1. Although consideration needs to be given to available resources, expedited implementation of screening programs saves lives. (this thesis)

2. Individuals with higher background risk of colorectal cancer benefit more from screening than those at lower risk. (this thesis)

3. Comorbidity and screening history are important determinants of the optimal age to stop screening. (this thesis)

4. At present, uniform screening is more cost effective than screening based on polygenic risk and family history. This is likely to change in the future. (this thesis)

5. Countries with low incidence of colorectal cancer should consider the benefits of implementing colorectal cancer screening. (this thesis)

6. Disease prevention is a far more comprehensive and compelling solution to improve population health and control costs than treatment. (Xingzhu Liu, World Health Organization, 2003)

7. Vaccination against human papillomavirus (HPV) not only reduces the incidence of HPV infection, it substantially reduces the risk of genital warts, high-grade cervical lesions and invasive cervical cancer. (Mélanie Drolet, The Lancet, 2019; Jiayao Lei, New England Journal of Medicine, 2020)

8. The management of the acute epidemic in isolation from the chronic epidemic will leave a legacy of great harm for people with non-communicable diseases. (Trevor Sheldon and John Wright, British Medical Journal, 2020)

9. Women are underrepresented in the data that underpins how decisions are made with far reaching, sometimes deadly, consequences. (Caroline Criado Perez, Invisible women: exposing data bias in a world designed for men, 2019)

10. Science is at no moment quite right, but it is seldom quite wrong, and has, as a rule, a better chance of being right than the theories of the unscientific. (Bertrand Russell, My Philosophical Development, 1959)

11. We do not know the true value of our moments until they have undergone the test of memory. Only then do we understand their real meaning and enjoy them in all their splendour. (adapted from Georges Duhamel (translated by Eleanor Stimson Brooks), The Heart’s Domain, 1919)

Dayna Cenin
22 April 2021