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Maarten Swartjes was born on 7 August 1985 in Nieuwegein. After attending Gymnasium, he started Biopharmaceutical Sciences in 2003 at Leiden University. He obtained his Bachelor's degree in 2006. In that same year, he started Medicine at Leiden University. Being interested in anesthesiology and research, he started in his first year as a student-assistant in clinical research at the department of Anesthesiology. In January 2008, he started working as a student assistant on the preclinical experiments in animal models of neuropathic pain, which allowed him to continue this work as a PhD student in January 2009. He continued to combine his PhD studentship with Medicine until he received his Doctorate's degree in June 2010. After that, he put his study on hold to finish the work described in this thesis. After the completion of the work for this thesis, he re-enrolled in Medicine for the rotations to complete his medical training.


