goal of this internship was to study the structure of mutants of the mismatch repair protein MutS by protein crystallography. Her main internship as an undergraduate was at the department of Biological Lead Optimization at Solvay Pharmaceuticals in Weesp. The topic was the development of an in vitro screening method to select compounds viable to induce antioxidative enzymes in vivo in the search for a protective compound in Parkinson's disease. After this internship she obtained a job as technician at the same department where she worked until 2006 while graduating in 2005. In 2006 she started her PhD at the Molecular Epidemiology section of the Leiden University Medical Center under supervision of Professor P. E. Slagboom and Dr. M. Beekman. Her main aim was to identify relevant pathways and potential biomarker profiles in human populations that associate with chronological age and familial longevity. The results of this research are outlined in this thesis. Currently she is employed as a postdoctoral researcher at the Shanghai Center for Systems Biomedicine at the Shanghai Jiao Tong University, performing drug discovery studies for several diseases and studying possible candidate pathways for Alzheimer's disease.

List of publications

Passtoors WM, Maier AB, van der Breggen R, Deelen J, Trompet S, Jukema JW, Derhovanessian E, Pawelec G, van Ommen GJB, Slagboom PE*, Beekman M*. *IL7R* gene expression network associates with human familial longevity. Manuscript in preparation.

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*Both authors contributed equally to the studies