PROPOSITIONS
belonging to the doctoral thesis

EXPERIMENTAL METHODS TO ASSESS THE AIRBORNE TRANSMISSION OF RESPIRATORY VIRUSES

1. The development of new air samplers is important to study the transmission of respiratory viruses via the air (*this thesis*).

2. The presence of virus RNA in the air is not a direct correlate of infection risk *(this thesis)*.

3. The contribution of airborne transmission in the spread of RSV is still unknown (*this thesis*).

4. Animal models are an invaluable tool for fundamental research on respiratory virus transmission, but humans are the best animal model to study the transmission between humans *(this thesis)*.

5. Evidence of virus transmission via the air between animals does not provide information about its relative contribution to virus spread in the human population *(this thesis)*.

6. Superspreading events drive the transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in the human population and knowledge of such events is key to control pandemics.

7. Infection of domestic and wild animals by SARS-CoV-2 highlights the importance of controlling infections in animal populations to avoid the generation of new variants and reservoirs of SARS-CoV-2.

8. It is easy to blame a virus or an animal, but humans are the culprits of pandemics *(John Vidal, UNESCO Courier)*.

9. Women are not more complicated than men, and hormones are not a female problem in animal research *(Shansky, Science, 2019)*.

10. Epistemic trespassing lies at the root of misinformation and is at least in part responsible for the distrust in science *(based on Ballantyne, Mind, 2019)*.

11. A stripper can be a pole dancer, but a pole dancer is not a stripper.

Jasmin S Kutter, 1 September 2021