A. S. Maia was born in Manaus, Amazon, Brazil on November 11th 1966. He started his university life at the Universidade Federal do Amazonas, Manaus, studying chemistry. After passing selection examinations at the French Embassy in Brazil, he went to France to study biochemistry at the Université de Rouen, Normandy. In this university, he followed a Masters degree course in Cell Biology. During this Masters course, he came “only for six months” to the University of Nijmegen, The Netherlands as an “Erasmus student”. He returned to France and finished a “D.E.A. de Biologie Cellulaire – option Neurosciences” at his old university. Back to The Netherlands, he worked at the University of Nijmegen and later started a Ph.D. position (A.I.O) at the University of Utrecht, The Netherlands.