

## **Promotor**

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## **Copromotor**

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## **Leden van de examencommissie**

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### **Dr. Mary Slack**

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Vrije Universiteit Brussel

FACULTEIT GENEESKUNDE EN FARMACIE

## **Doctoraat in de Medische Wetenschappen**

Academiejaar 2011-2012

## **UITNODIGING**

Voor de openbare verdediging van het  
doctoraatsproefschrift van

**Iris DE SCHUTTER**

donderdag 28 juni 2012

U wordt vriendelijk uitgenodigd op de openbare verdediging van het proefschrift van

**Iris DE SCHUTTER**

**'Contributions to the knowledge of the aetiology of paediatric community-acquired pneumonia and the pathophysiology of persistent respiratory symptoms in preschool aged children.'**

Op **donderdag 28 juni 2012** om **18 uur** in auditorium **Vanden Driessche** van de Faculteit Geneeskunde & Farmacie Laarbeeklaan 103, 1090 Brussel

### **Situering van het proefschrift**

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Community-acquired pneumonia (CAP) and persistent/recurrent respiratory symptoms are common problems in childhood. The current knowledge of the causative micro-organisms and underlying pathophysiology is limited, because aetiological diagnosis and studies are hampered by technical issues and ethical considerations.

This work focuses on the aetiology of CAP and persistent/recurrent wheezing unresponsive to conventional asthma therapy, in children.

In acute CAP, the predominance of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* as aetiological agent was confirmed and the predominant pneumococcal serotypes were determined. In addition, it was shown for the first time that in recurrent and unresponsive CAP, aetiology is different with predominance of non-typeable *Haemophilus influenzae*.

In children with persistent/ recurrent wheezing, it was demonstrated that structural anomalies of the conductive airways, bronchial inflammation and bacterial infection are common. Moreover, it was shown for the first time that in case of bronchial infection, non-typeable *Haemophilus influenzae* is the bacteria most frequently involved.

The obtained insights provide a basis for a better understanding of the epidemiology of childhood CAP and the underlying pathophysiology in persistent/recurrent wheezing.

### **Curriculum Vitae**

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Iris De Schutter was born in Wilrijk on May 1st, 1970. She studied Medicine at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) and graduated in 1996 with magna cum laude.

From 1996 till 2001, she was trained in Paediatrics at the Universitair Ziekenhuis Brussel (UZ Brussel). During that period, she developed a special interest in Paediatric Pulmonology and Infectiology. Since 2001, Iris De Schutter has been a staff member of the Clinic of Paediatric Pulmonology, Unit of Paediatric Infectious Diseases, Cystic Fibrosis Clinic and Travel Clinic, in the Universitair Ziekenhuis Brussel (UZ Brussel). In combination with her clinical activities, she has performed research in the field of respiratory infections, with a focus on pertussis, community-acquired pneumonia, *Haemophilus influenzae* and Tuberculosis. Her research resulted in a clinical expertise and several (inter)national publications and numerous oral and poster presentations at international and national conferences. She was the laureate of the Pfizer Educational Grant in 2001 and the Glaxo-SmithKline Award Paediatric Pulmonology in 2003. In 2010, she received a scientific grant from the Wetenschappelijk Fonds W. Gepts to continue her research in the field of Respiratory infectiology