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## **Allergy, soil-transmitted helminths and their association**

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Suzanne Desirée van der Werff was born on the 29th of July 1982 in Amstelveen, the Netherlands. After finishing her pre-university education in June 2000 at the Keizer Karel College in Amstelveen, she started with the Pharmacy technician training programme from which she got her qualification in June 2002. Then she started with the bachelor's programme General Health Sciences at the VU University Amsterdam from which she graduated *cum laude* in August 2005. During her bachelor she did an internship about age-dependent tolerance for midazolam at the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit of the VU Medical Center in Amsterdam. After finishing her bachelor she continued her studies with the specialisation Public Health Research within the master's programme Biomedical Sciences from which she graduated *cum laude* in August 2007. During her master's programme she did her first internship about nutrition in people living with HIV-AIDS at the Thai Red Cross Aids Research Center in collaboration with the Institute of Nutrition of the Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand. During her whole bachelor's and master's programme she worked as a pharmacy technician at the department of Hospital Pharmacy at the Academic Medical Center in Amsterdam. She started her PhD in December 2006 with her final internship within her master's programme at the Department of Health Sciences of the Faculty of Earth and Life Science at the VU University Amsterdam. Next to her scientific work, she was involved in the study association Salus of the study Health Sciences at the VU University Amsterdam. Here she was cofounder and editor-in-chief of the bimonthly magazine 'Tussendoortje' for the students, employees, and alumni of the Health Science studies. From November 2012 to February 2014 she worked as Infection Control Expert in training at the Erasmus Medical Center in Rotterdam for which she followed the Infection Control Expert training programme at the University Medical Center in Utrecht. She obtained her qualification in February 2014. Since January 2014 she works as Infection Control Expert at the VU University Medical Center in Amsterdam. She lives together with her husband Caspar Ruhe in Amstelveen.

## Publications

B de Gier, L Mpabanzi, K Vereecken, SD van der Werff, PC D'Haese, M Fiorentino, K Khov, M Perignon, C Chamnan, J Berger, ME Parker, R Junco Díaz, FA Núñez, L Rojas Rivero, M Bonet Gorbea, CM Doak, M Campos Ponce, FT Wieringa, K Polman. Height, zinc and soil-transmitted helminth infections in schoolchildren: a study in Cuba and Cambodia. *Nutrients* 2015; **7**(4): 3000-3010.

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## Abstracts/posters

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J Severin, S Ruhe-van der Werff, M Bakker, MC Vos. Risk factors for delayed isolation of tuberculosis patients in a tertiary care hospital in a low-incidence country. *3rd International Conference on Prevention & Infection Control (ICPIC) 2015*, Geneva, Switzerland.

G Pita Rodríguez, R Junco Díaz, SD van der Werff, ME Díaz Sánchez, C Arocha Oriol, K Vereecken, K Polman. Are anemia and iron deficiency associated with helminth infection in Cuban schoolchildren? *2nd International Conference on Nutrition and Growth 2014*, Barcelona, Spain.

SD van der Werff, JWR Twisk, M Campos Ponce, R Junco Díaz, M Wördemann, M Bonet Gorbea, K Polman. Deworming improves asthma and temporarily deteriorates atopy: longitudinal anthelmintic treatment study in Cuba. *7th European Congress on Tropical Medicine & International Health (ECTMIH) 2011*, Barcelona, Spain.

SD van der Werff, K Vereecken, K van der Laan, M Campos Ponce, R Junco Díaz, FA Núñez Fernández, L Rojas Rivero, M Bonet Gorbea, K Polman. Evaluation of selective periodic mebendazole treatment against soil-transmitted helminth infections in Cuban schoolchildren. *International Society for Infectious Diseases – Neglected Tropical Diseases (ISID-NTD) Meeting 2011*, Boston, Massachusetts, USA.

## **Presentations**

SD van der Werff, JWR Twisk, M Campos Ponce, R Junco Díaz, M Wördemann, M Bonet Gorbea, K Polman. Deworming improves asthma and temporarily deteriorates atopy: longitudinal anthelmintic treatment study in Cuba. *NVP Congress 2011 'Dutch Parasitology is looking ahead...'*, Dalfsen, the Netherlands.

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