

PROPOSITIONS

1. The associations of gestational age, birth weight and infant growth with childhood asthma are partly explained by lower lung function. (This thesis)
2. Abdominal body fat mass distribution are associated with Rint and FeNO, suggesting that that detailed body fat distribution measures improve insight of the obesity-asthma paradigm. (This thesis)
3. Folic acid supplement use during pregnancy is associated with childhood lung function, but only when mothers carry the *MTHFR-C677T* variant. (This thesis)
4. Maternal folate levels during pregnancy are associated with differential DNA-methylation of cord blood in the newborn. (This thesis)
5. Differential DNA-methylation during fetal life is associated with lower lung function and chronic obstructive respiratory diseases across the life course. (This thesis)
6. Novel prevention strategies, and therapies targeted specifically against the mechanisms responsible for disease processes, will decrease the worldwide burden in health-care costs and morbidity caused by this still mysterious disease (Martinez et al, Lancet 2013;1360-1372).
7. A more comprehensive and quantitative view of the interactions between genes and the environmental is needed to discover the major causes of common non-communicable diseases. As said, genetics load the gun, but the environment pulls the trigger.
8. Epigenetic research will provide a unique opportunity to not only predict and treat asthma and COPD in the current generation, but also to prevent it for generations to come.
9. The interpretation of statistics is of no use without a proper comprehension of the mathematical techniques, assumptions and biological plausibility underlying the analyses.
10. The aim of epidemiology is to prevent the need of medicine.
11. I believe that we do not know anything for certain, but everything probably (Christiaan Huygens)