



VALERIA BONAPERSONA

PhD Candidate Neuroscience

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 OSF: osf.io/yn3jw/
 [vbonapersona](#)

I am an interdisciplinary scientist interested in the effects of stress on the brain and the body. I am a strong supporter of hypothesis-driven research, and I am passionate about the use of statistical and synthesis (e.g. meta-analysis) techniques to reduce animal experimentation. Currently, I use a combination of wet and dry lab techniques to investigate in rodents how stress in early life affects the connectivity between brain areas, ultimately leading to changes in behavior.

○ ACADEMIC CAREER

Since Sept. 2017
Dept. Translational Neuroscience,
Brain Center Rudolf Magnus,
University Medical Center Utrecht,
Utrecht University

PhD Candidate Neuroscience

Title: “A global overview to early life adversity: neurotransmitters, pathways, cognitive domains”

Supervisors: Prof. dr. Joels, Prof. dr. Hoijtink, Dr. Sarabdjitsingh

Approach: advance statistics and meta-analysis on existing rodent data, full brain clearing and staining

Active as: outreach with PhD council, and young Science in Transition; representative with PhD platform

2015-2017
Utrecht University (NL)
grade: 8.9/10

MSc Clinical and Experimental Neuroscience (*cum laude*)

Research projects:

- “The hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis is regulated by the mineralocorticoid receptor and early life stress sex-dependently” (9 months) - Supervisor: Dr. Sarabdjitsingh
- “Glucocorticoid delivery mechanism by neutrophil elastase is tissue-dependent” (6 months) - Supervisors: Prof. Walker, Dr. Nixon - University of Edinburgh (UK)
- “The effects of early life stress on the dopaminergic system: a meta-analysis of preclinical studies” (*Literature thesis*)

Active as: Student representative; selected Member Excellence program U/Select; Editor in Chief student *Journal Neuroscience & Cognition*

2012-2015
University College Utrecht (NL)
grade: 3.71/4 GPA

BSc Biomedical Sciences (*cum laude*)

Major: Cognitive Neuroscience & Biomedical Science

Minor: Psychology & Statistics

Thesis: “Music intervention in children: reducing anxiety from anaesthesia induction” - Supervisor: Dr. de Graaff

Active as: Chair of Music Committee Board

○ ACADEMIC OUTPUT

Publications

Bonapersona V, Joels M, Sarabdjitsingh, RA (2018) The effects of early life stress on biochemical indicators of the dopaminergic system: a 3-level meta-analysis of rodent studies. *Neuroscience and biobehavioral reviews*. 95:1-16. doi: 10.1016/j.neubiorev.2018.09.003

Bonapersona V, Kentrop J, van Lissa CJ, van der Veen R, Joels M, Sarabdjitsingh RA (*In preparation*). The behavioral phenotype of early life adversity: a 3-level meta-analysis of rodent studies.

Sarabdjitsingh RA, **Bonapersona V**, Damsteeg R, Joels M (*In preparation*). The mineralocorticoid receptor modulates behavior and neuroendocrine stress resilience after early life stress in mice.

Honors & Awards

- Best Poster Prize - *Dutch Neuroscience Meeting 2018 (NL)*
- *U/Select* scholarship (2017) - 2500e
- Travel grants for Master Internship (2000e)

Oral presentations on invite

- Masterclass by *Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW)* (2016). "Comorbidity of affective, metabolic and cardiovascular disease: A crucial role of the MR"
- Conference *Dutch Neuroscience Meeting 2019 (NL)*

Poster presentations with abstract

8 poster presentations at (inter)national conferences:

- Federation European Neuroscience Society Forum (*Berlin 2018*), Dutch Neuroscience Meeting (*Lunteren 2016, 2017, 2018*), Science for Life (*Utrecht 2016*)
- Annual Cardiovascular Symposium (*Edinburgh 2017*), Annual Translational Neuroscience Symposium (*Utrecht 2016, 2017*).

without abstract

Teaching

- Lectures in Master and Bachelor Neuroscience courses (*Utrecht, NL*)
- Supervision: 2 Bachelor (*4 months*) and 1 Master (*9 months*) students
- Cosupervision: 3 Master students (*2 - 9 months*)

Reviewer

Scientific Reports; Hormones & Behavior

Software

MaDEapp @ <https://vbonapersona.shinyapps.io/MaDEapp/>
MaBapp @ <https://vbonapersona.shinyapps.io/MaBapp/>

○ OTHER ACTIVITIES

2006 - 2016
 Conservatorium Alessandria (IT)
 Conservatorium Vicenza (IT)
 Istituto pareggiato Gallarate (IT)

MA Classical Piano Performance (*grade: 9.5/10*)

Maestro: Roberto Plano