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Colonization and Invasion of Human Epithelia by *Neisseria meningitidis*

Bacterial Surface Variation and Exploitation of Host Defense Molecules

Colonization and Invasion of Human Epithelia by *Neisseria meningitidis*

Bacterial Surface Variation and Exploitation of Host Defense Molecules

ACADEMISCH PROEFSCHRIFT

ter verkrijging van de graad van doctor

aan de Universiteit van Amsterdam

op gezag van de Rector Magnificus

Prof. dr. J.J.M. Franse

ten overstaan van een door het college voor promoties ingestelde

commissie, in het openbaar te verdedigen in de Aula der Universiteit

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Frederik Peter de Vries

geboren te Amsterdam

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Faculteit Geneeskunde

The research described in this thesis was performed at the Department of Medical Microbiology, Academic Medical Center, University of Amsterdam and at the Max-Planck-Institut für Biologie, Abteilung Infektionsbiologie,Tübingen, Germany

Cover: Colonies of *Neisseria meningitidis* grown from a single clone, differences in opacity reflect phase variation of bacterial surface antigens.