

PhD Project Description

School/Department:	Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Erasmus MC
Supervisor information:	<p>Dr. Ir. Lenie van Rossem, PhD, L.vanrossem@erasmusmc.nl, Prof. Dr. R.P.M. Steegers-Theunissen r.steegers@erasmusmc.nl</p> <p>Selected publications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steegers-Theunissen et al, 2016: Int J Epidemiol 2016 DOI: 10.1093/ije/dyv147 ; • Parisi et al, 2018 Eur J Clin Nutr 2018 Dec;72(12):1655-1662 DOI: 10.1038/s41430-018-0161-7; • van Rossem et al, Pediatrics November 2015, 136 (5) e1294-e1301 DOI: 10.1542/peds.2015-0874
Project Title:	Periconceptional parental food intake: Intake of processed food and placenta-related outcome in mother, embryo and fetus
Abstract:	<p>Periconceptional parental health is a determinant of fertility and pregnancy course and outcome of mother and child. Moreover, in the first trimester of pregnancy organogenesis of the embryo takes place as well as the development of the placenta, which are essential for fetal development in the second and third trimester of pregnancy. Several modifiable factors are involved in embryonic growth. Low fruit and vegetable intake, and a western diet are associated with a smaller embryo, whereas a fish and olive rich diet, and an energy-rich diet are associated with a larger embryo. The current project is focused on the elucidation of the impact of the periconceptional intake of processed foods on embryonic and fetal development. This project will be embedded in the Rotterdam Periconceptional Cohort (Predict) study, which is an ongoing cohort of tertiary care patients who are followed from the periconception period up until one year after birth. In this cohort, we will use the data of a food frequency questionnaire (FFQ) filled out by patients and repeated measurements of first trimester embryonic growth and morphology, and second and third trimester fetal growth parameters.</p>
Requirements of candidate:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are looking for a highly motivated PhD student who has received excellent scientific training in the areas of nutrition or epidemiology or medicine, who also has basic training or interest in the early life course / obstetrics to join our research team. • The student should be fluent in English (English speaking countries & Netherlands: no requirement; Other countries: IELTS 7.0 (min 6.0 for all subs), TOEFL 100 (min 20 for all subs). • We offer: Supervision, facilities, and infrastructure. As a candidate PhD student at Erasmus MC, your salary and living expenses will be covered by your University or Scholarship Council. For more information regarding this vacancy, please contact L.vanrossem@erasmusmc.nl.

Application requirements & Deadlines:

<https://www.eur.nl/en/about-eur/erasmus-university-china-centre/csc-scholarship>

Erasmus MC, ranked world

* No.32 for Clinical Medicine US News 2020:

<https://www.usnews.com/education/best-global-universities/clinical-medicine?page=3>

* No. 30 Nature Index for Biomedical Sciences 2019:

<https://www.natureindex.com/supplements/nature-index-2019-biomedical-sciences/tables/healthcare>