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Graphical tasks to aid in diagnosing and monitoring Parkinson's disease

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CURRICULUM VITAE

Esther Smits was born on the 22nd of March 1986 in Winterswijk, the Netherlands. After finishing her pre-university education (Atheneum College Hageveld, Heemstede), she studied Human Movement Sciences at the University of Groningen. During her studies she was a student assistant for the statistical course for year 2 Human Movement Science students at the University of Groningen. In 2006–2007 she was a member of the board of the student association of Human Movement Sciences, ‘Studiosi Mobilae’, where she was responsible for running the treasury. She obtained her BSc degree Human Movement Sciences in 2008 and her MSc degree Human Movement Sciences in 2010. Her master program was focused on human motor control and coordination. Her master research project was aimed at a better understanding of human motor control by studying muscle synergies in the arm during a rod-pointing task. After her graduation she started a PhD project at the department of Neurology at the University Medical Center Groningen in the Netherlands. She worked on a European Research project DiPAR (FP7-SME-201001; grant agreement 262291) aimed at improving early diagnosis of Parkinson’s disease by the use of a sensor-pen. The results of this project are presented in this thesis. Since August 2015, Esther is working as a research assistant at the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia.

