The replication machinery of Clostridium difficile:a potential target for novel antimicrobials

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Curriculum Vitae

Erika van Eijk (July 22th, 1976) was born in Aalten, The Netherlands. She is the daughter of Thijs van Eijk and Metteke van Eijk- Noteboom and the younger sister of Dirk. After finishing secondary school in the city of Leiden, she worked as a bartender for several years to fund her back-pack trips in South-East Asia. In 2000, she decided to resume her studies Nutrition and Dietetics at the Haagse Hogeschool in The Hague (higher professional education) and she received her Bachelor certificate in 2003. Subsequently, she finished a course for fitness trainer and worked in a fitness centre for a few years, combining her knowledge of sports and nutrition. In order to pursue a Master's degree, she enrolled in a pre-Master programme (Health Sciences) at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands. In 2009, Erika completed the Master programme Biomedical Sciences at the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam (graduated with distinction), with a focus on epidemiology of infectious diseases. Internships of this research master programme were completed at Red Cross in Bangkok, Thailand (in collaboration with Mahidol University, Bangkok) and the Prince Leopold Institute for Tropical Medicine in Antwerp, Belgium. In 2009, Erika was awarded funding for specialization in clinical and molecular microbiology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (MSc Medical Microbiology) in London, United Kingdom (UK). During that Master programme, she completed an internship at the National Institute for Communicable Diseases in Johannesburg, South Africa. In 2011, she started her doctoral research at the Department of Medical Microbiology (section Experimental Bacteriology) of the Leiden Medical University Center (LUMC) under the supervision of Dr. W. K. Smits and Prof. dr. E.J. Kuijper. The work described in this thesis concerns the DNA replication process of the bacterium *Clostridium difficile*, which potentially may serve as target for the development of new antimicrobials, and is published in peer-reviewed international journals. Parts of this work are the result of close collaborations with other research groups, in particular the group of Dr. Panos Soultanas at School of Chemistry, University of Nottingham, UK. Since 2016, Erika works at the Clinical Microbiological Laboratory of the LUMC where she is involved in quality control and process innovation.