Unexplained subfertility

Illuminating the path to treatment

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Publication date
2017

Document Version
Other version

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PORTFOLIO

General Courses
2012  Basic Course Legislation and Organization (BROK)  0.9 ECTS
2012  Reference Manager  0.1 ECTS
2012  Computing in R  0.4 ECTS
2013  Advanced topics in biostatistics  2.1 ECTS

Specific Courses
2013  Advanced topics in Clinical trials  1.1 ECTS
2013  Advanced topics in Clinical decision making  1.1 ECTS
2013  Mixed models  1.5 ECTS
2014  Indirect comparisons and network meta-analysis: Evidence synthesis with multiple treatments  1.5 ECTS

Seminars, workshops and master classes
2012  Castle Course 2012 (training for PhD researchers)  0.9 ECTS
2012  Mini-symposia in honor of visiting professors  0.2 ECTS
2013  Symposium evidence-based benign gynaecology  0.1 ECTS

Presentations
2013  Mini-symposium in honor of a visiting professor
Amsterdam, the Netherlands
Factors associated with in- and subfertility in couples with unexplained subfertility at the start of IUI and IVF
2013  European Society of Human Reproduction & Embryology
London, United Kingdom
An economic analysis of IVF-SET and IVF-MNC compared to IUI-COH
2013  44e Gynaecongres, Arnhem, the Netherlands
Economische evaluatie van IVF-SET en IVF-MNC in vergelijking met IUI-COH (INeS studie)
2014  ESHRE avond, Vereniging van fertiliteitsartsen, Utrecht, the Netherlands
The natural conception rate in couples with unexplained or
mild male subfertility scheduled for treatment with IVF-SET, IVF-MNC or IUI-COH (INeS trial)

2014
European Society of Human Reproduction & Embryology
Munich, Germany
The natural conception rate in couples with unexplained or mild male subfertility scheduled for treatment with IVF-SET, IVF-MNC or IUI-COH (INeS trial)

2014
European Society of Human Reproduction & Embryology
Munich, Germany
Dropout rates in IVF with single embryo transfer, IVF in a modified natural cycle and IUI with ovarian hyperstimulation (INeS trial).

2014
European Society of Human Reproduction & Embryology
Munich, Germany
Does ovarian stimulation or laboratory procedures of assisted reproductive technologies affect the birth weight of the neonate?

2015
Nederlandse vereniging voor biomedische laboratoriummedewerkers, Amersfoort, the Netherlands
INeS studie: behandeling van onvruchtbaarheid

2016
1e VPG-Pijlerdag SIG ART en SIG Gameetdonatie,
Nederlandse vereniging voor obstetrie en gynaecologie, Amersfoort, the Netherlands
Implementatie van de INES studie resultaten: wat gaan we doen?
(Inter)national Conferences
2013  29th Annual meeting
      European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology
      London, United Kingdom
2013  44th Gynaecongres, Arnhem, the Netherlands
2014  30th Annual meeting
      European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology
      Munich, Germany

Other
2012-2014  Journal Club (1/week)
2012-2014  Research meeting (1/week)
2012-2014  Junior researchers meeting (1/week)
2013  Reproductive Biomedicine Seminars (1/week)

Teaching/supervising
Student coaching/monitoring scientific research project 2015 (1 ECTS)
PUBLICATIONS


Dropout rates in couples undergoing in vitro fertilization and intrauterine insemination  


Designing an efficient trial CRF: only collect what you need De Jong IM, Tjon-Kon-Fat RI, van Nispen M, van der Goes BY, Mol BWJ, Oude Rengerink K. Submitted


ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

As I reached the end of writing this thesis, I was reminded of a quote from Nelson Mandela: “It always seems impossible until it’s done”. This sentiment has helped me tremendously in the final stretch of writing. In the last five years there have been many people who in some way or another helped me along this journey and I would like to take the time to thank them.

