

Stellingen behorende bij het proefschrift (uitsluitend procedure Erasmus Universiteit)
Statements accompanying the thesis (Erasmus University procedure only)

BMP-SMADs: a new take on lymphatic vessel development

1. Interpretation of the dynamics of SMAD1/5/9 transcriptional reporter activity *in vivo* leads to new insights, but is also prone to bias. (*This thesis*)
2. The use of one NEXT-GENERATION all-encompassing BMP-SMAD signaling reporter mouse is preferred over the use of different reporters that reflect different signaling levels. (*This thesis*)
3. Gene silencing of a cell-intrinsic factor like a transcription factor in a specific cell type might be sufficient to understand a gene's autonomous functions, yet its non-autonomous functions might be overlooked (*This thesis*)
4. BMP studies are complex due to a large subgroup of BMP ligands and their various type I-II receptor combinations regulating cellular processes. Transcriptome analysis of BMP-stimulated lymphatic endothelial cells (LECs) generated a large amount of currently untapped data, which could lead to more insight in BMP-specific regulated responses in LECs. (*This thesis*)
5. To morph or to move: how gene-to-gene interactions and physiological changes are interdependent. (*This thesis; Maïke Frye, Nature Communications 2018; Claudia A Franco, Developmental Cell 2017*)
6. "The saddest aspect of life right now is that science gathers knowledge faster than society gathers wisdom." (*Isaac Asimov*)
7. "The assumption that animals are without rights, and the illusion that our treatment of them has no moral significance, are positively outrageous examples of Western crudity and barbarity. Universal compassion is the only guarantee of morality." (*Arthur Schopenhauer, The Basis of Morality*)
8. "The good thing about science is that it's true, whether or not you believe in it." (*Neil deGrasse Tyson, The Colbert Report*)
9. "Imagination is more important than knowledge." (*Albert Einstein*)
10. "Not only is it important to ask questions and find the answers, as a scientist I felt obligated to communicate with the world what we were learning." (*Stephen Hawking, Brief Answers to the Big Questions*)
11. Great science is like baking delicious cupcakes, they both require a perfect protocol