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Appendices

List of abbreviations

AAEM	American Association of Electrodiagnostic Medicine
Ab +/-	antibody positive / negative
ACh	acetylcholine
AChE	acetylcholinesterase
AChEI	acetylcholinesterase inhibitor
AChR	acetylcholine receptor
AChR MG	myasthenia gravis with autoantibodies to AChR
ATP	adenosine triphosphate
AU	arbitrary units
CI	confidence interval
CK	creatine kinase
CMAP	compound muscle action potential
ColQ	collagen Q
CV	coefficient of variation
DHPR	dihydropyridine receptor
DSS	disease severity score
EGFP	enhanced green fluorescent protein
EMG	electromyography
EPP	endplate potential
FACS	fluorescence-activated cell sorting
GMG	generalised myasthenia gravis
HEK	human embryonic kidney
HLA	human leukocyte antigen
Ig	immunoglobulin
IV	intravenous
IVIG	intravenous human immunoglobulin
kDa	kilo Dalton
LEMS	Lambert-Eaton myasthenic syndrome
LRP4	low-density lipoprotein receptor-related protein
MASC	myotube associated specificity component
MEPP	miniature endplate potential
MFI	mean fluorescence intensity
MG	myasthenia gravis
MGFA	Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America
MIP	maximal inspiratory pressure
MRI	magnetic resonance imaging

MuSK	muscle-specific kinase
MuSK MG	myasthenia gravis with autoantibodies to MuSK
NHS	normal human serum
NMJ	neuromuscular junction
OD	optical density
OMG	ocular myasthenia gravis
OR	odds ratio
PBS	phosphate buffered saline
PCR	polymerase chain reaction
PE	plasma exchange
PEI	polyethylenimine
PV	pemphigus vulgaris
RIA	radioimmunoassay
RNA	ribonucleic acid
RNS	repetitive nerve stimulation
RT	room temperature
SFEMG	single-fiber electromyography
SNMG	seronegative MG – MG without autoantibodies to AChR or MuSK
Tid1	tumorous imaginal disc protein
TX	thymectomy
VGCC	voltage-gated calcium channel

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Curriculum Vitae

Erik Harmen Niks was born on May 7, 1972 in Veenendaal, the Netherlands. He attended secondary school at the Christelijk Lyceum Veenendaal, and graduated with an average final mark of 9.5 in 1990. In 1991 he started his medical training at the University of Utrecht, and graduated cum laude for the propaedeutic diploma the next year. After obtaining his physician's degree in 1999 at the University Medical Center in Utrecht, he became a resident in pediatrics at the Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC, Prof. Dr. J.M. Wit). In 2000, he started as a resident in neurology at the LUMC (Prof. Dr. R.A.C. Roos). Part of his training was at the Haga Hospital in The Hague (Dr. S.F.T.M. de Bruijn). He started his PhD study in 2002 (Prof. Dr. A.R. Wintzen and Prof. Dr. J.J.G.M. Verschuuren). In 2008, he was trained in pediatric neurology at the Erasmus Medical Center in Rotterdam (Prof. Dr. W.F. Arts). Later that year, he joined the neurology staff at the LUMC. He registered as pediatric neurologist in 2009. He received a Prinses Beatrix Fonds fellowship to specialise in myology. This fellowship, completed in 2012, included the work as honorary clinical fellow at the Dubowitz Neuromuscular Centre in London (Prof. F. Muntoni). He is currently involved in the care of children with neuromuscular disorders, and in the translational research of Duchenne muscular dystrophy at the LUMC.

During secondary school he received piano lessons from Ton Hartsuiker, head of the Utrecht Conservatory of Music. In 1988 he made his solo debut in Mozart's eleventh piano concerto. In that same year, he commenced the preparatory class at the Utrecht School of the Arts. He received prizes in various youth music contests, including the Prinses Christina competition and the Steinway competition. In 1990 he started his master study piano with the Dutch pianist Herman Uhlhorn. From 1993 until his graduation as soloist in 1996, he studied with the Norwegian pianist Håkon Austbö. Until 1999 he performed frequently with the Rosa Ensemble, an ensemble specialising in contemporary music and theatre productions. In 2006 and 2007 he played the Grieg piano concerto, accompanied by the I Medici orchestra, consisting of medical professionals. Currently, he performs with his wife, the viola player Karen de Wit. They live in Leiden and have two children, Geert and Elin.

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