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Huntington's disease : hypothalamic, endocrine and metabolic aspects

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CURRICULUM VITAE

On December 7, 1981 Nasir Ahmad Aziz was born in Kandahar (Afghanistan). He came to the Netherlands in 1994, and the next year he started secondary education at the ‘Rijnlands Lyceum’ in Sassenheim, obtaining his “VWO” diploma summa cum laude in 2001. During this period he developed a keen interest in mathematics, physics and computer programming which has never left him since. In 2001, he commenced his medical training at the Leiden University Medical Centre (LUMC), where he passed both his “propedaeuse” (2002) and “doctoraal” (2006) examinations cum laude. Following the course “Huntington’s disease” (Prof. Dr. R.A.C. Roos) in the second year of the curriculum, he became involved in several research activities on this disorder as part of the LUMC’s Excellent Students’ Program, culminating in the dissertation at hand. He was also selected for the LUMC’s Honours Program (2005), received a Mosaic prize from the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research for the research project “Neuroendocrine and metabolic abnormalities in Parkinson’s and Huntington’s disease in relation to clinical presentation” (2006), and was a co-applicant of an awarded grant by the CHDI/High Q foundation for the research proposal “The hypothalamus in patients with Huntington’s disease” (2008). The PhD work was performed at the LUMC’s Departments of Neurology (Prof. Dr. R.A.C. Roos), Endocrinology (Prof. Dr. H. Pijl and Dr. F. Roelfsema), and Clinical Chemistry (Dr. M. Frölich), as well as at the Netherlands Institute for Neuroscience (Prof. Dr. D.F. Swaab). Parts of this research were awarded by the European Huntington’s Disease Network and the World Federation of Neurology. He has been an active member of the students’ debating society “De Leidsche Beck” (now the “Leiden Debating Union”) and the Students’ Association for International Affairs (“SIB Leiden”). In October 2009, he started his clinical internships.