Bioorthogonal antigens as tool for investigation of antigen processing and presentation

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Curriculum Vitae

Linda Pieper Pournara was born on 4^{th} October 1985 in Aalen, Germany. Since 2008, she holds a BSc in Applied Biology from FH Bonn-Rhein-Sieg in Bonn (DE) and a BSc of Honours in Biomedical Sciences from Robert-Gordon-University in Aberdeen (UK). In line with her interest in immunology her BSc thesis focused on the influence of glucose on a cell culture model of angiogenesis in the context of diabetes mellitus driven glaucoma.

Linda continued to follow her research interest with a research master in Biomedical Sciences at the Universiteit van Amsterdam (NL). During this time she performed three research projects at different Universities and Institutes in prestigious research groups focussing each on different aspects of the human immune system. At the Sanquin Blood Supply Foundation and Landsteiner Laboratories in the group of Prof. dr. S. Marieke van Ham she worked on the reduction of granzymeA as escape mechanism for tumour cells. In the department of pathology at the Vrije Universiteit medical centre (VUMC) she worked on the role of TGF-β as therapeutic target in Alzheimer's disease with Dr. Jeroen Hoozemans and with Prof. dr. Elga de Vries of the Department of Molecular Cell Biology and Immunology on mediators of immune cell migration across the blood-brain barrier in multiple sclerosis. With courses in Advanced Immunology and Oncology at the Amsterdam Medical Center (AMC) and the Nederlandse Kanker Institut (NKI) she completed the program in 2010.

Linda started working for three years as Assistant Scientist in the R & D department of Pre-clinical Viral Vaccine Evaluation and Technology at Crucell, a biotechnology company located in Leiden (NL) specialised on research and development of vaccines and bio-pharmaceutical technology, which was integrated into Janssen Vaccines & Prevention B.V. as part of Johnson & Johnson in 2011. During this time she contributed to Proof Of Concept studies for viral vaccine technology platforms for prophylactic and therapeutic vaccines targeting diseases such as malaria, ebola, influenza, hemorrhagic fever, respiratory syncytial viral infection, hepatitis, rabies, polio and the human papillomavirus-derived cancer. Part of this work was published in international peer-reviewed journals.

As an extension of her interest in human immunology and in search of a new endeavour she became a PhD candidate in the Bio-organic synthesis group at the Leiden Institute of Chemistry of the Universiteit Leiden (NL) under the leadership of Prof. dr. Hermen S. Overkleeft in the team of Dr. Sander I. van Kasteren. The research performed within this time is described in this thesis and was presented at various national and international workshops, conferences and published in several articles.