Lars Maria Theo Eijssen

Lars Maria Theo Eijssen was born on May 30th 1976 in the southern Dutch village Schimmert. From 1988 until 1994 he attended secondary school, Gymnasium, at the Stella Maris College in Meerssen. From a broad interest of scientific programs he chose to be a medical student. In order to do so, he first did an intensive course in chemistry at the James Boswell Institute of Utrecht University. After this, he started enthusiastically with medical training at Maastricht University. Here he acquired theoretical, but certainly also practical medical knowledge. Because he was also still interested in more technical fields, Lars started in 1995 with the program of Knowledge Engineering at both Maastricht University and the Belgian Hasselt University. As part of this program, he followed a course in computer science at Baylor University, Waco, Texas, USA for a month and participated in a number of projects related to logistics and information technology for several companies.

After completion of a scientific internship at the Department of Epidemiology of Maastricht University, Lars received the Masters of Medicine *cum laude* in the year 1999. After finishing an internship at the Department of Genetics and Cell Biology of the same university, he also obtained the Masters of Science in Knowledge Engineering, specialization business and applied mathematics, *cum laude*. Based on this, he was also granted an official certificate of equality to the Belgian Licentiate Applied Computer Science by the Flemish Department of Education.

Because he still possessed a major interest in science and wanted to contribute to medical knowledge and quality patient care, Lars started in 2000 as a PhD student at the brand new Department of Population Genetics, Genomics & Bioinformatics at Maastricht University. Apart from his own project, he also assisted in setting up several other activities, amongst which many ICT related tasks within the group. He also obtained some additional certificates in biological and mathematical fields. In 2006, the completion of the PhD project lead to publication and defence of the PhD thesis 'Analysis of microarray gene expression data sets' with Prof. Dr. J.P.M. Geraedts as promotor.

After completing his thesis, Lars started to work as a postdoc in the BiGCaT-bioinformatics group of Dr. Ir. C. Evelo, which aims at bioinformatics to understand and integrate outcome of large scale experiments in molecular biology. Lars' own major focus is on developing methods and implementing workflows for automated and integrated data analysis, and the biological interpretation of the results, chairing the www.arrayanalysis.org project. For several years, he has supported the Nutrigenomics Organisation (NuGO), assisting research teams with their experiments and data analyses, and organising and lecturing in international meetings and courses within this organization. Also Lars is the main organiser, teacher, and supervisor in the Bachelor and Master courses in which the BiGCaT department is involved. Besides, he has been supervising students and exchange PhD students and

postdocs from several countries all over the world and performed as a bioinformatics teacher in courses worldwide.

Main focuses of research (keywords): data analysis, automation of data processing, development of methods for data analysis, microarrays, gene expression data, methylation and other enrichment data, epigenetics, integration of different datatypes, comparison of study outcome, biological interpretation of large scale data sets, pathway and overrepresentation analysis.