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CURRICULUM VITAE

Gaby Ritfeld was born on February 8th, 1985 in Paramaribo, Suriname. She attended pre-university secondary education at Oranje Nassau College in Zoetermeer, and was also an exchange student at E.L. Crossley Secondary School in Fonthill, Canada for one semester. She graduated *Atheneum* in 2002 and received an award from the Dutch Classical Association for her outstanding studies of the classical languages. In 2002 en 2003, she volunteered for Teaching and Projects Abroad in Mexico, Guadalajara, teaching English at a secondary school and providing child care in an orphanage. In 2003, she started to study medicine at Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC) and completed her 'propedeuse' *cum laude* in 2004. In 2005, she was selected for the LUMC Excellent Student Program, and started working in the laboratory of dr. Ron de Kloet on a project that involved predicting cortisol responsive genes in the brain. During her studies she was an active badminton player, assistant trainer and member of the board and several committees of her badminton club. In 2007 she was invited to work in Dr. Martin Oudega's Laboratory at The Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, where she started her research on Bone Marrow Stromal Cell treatment for spinal cord repair. Her research was nominated for best science internship by LUMC. She completed her 'doctoraal' medicine *cum laude* and graduated medical school in October 2009. Gaby was selected to continue her research on spinal cord injury within the LUMC MD/PhD Program for Excellent Students, and moved back to the United States in 2009 to further her research with Dr. Oudega at the University of Pittsburgh, under LUMC supervision of Prof. Dr. Raymund Roos. In 2012 she returned to the Netherlands to start her neurology residency at LUMC.