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Coping styles and the pathophysiology of energy metabolism

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Gretha Johanna Boersma was born April 13th 1982 in Drachten. After attending “it Twaspan” elementary school in Haulerwijk and “Nienoord College” High School in Leek. She started her Biology studies in 2000 at the University in Groningen and from the second year onward she specialized in behavioral neurosciences. Her first research project was performed in the Department of Neuroendocrinology under supervision of dr Bea van der Vegt en Prof dr Anton Scheurink. She studied the anxiolytic properties of the neuropeptide Melanin Concentrating Hormone in rats. For a second research project she went to the Department of Psychology at Florida State University in Tallahassee, FA, USA where, under supervision of Prof dr Lisa Eckel, she studied the role of estrogens on fenfluramine-induced serotonin release in the paraventricular hypothalamic nucleus in a rat model for Anorexia Nervosa. A final research project was performed at the Medical Physiology Department at the University medical centre Groningen, where she was supervised by dr Inge Zijdewind. In this project she investigated processes underlying central fatigue in humans using f-MRI. Gretha graduated in 2005.

She started her PhD project “Personality and the pathophysiology of energy metabolism” in 2006 under supervision of Prof d. Anton Scheurink, which has resulted in this thesis. In December 2010 Gretha received a Rubicon grant from NWO for a 2 years post doc position. With this grant she will continue her scientific career in 2011 at the Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD, USA. Under the supervision of Prof dr Tim Moran and dr Kellie Tamashiro she will carry out her research entitled: “ Epigenetics of personality: Susceptibility for metabolic disease”.

List of publications:

Estradiol decreases the orexigenic effect of melanin-concentrating hormone in ovariectomized rats. Messina, MM; **Boersma, G**; Overton, JM; Eckel, LA, Physiology & Behavior (2006) 88:523-528.

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The neurobiology of circadian rhythms. Van der Zee, A; **Boersma GJ**; Hut R.A, Current Opinion in Pulmonary Medicine (2009),15:534–539

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Individual variation in the (patho)physiology of energy balance. **Boersma GJ**; Benthem L; van Dijk G; Steimer TJ; Scheurink AJW , Physiology & Behavior (2011) Invited address in a special issue: The Implications of Conditioning and Metabolism for Addiction and Obesity. (DIO 10.1016/j.physbeh.2010.12.026)

Pharmacological treatment of insulin resistance in rats depends on coping style. **Boersma GJ**; Benthem L; van Dijk G; Steimer TJ; Scheurink AJW, European Journal of Pharmacology (DOI 10.1016/j.ejphar.2010.12.017)