Advances in clinical development for vaccines and therapeutics against respiratory virus infections
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Johan Leendert van der Plas was born on the 3rd of September 1991 in Katwijk aan Zee, the Netherlands. After graduating pre-university education (Andreas College – Pieter Groen) in 2010 he obtained a propaedeutic diploma in psychology at the Leiden University while undertaking extracurricular philosophy courses at the Faculty of Humanities. In 2011, he switched to study medicine and obtained his medical degree from the Leiden University at the end of 2017. Johan’s professional career started at the Centre of Human Drug Research, chdr in 2018, where he was employed as research physician and project leader. After completing several early phase clinical trials across different therapeutic areas, Johan’s primary research focus shifted towards Infectious Diseases. This led to a thesis in the clinical development of vaccines and therapeutics for respiratory virus infections under the supervision of prof. dr. Jacobus Burggraaf and dr. Ingrid de Visser-Kamerling. During the first wave of the covid-19 pandemic, Johan was seconded to the Infectious Diseases department of the Leiden University Medical Centre to help set-up and coordinate two phase 3 studies for remdesivir. Right after this he started to work on the phase 2 trial for the Janssen covid-19 vaccine. Still in an experimental setting, he administered the first covid-19 vaccine (Ad26.cov2-s) in the Netherlands on the morning of 14 September 2020. Whilst at chdr, Johan helped to lay out the ground for the start of a dedicated Infectious Diseases research group, conducting multiple clinical trials in rsv, influenza, covid-19 and malaria. During his PhD Johan also trained to become a Clinical Pharmacologist. In 2022 Johan started a clinical residency at the Internal Medicine department of the Amstelland Hospital. He briefly returned as interim Clinical Study Manager at the chdr in 2023, before commencing his specialist training in Medical Microbiology. He registered as a board-certified Clinical Pharmacologist in 2023.
**LIST OF PUBLICATIONS**


*contributed equally as first authors.
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