

## University of Groningen

### Towards a neurobiological view of depression

van Buel, Erin

**IMPORTANT NOTE: You are advised to consult the publisher's version (publisher's PDF) if you wish to cite from it. Please check the document version below.**

*Document Version*  
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

*Publication date:*  
2017

[Link to publication in University of Groningen/UMCG research database](#)

*Citation for published version (APA):*  
van Buel, E. (2017). *Towards a neurobiological view of depression: Search for diagnostic biomarkers and alterations by electroconvulsive therapy*. Rijksuniversiteit Groningen.

#### **Copyright**

Other than for strictly personal use, it is not permitted to download or to forward/distribute the text or part of it without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), unless the work is under an open content license (like Creative Commons).

The publication may also be distributed here under the terms of Article 25fa of the Dutch Copyright Act, indicated by the "Taverne" license. More information can be found on the University of Groningen website: <https://www.rug.nl/library/open-access/self-archiving-pure/taverne-amendment>.

#### **Take-down policy**

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

*Downloaded from the University of Groningen/UMCG research database (Pure): <http://www.rug.nl/research/portal>. For technical reasons the number of authors shown on this cover page is limited to 10 maximum.*

**WORD OF THANKS**

My years as a PhD student are now coming to an end, and I can look back upon what will probably be one of the most exciting and interesting periods of my life. I was given a challenging project with multiple side projects and many different people and groups involved. I definitely learned a lot from working in so many different environments and I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the realization of this thesis.

First of all, I owe my deepest gratitude to my promoters and co-promoters, Uli, Robert, Hans (Klein) and Fokko. Uli, without your support, guidance and constructive feedback I could not have succeeded. You guided me into becoming an independent researcher and were always available for any questions or issues I would like to discuss. Robert, although you got involved with the project at a later stage when much of the experimental work had already been finished, I am very thankful for the many valuable contributions that you made to the interpretation of data and the relation to actual clinical practice. Thank you for your realistic and down-to-earth reflections. Hans, thank you for your infinite enthusiasm and creative new ideas. You were the inspiration behind many of the experiments. Fokko, you were at the cradle of this project and were invaluable for getting it off the ground. We are often on the same line when it comes to our ideas about biomarker research. It was a pleasure to work with you.

I would like to thank the members of the reading committee, prof. dr. M.J.H Kas, prof. dr. E.A. van der Zee and prof. dr. S Bahn, for the dedication of their time for assessment of this thesis.

Paul and Hans (den Boer), thank you for your involvement in early stages of this project. Paul, I hope you are enjoying your retirement and spending lots of time with your grandchildren. Hans, I wish you all the best in your new position.

To all the students who have worked with me on parts of this project for shorter or longer periods of time, thank you for your contributions to this project. I hope it was an educative experience that sparked your interest in science. Anita, Ignacio, Julia, Jos, and Lianne, it was a joy to work with you on your master projects. You made my life a lot easier. I wish you all the best for your future careers!

I am grateful for the experience and dedication of our technicians. Jan, Wanda, Folkert, Bert and Kunja, you guys are the motor behind the laboratories! Thank you for your guidance and assistance during practical parts of this project. I would not have managed without you!

To my fellow PhD students, Iris, Leonie, Kees, Yun, Doortje, Vibeke, Ewelina, Kata, Priscila, and Peter, you were the best colleagues I could wish for! I will especially remember all the parties, PhD dinners, and of course our weekly runs. We formed a great team at the Lauwersloop!

There are some other colleagues that I have not mentioned yet. Pieter, you were my supervisor when I first came to the department as a master student and I learned so much from you. Thank you for introducing me into science and guiding me on my way to becoming an independent scientist.

---

Ate, I will remember you for always coming up with inventive solutions, like making home-build lick sensors. With simple electrical equipment and common tools, you found a way to fabricate electrical circuits that could measure the number of times a mouse licked a drinking pipet and send these data to a computer. With your inventiveness, I am sure you will be a valuable asset to any lab.

Kostas and Michael, with each of you I have worked on writing projects, both having resulted in a published review article. Thank you for your out-of-the-box ideas and hard work, which have contributed to the success of these projects.

Christopher, you welcomed me in your research group in Zürich to study the effects of electroconvulsive seizures in the chronic social stress model. It was a true pleasure to be working as part of your research group, as well as to live abroad for three months in such a wonderful city. Hannes, thank you for your practical guidance during these experiments.

I have worked closely together with Brainlabs B.V. during this project. Eddy, Marc and Constance, thank you for our pleasant cooperation. Constance, my special thanks to you for welcoming me into your house on several occasions when I needed a place to stay close to Deventer!

Gerald, thank you for our cooperation on experiments involving GFP-positive bone marrow transplanted mice. Bertien and Ronald, thanks for your practical help around the transplantation procedure.

Last but not least I come to the most important people in my life: my family. My father and mother first of all, who have raised me with such care and support over the years, and who have always stimulated my choice for a scientific career. Mama, I wish you would still be alive to read these words of thanks! Arend, you stood by me through thick and thin. I am so happy to have you in my life. Last year we were joined by our beautiful and healthy son Robin. I hope we will have many more happy years together. Thank you for being there for me!