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Roadblocks & bypasses : protection of genome stability by translesion DNA synthesis in *C. elegans*

Bostelen, I. van

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As I write this, the final hurdle of this voyage called a PhD is in sight: my defense on December 3rd. On the twisting path there have been many roadblocks: disappointments, negative results, or other struggles. It can be hard to put those aside, forget frustrating projects and celebrate the victories, but now I am delighted about the end product. And although the journey has been challenging, it was never lonely. I feel fortunate that so many have helped me bypass the barriers I encountered.

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Salut,
Ivo

&

Curriculum vitae

Ivo van Bostelen was born on October 1st 1983 in Leiderdorp and grew up in Roelofarendsveen. In 2002, he successfully completed pre-university education (VWO) with a Nature and Health profile at the Bonaventura college in Leiden. With a keen interest in biology and chemistry Ivo then decided to study biotechnology at Wageningen University & Research center. When he completed his bachelor, he decided to specialize in cellular and molecular biology for his master of science. In 2008, Ivo got his first experience with scientific research by doing a short internship at the molecular biology department in the group of Prof. dr. Ton Bisseling in Wageningen, where he studied the molecular factors involved in plant-bacteria symbiosis. Shortly after, early in 2009, Ivo moved to the lab of Prof. dr. Monica Colaiácovo at the genetics department of Harvard Medical School in Boston USA, for a six months internship. At this prestigious environment he studied chromosomal paring and genome instability during meiosis. The work in Boston did not only get him hooked on science, he also there got infected with the *C. elegans* bug. Upon return in the Netherlands Ivo decided to move somewhat more towards a medical profile; he found a great place to perform his final Master project at the department of experimental oncology in the group of Prof. dr. Susanne Lens, in the Utrecht Medical Center. Here, he got the chance to study the cellular processes and molecular factors that guide cell division in human cell cultures. Ivo successfully completed this project, and thereby his Master in Cellular and Molecular biotechnology in the summer of 2010. In March 2011, Ivo started his PhD work under the supervision of Prof. dr. Marcel Tijsterman at Leiden University Medical Center, at the former department of Toxicogenetics. After several years, Toxicogenetics became part of the department of Human Genetics where Ivo worked until 2017. As of August 2017, Ivo has made the transition from academia to industry and now works as a Project Leader at MRC Holland in Amsterdam, where he develops diagnostic tests for a wide range of human genetic diseases.

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