Propositions

1. In particular atherosclerotic plaque burden, and not plaque morphology, is of prognostic value for the incidence of long-term adverse cardiac outcome in ischemic heart disease. (This thesis)

2. A single non-culprit coronary artery segment may reflect the atherosclerotic burden of the complete coronary tree in patients with coronary artery disease. (This thesis)

3. Repeatedly measured biomarker levels over time carry incremental prognostic information over a single (baseline) measurement in patients with ischemic heart disease. (This thesis)

4. Although higher ST2 and GDF15 levels are associated with recurrent cardiovascular events in ischemic heart disease, these biomarkers do not show a sudden increase prior to such events and are thus unsuited for patient monitoring. (This thesis)

5. The within-patient variability of LDL cholesterol measurements in statin-treated patients warrants consideration while adjusting treatment in clinical practice. (This thesis)

6. The triggers of coronary thrombosis may induce widespread inflammation, and are not necessarily the same in all patients experiencing acute coronary syndromes. (Buffon 2002 N Engl J Med)

7. Ultimately, combining traditional risk factors with biomarkers of endothelial inflammation or oxidation and with imaging tools able to quantify plaque burden will advance the identification of vulnerable patients with thrombotic-prone atherosclerotic disease, and tailor preventive strategies. (Naghavi 2006 Am J Cardiol)

8. Healthy behaviour, in particular healthy diet, should not merely be an active personal choice but should be accommodated by government policy in order to reduce the prevalence of acquired lifestyle diseases.

9. A p-value, or statistical significance, does not measure the size of an effect or the importance of a result. (Wasserstein 2016 Am Stat)

10. It is a mistake to look too far ahead, only one link of the chain of destiny can be handled at a time. (Winston Churchill)

11. Er gaat meer boven je pet dan eronder. (Toon Hermans)