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Hélène Zondag's interest for research in the field of medical molecular biology started during a Biology Bachelor at the Vrije Universiteit of Amsterdam and grew during the Biology research master called Microbial Biotechnology and Health at the Leiden University. Dedicated to pursue this interest she started a PhD in January 2018 at the Public Health Laboratory in Amsterdam mainly focusing on the molecular epidemiology of *Treponema pallidum* subspecies *pallidum*. In addition, she is working on improving syphilis diagnosis, direct *in vitro* culturing of *Treponema pallidum* subspecies *pallidum* from patient material and other sexually transmitted infections.