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Translating the dynamics of genetics into health care practice

Rigter, T.

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E-mail address:

vuresearchportal.ub@vu.nl

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Tessel Rigter was born in Utrecht in 1983 and grew up in the picturesque village of Noordeloos, the Netherlands. After she finished secondary school at the Merewade College in Gorinchem (VWO), she obtained her Bachelor degree in Biomedical Sciences from 2001 to 2005. In 2005 she proceeded with a Master in Science communication (in Health education), followed by a Master in Science teacher education (in Biology). Both master degrees were obtained in Utrecht in 2008.



In 2009 she enthusiastically taught Biology at the Utrechts Stedelijk Gymnasium for five months (during pregnancy leave of one of the teachers), before deciding to pursue a career in science. She was able to join the department of Clinical Genetics, section Community Genetics at the VU University Medical Center in Amsterdam in May 2009, where she started as a junior researcher on a project "Newborn screening for Pompe disease". Her contract was prolonged twice because of opportunities to work on the projects "Evaluation of population newborn screening practices for rare disorders in Member States of the European Union", "Best practice guidelines for clinical genetic services", and "Towards best practice guidelines for genetic testing of monogenic subtypes of Diabetes Mellitus", enabling her to produce a PhD thesis with insights from different perspectives. Besides her work in research she has also found great satisfaction in being involved in the education of students in medicine and health sciences between January 2011 and December 2013. She obtained her University Teaching Qualification in 2012.

Since September 2014 Tessel started as a PostDoc studying farmacogenomics in primary care at the VU University Medical Center, Amsterdam, and the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM), Bilthoven, the Netherlands.

Currently, she and her partner Tim Groeneboer live in Vianen, the Netherlands, and last January they became the proud parents of their lovely son Boaz.

