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Towards sustainable management of arboviral diseases

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Document Version

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Publication date:

2018

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

Citation for published version (APA):

Elsinga, J. (2018). *Towards sustainable management of arboviral diseases: A multidisciplinary mixed-methods approach in Curaçao and Venezuela*. [Thesis fully internal (DIV), University of Groningen]. University of Groningen.

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About the author



Jelte Elsinga was born in Ermelo at the end of 1990, on the 27th of December. He was raised in Ermelo where he finished primary school (de Goede Herderschool) and secondary education at Christelijk College Groevenbeek. Jelte has always liked to sport, to make music and to organize activities, which he has been doing ever since his childhood.

In 2009, Jelte moved to Groningen for studying medicine at the University of Groningen. After obtaining his bachelor's degree and after finishing his first year of his master programme, he realized that he wanted to broaden his expertise. Although Jelte found working in the hospital very interesting, he wanted to explore the world outside the hospital. Therefore, he decided to apply for doing his research elective right after his first year of medical internship with the aim to later apply for the MD-PhD programme of the Junior Scientific Masterclass (JSM) from the University Medical Center Groningen (UMCG). For his research elective, Jelte performed fieldwork in the neighbourhoods of Maracay, Venezuela in 2013. In his aim to investigate the health seeking behaviour of dengue patients, he soon realized that a pre-coded questionnaire was not sufficient to understand the complex dynamics of behaviours. Therefore, he started to apply qualitative research methods.

Back in Groningen, Jelte followed courses on qualitative research methods and Spanish at the University of Groningen. This allowed him to set up his own project in Curaçao in 2015, in cooperation with the Department of Epidemiology and Research of the Medical and Health Service Curaçao (GGD). This project focused on the impact of chronic chikungunya disease and the prevention of arboviral diseases. Jelte applied qualitative and quantitative research methods.

Meanwhile, Jelte continued studying medicine. His last electives were at the World Health Organization (WHO) headquarter in Geneva at the Neglected Tropical Disease department, where Jelte wrote and revised parts of the guidelines for dengue clinical management and control. Then, Jelte went to Ramallah, Israel/Palestine to do his last internship in the emergency department and finished his medical study at the start of 2018.

