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Vitamin D biology and heart failure

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Bibliography

Laura Marieke Gezina Meems was born on 11th of June 1988 in Coevorden (the Netherlands). After finishing high school (VWO diploma Natuur & Gezondheid, *cum laude*) at de Nieuwe Veste in Coevorden in 2006, she moved to de Rijksuniversiteit Groningen to study Medicine.

In 2008 she became advisory student of the Dean of the University Medical Center Groningen (UMCG) and represented the student's voice in the higher management of the UMCG. Because of this position she was involved in policy making of several Educational and Research related topics. Her interest in and desire to pursue an academic career were born during this period.

In 2009 Laura started her Master in Medicine with a 1-year scientific internship at the Experimental Cardiology under supervision of professor Rudolf de Boer. In January 2012 she officially started her MD-PhD trajectory on the role of vitamin D biology in heart failure while completing her internships in Deventer Ziekenhuis (Deventer) and UMCG (Groningen). She obtained her MD-degree in June 2013 and restarted her research at the Experimental Cardiology in September 2013. In November 2014 she received a UEF-JSM Talent Grant. The completion of the MD/PhD-programme eventually led to the formation of this thesis in September 2015.

In 2015 Laura was awarded an ICIN Fellowship. This award enables her to continue research in the group of professor John C. Burnett jr, Mayo Clinic (Minnesota, USA). Laura is dedicated to pursue a career as physician-scientist and to continue the translational research she has started so far.

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