



## DGCN05 – Practical Training & Thesis

### Project proposal

Project title: Cortisol voor PTSS (CovoS)  
[fMRI + pharmacological patient study]

On-site supervisor: Laura de Nooij

Principal Investigator: Prof dr. Erno Hermans

Donders Theme(s): Theme 3: Development and lifelong plasticity

Research centre: DCMN, DCCN

#### Project description:

For this interdisciplinary project you will be involved in a multicentre patient study that spans several years, at least until early 2024. The study is fundamental in nature, but also has the potential to directly translate to clinical practice. The main aim of the study is to provide a proof-of-concept that glucocorticoid administration improves safety learning within a subgroup of PTSD patients. This investigated with randomized controlled trial that includes MRI assessments. Other factors of interest in this study are HPA axis sensitivity, early life adversity, and (epi)genetic factors. Being involved in the patient study, you will in the first half of your internship collaborate with others to tackle the challenges of project planning and data collection, whereas in the second half of your internship you will have many possibilities to analyse data for this project and your thesis. Overall, the project provides a great learning opportunity, offering experience interacting with a patient population and across different research methods (including neuroimaging). For more information about the project, see also the website for potential study participants: [www.cortisolvoortss.nl](http://www.cortisolvoortss.nl)

**Note:** because of the patient population, this internship will require fluency in Dutch.

Relevant literature: Yehuda et al., Nat. Rev. Dis. Primers 2015; De Quervain, Schwabe & Roozendaal, Nat Rev. Neurosci. 2017; De Quervain, Wolf & Roozendaal, Psychopharmacol. 2019.

More information: [Laura.deNooij@radboudumc.nl](mailto:Laura.deNooij@radboudumc.nl)