



International Conference

THE MICROBIOME THROUGHOUT LIFE

Translating new science into clinical practice

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ALEXANDRA ZHERNAKOVA

After obtaining her M.D., Alexandra (Sasha) Zhernakova worked as a clinical geneticist in the St. Petersburg Center of Medical Genetics. In 2002, she started her research career in the Netherlands by first working in a volunteer position in the Department of Genetics, University Medical Center Utrecht and then continuing as a lab analyst and Ph.D. student (2005–2009) in the group of Cisca Wijmenga. After her postdoctoral research in the Department of Rheumatology at Leiden University Medical Center and Harvard Medical School, Boston, Sasha received a Rosalind Franklin fellowship from the University Medical Center Groningen, which enabled her to develop her independent research line in the field of microbiome, exposome and aging. In her research, Sasha aims to understand the pathogenesis of human diseases by combining studies of genetics, exposome and microbiome and investigating their effect on human health. She is one of the founders of the Groningen Microbiome Team, a leader of MiBioGen consortium, and a scientific leader of the Lifelines-NEXT cohort, a longitudinal study of mother-baby pairs from pregnancy until 8 years of age.

