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Ecology meets human health: studies on human gut microbiota in health and disease

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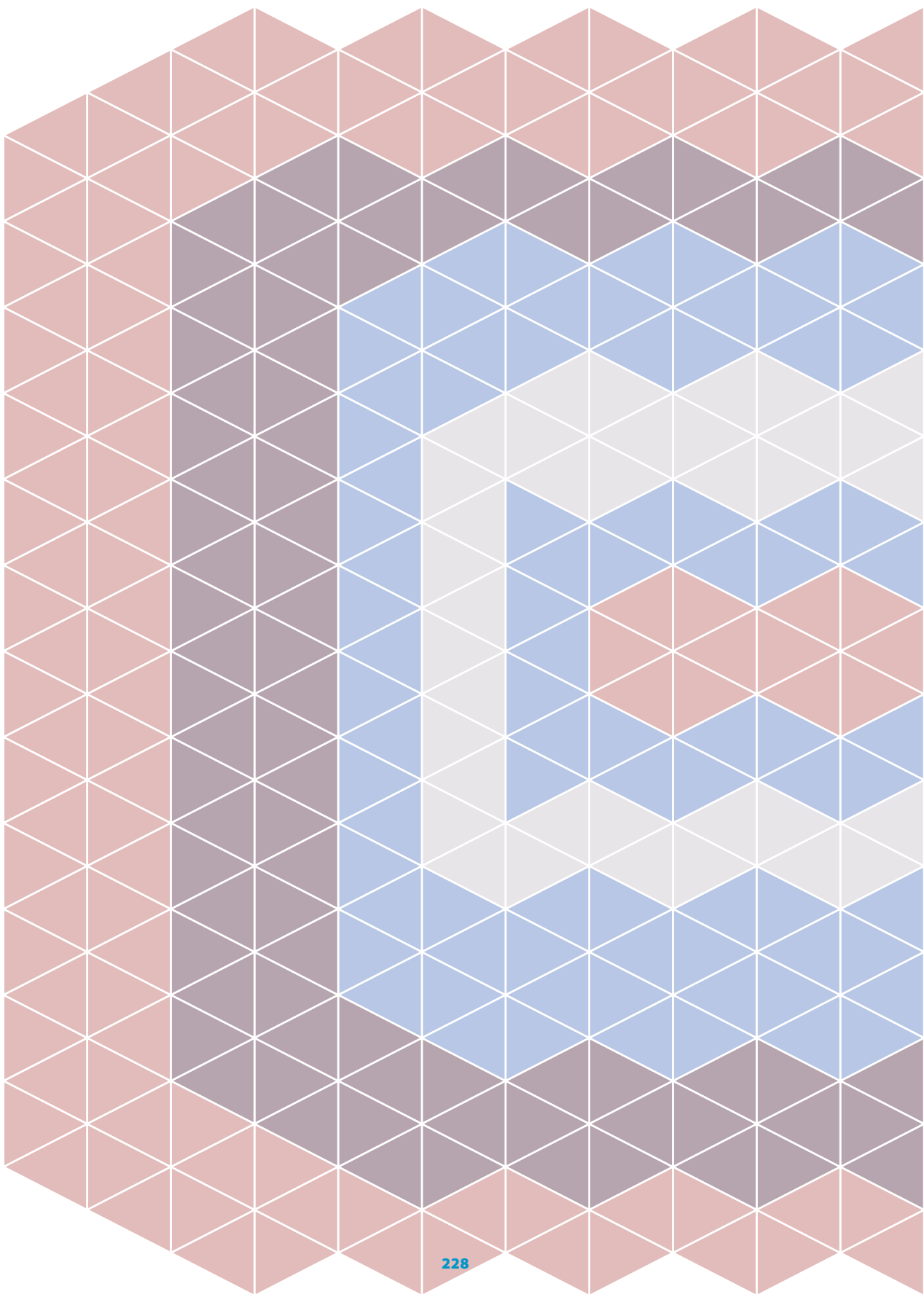
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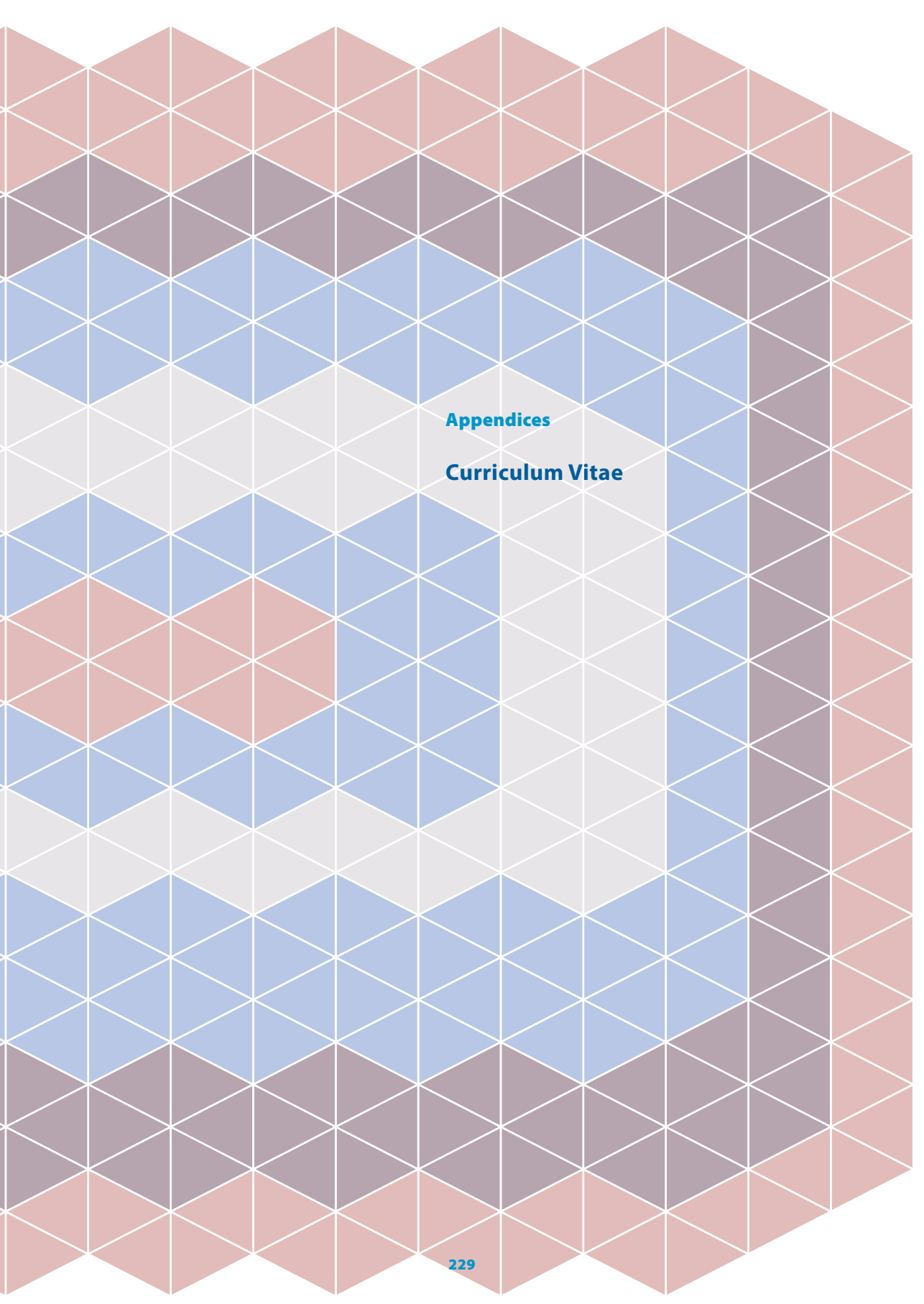
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Appendices

