Propositions accompanying the thesis:

INTRODUCING SYSTEMS APPROACHES IN HEALTH BEHAVIORAL RESEARCH

I. The spread of unhealthy behaviors shows similarities with the spread of infectious diseases. *THIS THESIS*

II. The local presence of health behaviors and overweight is an often neglected but relevant determinant of changes in health behaviors and becoming overweight. *THIS THESIS*

III. Smoking interventions should also consider household members and close friends. *THIS THESIS*

IV. Agent-based modeling has much potential to study health behaviors in the context of a system and to analyze the population-level impact of various interventions aimed at promoting healthy behaviors and reducing health disparities. *THIS THESIS*

V. Population-level effects of interventions promoting health behaviors slowly increase over time with discernable effects only becoming visible after five to ten years. *THIS THESIS*

VI. Model development is an art more than a science. *Bonabeau* (2002), *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*

VII. We are prone to overestimate how much we understand about the world and to underestimate the role of chance in events. *Kahneman,* *Thinking, Fast and Slow*

VIII. Although the need for systems approaches in public health has been recognized, its application is limited due to the lack of required skills among most public health researchers.

IX. Ending transmission of leprosy will require many decades.

X. The annual new case detection rate (NCDR) is a poor indicator of leprosy burden and the effect of interventions.

XI. To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven, *Ecclesiastes 3:1*

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