First, I would like to thank my supervisors: professor B.W. Mol and professor F. van der Veen. Ben Willem, from our very first meeting you struck me as a person determined to fulfill one goal and that is to better the health of women and their children by doing research that is relevant to daily clinical practice. I have always admired the way you never lose sight of this bigger picture. Fulco, you also have this same goal, yet in some ways you were the polar opposite to Ben Willem, as you reminded me how important the presentation is, be it in the writing style or how a message is phrased. I marvel at the way you can create such a clear message while still focusing on our goal. Fulco and Ben Willem, I have learned much from both of you and thank you for all your support with this thesis.

I would also like to thank my day-to-day supervisors, prof. dr. M.J.C. Eijkemans and dr. M. van Wely. René, from a masters thesis to this PhD thesis, you have guided me from the beginning steps into the world of research to the culmination of this thesis. I will always admire the way you can make complicated statistical analyses seem simple. Madelon, I am very grateful to you for all the support and encouragement throughout my PhD. You have an uncanny ability to focus on the important aspects of research while letting go of the small things. I admire this in you.

A special word of thanks to the PhD defense committee who devoted their valuable time to go over my thesis: dr. ir. N. van Geloven, Prof.dr. S. Bhattacharya, Prof.dr. T.M.S.H. D’Hooghe, Prof.dr. D.D.M.Braat and Prof.dr. M.Goddijn.

I would like to thank all my co-authors of the papers listed in this thesis for their constructive feedback on my papers. Your input is greatly appreciated.

To my AMC research family (researchers, residents gynaecology, gynaecologists and staff) and specifically the Centre for Reproductive Medicine, I cannot begin to express my gratitude for all the support through all stages of this thesis. There are too many persons to thank everyone by name, but a special thanks to: Alexandra, Bart, Brenda, Eva, Frederik,
Gert-Jan, Hajar, Hannah, Iris, Irma, Janneke, Joost, Kai Mee, Katrien, Larisa, Laura, Marianne, Merel, Miriam, Nienke, Noor, Noortje, Parvin, Rik, Rosa, Sabine and Sabra. From the lunch research meetings, the residents’ weekends away, skiing in Gerlos, going to ESHRE together and many more, these are some of my most fond memories and I will treasure them. I feel very lucky to have been part of this close circle for many years. A special thank you to Alexandra Bensdorp for all her work on the INeS study. We did make an incredible team and I am happy to have worked side by side with you. I also would like to extend my deepest gratitude to Beatrix van Hattum and Marjolein Tijsterman for all their help during this final phase of my PhD thesis.

My other research family (researchers, residents gynaecology, gynaecologists, research midwives- and nurses and trial office of the consortium), I now know the true meaning of working together to achieve a common goal. I admire all the effort and determination that each and everyone puts in which has led to a consortium that is not only growing in numbers but also in sheer power to reach its potential. Specifically I would like to thank Maya for all she has done in making the consortium what it is today.

The gynaecology department at the Onze Lieve Vrouwe Gasthuis West (formerly known as Sint Lucas Andreas hospital), although I learned that this was not the right career path for me, I would like to thank them for giving me the opportunity to gain clinical experience in the short time that I was there. I would especially like to thank John Dawson for his words of encouragement in helping me find my true path.

One of the most wonderful opportunities that I had was to be able to do an internship at the Influenza and other respiratory pathogens programme of the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe in Copenhagen, Denmark. It was partially through this internship that I was inspired to pursue a career in public health.

On that note, I would like to thank the Dienst, Gezondheid & Jeugd ZHZ and the GGD Rotterdam-Rijnmond for the very warm welcome and making me feel part of the team from the very beginning. I would like to express my gratitude for giving me the chance to grow and to reach my full potential within the field of infectious disease control. I also thank the team for all their support in finishing this PhD thesis.

