Tick-host-pathogen interactions in Lyme borreliosis
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Joppe Willem Robert Hovius was born on the 14th of October 1976 in Hunsel, The Netherlands. He graduated from the Van Maerlant Lyceum, Eindhoven, The Netherlands in 1995 and started studying Medicine at the University of Amsterdam (UvA). For his scientific internship he and his dad studied the immune response of *Borrelia* infected dogs at the Department of Medical Microbiology, Academic Medical Center (AMC), Amsterdam, The Netherlands, under supervision of dr. Alje P. van Dam. Shortly thereafter, Hovius left for the United States and studied the effect of a tick salivary protein, Salp15, on T cell activation at Yale University, school of Medicine, New Haven, Connecticut, USA, under supervision of prof. dr. Erol Fikrig and dr. Juan Anguita. In 2001 he received his Masters of Science at the faculty of Medicine at the UvA and started his preclinical medical training. In 2003 he received his medical degree and continued as a resident Internal Medicine at the AMC. In 2005 he received a travel stipend form the Dutch Infectious Diseases Society and returned to Yale University to study the effect of coinfection with different *Borrelia* species on the course of Lyme borreliosis. That year Hovius also received an ‘AGIKO stipend’ from the Netherlands organization for health research and development to study the pathogenesis of Lyme borreliosis under supervision of prof. dr. Erol Fikrig, dr. Alje P. van Dam, prof. dr. Peter Speelman and prof. dr. Tom van der Poll. In October 2008 he resumed his residency in Internal Medicine. He will start specializing in Infectious Diseases in October 2010. Hovius has spent a great deal of time at the field hockey pitch, but has now exchanged his field hockey stick for a kite to kite-surf the North sea together with his one and only love Jacqueline Tromp.