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Imbalanced immunity in multiple sclerosis

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About the author

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Nathalie Koning was born on January 18, 1981 in Tegelen, The Netherlands. In 1999 she received her secondary school degree at Chr. Gymnasium Sorghvliet in The Hague. The same year she started to study Biomedical Sciences at Leiden University. During this study, she performed a 5-month internship at the department of Pulmonary Diseases at the Leiden University Medical Center, supervised by dr. E.L. van Rensen and Prof. P.J. Sterk. An internship of 9 months was performed at the department of Medical Pharmacology of the Leiden Amsterdam Center for Drug Research, supervised by dr. L. Enthoven, dr. M.S. Oitzl and Prof. E.R. de Kloet, where she studied the development of the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (stress)- axis in newborn mouse infants subjected to repeated maternal deprivation. In 2004, she graduated *cum laude* and started as a PhD-student on a neuro-immune project at the Netherlands Institute for Neuroscience and at the department of Experimental Immunology in the Amsterdam Medical Center in Amsterdam. Her research focused on immune suppressive mechanisms to control macrophages and microglia in multiple sclerosis. The studies, described in this thesis, were funded by the Dutch MS Research Foundation, and were performed under supervision of dr. I. Huitinga and dr. R.M. Hoek, and Prof. D.F. Swaab and Prof. R.A.W. van Lier. Since October 2008, Nathalie Koning is positioned as a post-doc in the group of Prof. Y. van Kooyk, at the department of Molecular Cell Biology and Immunology at the VU Medical Center in Amsterdam, where her work is focused on the immune modulatory effects that glycans present on milk proteins can have on dendritic cells.