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Jeroen Kerstens

Neuronal autoantibodies in patients with unexplained ataxia and/or parkinsonism

Duration	6 months (January - June 2022)
Short Bio	I am a young neurologist with a special interest in neuroinflammatory disorders in general and antibody-associated disorders such as autoimmune encephalitis in particular. I currently work parttime as a neuroinflammatory neurologist at the Antwerp University Hospital (Antwerp, Belgium) and parttime as a PhD candidate at the autoimmune encephalitis research group of the Erasmus MC University Medical Centre (Rotterdam, the Netherlands).
Home Institution	Antwerp University Hospital (Antwerp, Belgium)
Host Institution	Erasmus MC University Medical Centre (Rotterdam, the Netherlands)
Project Description	I looked at a retrospective cohort of patients with neuronal autoantibodies in serum and/or cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) to identify patients with ataxia and/or parkinsonism and collected information on clinical phenotype, tumor association and treatment response to identify clues for early diagnosis. Furthermore, I screened stored serum and CSF samples of patients with unexplained ataxia and/or parkinsonism for the presence of neuronal autoantibodies to identify undiagnosed antibody-associated cases.
Personal Statement	The EJPRD fellowship has been the perfect stepping stone for my academic career, as I was accepted for a PhD position at the host institution after completion of the fellowship. I will present some of the findings of my research during an upcoming ERN-RND webinar.