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Shaping the brain through experience: effects of stressful life events on hippocampal neurogenesis, morphology and function

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Curriculum Vitae

Charlotte Oomen was born on October 18, 1980 in Meppel, The Netherlands. After finishing the VWO at the 'OSG de Groene Driehoek' in Hoogeveen in 1999, she started her study in Biology at the University of Groningen. During her master, she developed a particular interest in neuroscience and carried out a research project at the department of Molecular Neurobiology with Dr. Peter Meerlo and Prof. Paul Luiten. This project aimed at investigating the neuroprotective role of the red wine component resveratrol on cognitive function and neuronal and cerebrovascular health in ageing mice. This resulted in a publication in the journal "Frontiers in Aging Neuroscience". After this, Charlotte visited the University of Florida in Gainesville, USA for a 7-month project on the effects of the neurotransmitter histamine on cerebrovascular diameter, under the supervision of Dr. Harm Knot, which resulted in a publication in the "European Journal of Pharmacology". After receiving her Masters degree in 2005, she started as a PhD student in the lab of Professor Marian Joëls in august 2005 where she worked with Dr. Paul Lucassen and Dr. Harm Krugers on the effects of stressful life events on hippocampal structure and function, as described in this thesis. In April 2010 she started as a postdoc at the University of Cambridge, United Kingdom, where she is working with Dr. Tim Bussey and Dr. Lisa Saksida on the development of cognitive models for schizophrenia research.