Curriculum Vitae

Curriculum Vitae

Susanne Pinto was born on June 23, 1993, in Dordrecht, the Netherlands. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Biology at Leiden University in 2015. During her undergraduate studies, she conducted research on identifying larval Cholevinae (Coleoptera) species and developed an identification key for forensic entomology, aiding in post-mortem interval estimations. As part of her minor, she obtained a partial teaching qualification, which she later expanded to a full teaching degree during her master's studies. Education has consistently held a central place in her life. Since 2006, she has volunteered as a youth guide in Biesbosch National Park. From 2013 to 2016, she trained as a licensed swimming instructor and taught young children as part of local rescue teams, of which she has been a member since 2011.

From 2015 to 2018, Susanne pursued a Master of Science in Biology, also at Leiden University, specializing in Evolution, Biodiversity, and Conservation. Her research focused on ecological topics, including using mites as indicators of environmental changes in the Beekbergerwoud, both before and after its clearing in 1871 and during its restoration from 2005 onward. She also investigated the relationship between urban green spaces and the presence of macro-fauna in pharmaceutical cleanrooms at the Leiden Bio Science Park, including the Leiden University Medical Center, where she later conducted her PhD research. During her master's program, she broadened her studies with specializations in education and science communication and participated in the Leiden Leadership Programme of the Honours Academy. She especially appreciated the interdisciplinary interactions these tracks offered.

After completing her master's degree, Susanne pursued a PhD position that would combine her expertise in ecology with a focus on human health, while also providing opportunities to develop advanced data science and statistical skills. In September 2018, she started her PhD in the Department of Biomedical Data Science at Leiden University Medical Center. For the first two years, she was based at the Centre for Epidemiology and Surveillance of Infectious Diseases of the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM), where dr. Hans Bogaards and dr. Elisa Benincà were her daily supervisors and closely guided her research. prof.dr. Ewout Steyerberg took on the role as her promotor during the COVID-19 pandemic and remained in this role until the completion of her PhD. Alongside her research, Susanne mentored two students, including a master's student, gaining valuable experience in teaching and supervision while deepening her appreciation for mentoring early researchers.

In 2023, Susanne continued advancing her academic career while completing her thesis. She joined dr. Maaïke van Mourik's group at University Medical Center Utrecht (UMC Utrecht) to study automated outbreak detection systems.

Toward the end of her PhD, in 2024, Susanne was awarded a travel grant from the International Society for Microbial Ecology (ISME) and a grant from the Leiden University Fund (LUF)/Slingelands Fund, which enabled her to attend her second ISME conference in Cape Town, South Africa. She had previously participated in the 2022 ISME18 conference in Lausanne, Switzerland. These conferences were major highlights of her academic journey, offering opportunities to present her research to an international audience, engage with leading experts in microbiome science, and gain new perspectives on global microbiome diversity.



In 2025, she returned to microbiome research as a postdoctoral researcher in the MetaHealth project under the supervision of prof.dr. Egija Zaura at the Department of Preventive Dentistry, Academic Centre for Dentistry Amsterdam (ACTA). Within this project, she also has the opportunity to supervise a PhD student while continuing to advance her own research and scientific learning.

Colofon

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