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Genetics and life course epidemiology of cardiometabolic disease: towards personalized medicine

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CURRICULUM VITAE

Dorina Ibi was born in Pogradec, Albania on March 11, 1991. She grew up in Pogradec, where she completed the high school at Muharrem Çollaku in 2009 (*summa cum laude*). In the same year she moved to the United States to follow her Bachelor studies in Biomedical Sciences at Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania, from which she graduated in 2013 with the Highest Academic Achievement Honor and Educational Excellence Award (*summa cum laude*). During her Bachelor years, Dorina did an internship at Dr. Jim Jefferson's lab at Penn State College of Medicine, focusing on the altered gene expression in response to diabetes. After her graduation in May 2013, Dorina started working as a research assistant in Dr. Umut Ozcan's lab at Harvard Medical School, where she had the opportunity to participate in cutting edge research on the relation to drug development for diabetes and obesity. Becoming more challenged to pursue a public health approach to obesity and other related chronic diseases, in Spring 2014, Dorina took an introductory training to Biostatistics and Epidemiology at Harvard Extension School and Boston University School of Medicine.

In 2015 Dorina received the Vrije University Fellowship Programme Scholarship and Holland Scholarship for the Master's Degree in Health Sciences with a specialization in Nutrition and Health at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, which she completed in 2016. During her Master's Dorina studied the adherence to the New Dutch Guidelines for a Healthy Diet and Risk of Diabetes in the Dutch Population as part of her internship at EMGO+/VUMC, Institute for Health and Care Research, Amsterdam under the supervision of Dr. Joline Beulens.

Following this research experience, Dorina started her Ph.D. in Genetic Epidemiology at Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC) and National Institute of Public Health (RIVM), supervised by Prof. Dr. Ko Willems van Dijk (LUMC), Prof. Dr. Monique Verschuren (RIVM) and Dr. Martijn Dolle (RIVM). In this thesis titled "Genetics and Life Course Epidemiology of Cardiometabolic Disease", she focused on life course epidemiology and birth cohort analyses of obesity and related cardiometabolic risk factors in the Doetinchem Cohort Study (RIVM) and the genetics of lipid metabolism in the Netherlands Epidemiology of Obesity (NEO) study (LUMC). Dorina completed her doctoral research in 2021, the results of which are described in this thesis. Dorina has presented the results of her research at different national and international congresses among which at the European and International Congress of Obesity (ECO-ICO), European Atherosclerosis Society (EAS), International Genetic Epidemiology Society (IGES) and the Dutch Association for Diabetes Research (NVDO).

At the present, Dorina has extended her research on cardiometabolic disease, focusing on the effects of the urban exposome (non-genetic factors) on type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease as a postdoctoral fellow at Utrecht University.