My deepest thanks to the two strong women who will be standing next to me on the big day, dr. I. Scholten and dr. S. Akoudad. Irma, I have always admired how you seamlessly go from the clinic to research and although it was not easy at times, I also admire your tenacity.
with the relevant but unfortunately not always the most straightforward research that you did for your thesis. I admire that you are a go-getter and always speak your mind. Saloua, we started our PhD at the same time, and went through the ups and downs of PhD life at the same time. I must admit I was a little envious of your many, dare I say many travels along the way, but hopefully we can do some travelling together now. Irma and Saloua, I am so happy to have you both standing next to me during my defense.

Thank you to all my friends and family near and far, who have been with me through all the ups and downs that comes with writing a PhD thesis. Even though we might not always see each other often, I feel like we can always pick up where we left off, and to me that is the mark of a true friendship. Chang, Charisse and Maricella, to you three I must express how happy I am that we have known each other for so long. No matter where life takes us, I feel like we will always be in each other’s lives.

To my little editors, Leandro and Roald, thank you for all your support during this thesis. Leandro, you have become like family to me and through all the ups and downs we have both come out stronger than before. Roald, I do not know what I would do without you. Whenever I need you, you are always there for me. I hope you know that I am always there for you too. Gisele, to a certain extent I can call you my little editor too. Thank you for always supporting me without fault.

To my parents, thank you for pushing me to do research. I know I can be a bit stubborn at times but I am happy you found a way to motivate me to reach my full potential. From the very beginning I knew I found one of my passions in research and I have you both to thank for this. To my grandfather Hein, as you have told me many times I will be your first grandchild that has finished a PhD thesis. Your words of encouragement to keep working on my PhD have helped me tremendously and for that I am eternally grateful.

To my love Daniel, I know the past few years have not been easy. Your support and your encouraging words have helped me so much during my PhD; you have always been my rock through all the ups and downs. I love you with all my heart and cannot wait to spend many more wonderful years with you.
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Raïssa Tjon-Kon-Fat was born on the 22nd of January 1986 in Paramaribo, Suriname. She lived in the Netherlands and in Suriname during the first few years of her life. From the age of eight to eighteen she lived on the island of St. Maarten in the Caribbean. After graduating from secondary school with honors (cum laude), she moved to the Netherlands to further pursue her studies. In 2005, she started her training in medicine at the Erasmus University in Rotterdam. Raïssa was invited to participate in the Master of Science program in Clinical Epidemiology of the Netherlands Institute for Health Sciences during her third and fourth year of medical school. During this program, Raïssa received a basic training in epidemiology and conducted research at the department of public health under the supervision of Prof. dr. E.W. Steyerberg and Prof. dr. M.J.C. Eijkemans. She completed the Master of Science program in 2010.

Following a two-year clinical internship program, Raïssa graduated from medical school in January 2012. From January 2012, she had the opportunity to work on her PhD thesis at the Centre for Reproductive Medicine at the Academic Medical Centre in Amsterdam under the supervision of Prof. dr. B.W.J. Mol, Prof. dr. F. van der Veen, Prof. dr. M.J.C. Eijkemans and dr. M. van Wely. Her dissertation comprises studies on treatment strategies for couples with unexplained subfertility. During her PhD period, Raïssa was an active member of the Dutch Consortium for Healthcare Evaluation and Research in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, providing methodological support and maintaining the website.

In 2015, Raïssa worked as a resident not in training at the department of obstetrics and gynaecology of the Sint Lucas Andreas Hospital in Amsterdam. During this period, she decided not to further her training in gynaecology but chose to pursue a career in public health instead. In 2016, she did a three-month internship at the Influenza and other respiratory pathogens programme of the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe in Copenhagen, Denmark.

As of August 2016, Raïssa works at the Dienst Gezondheid & Jeugd ZHZ in Dordrecht and the GGD Rotterdam-Rijnmond in Rotterdam. In September 2017, she plans to start her residency in communicable disease control. Raïssa lives with her partner Daniel in Hoofddorp, the Netherlands.