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Boosting the host immune system to fight tuberculosis

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Curriculum vitae

Ralf Boland was born on the 27th of October, 1986 in Katwijk, The Netherlands. He grew up in Katwijk and finished his high school education at the Northgo College in Noordwijk. In 2006 he started studying for his BSc in Biology at Leiden University. During his BSc studies he did an internship in the Leiden Malaria Research Group at the Leiden University Medical Center under supervision of dr. Blandine M.D. Franke-Fayard. After obtaining his BSc degree in 2011 he proceeded with his MSc studies at Leiden University, with a specialisation in Molecular and Cellular BioScience. He did a one-year internship supervised jointly by prof. dr. Annemarie H. Meijer of the Animal Sciences cluster of the Institute of Biology at Leiden University and dr. Marco H. Siderius of the Medicinal Chemistry group at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. After obtaining his MSc degree in 2013 he worked briefly as Lab Manager at Mymetics B.V. Leiden, was elected in the city council of Katwijk in 2014 and started his PhD-study in 2014 in the Immunobiology group of prof. dr. Annemarie Meijer, co-supervised by prof. dr. Herman P. Spaink and dr. Michiel van der Vaart. During his PhD-training he used the zebrafish embryo as a model organism to identify new host-directed therapeutics for tuberculosis, which resulted in the work before you. After publishing chapter 2, he and his co-authors are currently working on publishing chapters 4 and 5 of this thesis. In 2019 he started as programme officer at the Dutch Research Council in The Hague.

List of publications

1. Torraca, V., Cui, C., **Boland, R.**, Bebelman, J.-P., van der Sar, A. M., Smit, M. J., Siderius, M., Spaink, H. P., & Meijer, A. H. (2015). *The CXCR3-CXCL11 signaling axis mediates macrophage recruitment and dissemination of mycobacterial infection*. *Disease Models & Mechanisms*, 8, 53–269. <https://doi.org/10.1242/dmm.017756>
2. Cordero-Maldonado, M. L., Perathoner, S., Kolk, K.-J. van der, **Boland, R.**, Heins-Marroquin, U., Spaink, H. P., Meijer, A. H., Crawford, A. D., & Sonnevile, J. de. (2018). *Deep learning image recognition enables efficient genome editing in zebrafish by automated injections*. *PLoS ONE* 14(1): e0202377. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.020237>
3. **Boland, R.**, Heemskerk, M. T., Forn-Cuní G., Korbee, C. J., Walburg, K. V., Esselink, J. J., Carvalho dos Santos, C., de Waal, A., van der Hoeven, D. C. M., van der Sar, E., Spaink, H. P., van der Vaart, M., Meijer, A. H., Ottenhoff, T. H. M.. *Repurposing Tamoxifen as potential host-directed therapeutic for tuberculosis*. Under revision.
4. **Boland, R.**, Olijhoek, N., Forn-Cuní G., Heemskerk, M. T., Ottenhoff, T. H. M., Spaink, H. P., van der Vaart, M., Meijer, A. H.. *Host-directed therapy with Amiodarone restricts mycobacterial infection and enhances reactive nitrogen levels, autophagy and lysosomal activity*. In preparation.

