

Propositions accompanying this thesis

**The roles of hormones and medication in atherosclerosis:
a population imaging approach**

1. MRI is a promising imaging modality with excellent capacities for detection and quantification of calcification in carotid atherosclerosis in vivo (*this thesis*).
2. Current clinical practice on the assessment of the risk for cardiovascular diseases should consider including levels of circulating hormones (*this thesis*).
3. Estradiol levels before the menopause play a protective role in women, whereas after the menopause, they increase the risk for atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease. (*this thesis*)
4. Statin treatment can lead to changes in the plaque composition and alter plaque morphology into a stable plaque phenotype (*this thesis*).
5. Antithrombotic treatment plays a key role in the prevention of cardiovascular diseases however they could increase plaque vulnerability by promoting intraplaque hemorrhage. (*this thesis*)
6. The aim of plaque imaging is to look beyond the lumen (and the degree of stenosis) and to identify those imaging biomarkers of vulnerable carotid plaques that are best suited for stroke risk prediction (*Luca Saba, the Lancet Neurology, 2019*).
7. Despite enormous progress in the pharmacological and interventional treatment and primary prevention of cardiovascular disease, atherosclerosis remains a major global public health burden with devastating consequences (*Reza Hajhosseiny, ATVB, 2019*).
8. A cause is an act or event or a state of nature which initiates or permits, alone or in conjunction with other causes, a sequence of events resulting in an effect (*Kenneth J. Rothman, AJE, 1976*).
9. We all do better when we work together. Our differences do matter, but our common humanity matters more (*William Jefferson Clinton, the President of the USA, 1992-2000*).
10. We have the EURO as a currency, which means a lot. It has not just stabilized the situation in Kosovo politically and economically, but also facilitated the direct contact that we have with Europe (*Dr. Ibrahim Rugova, the President of Kosovo 1992–2006, and Sakharov prize winner, 1998*).
11. We know only too well that what we are doing is nothing more than a drop in the ocean. But if the drop were not there, the ocean would be missing something (*Saint Mother Teresa, Nobel prize winner 1979*).

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