

Stellingen behorende bij het proefschrift

Tickborne Rickettsial Diseases: Epidemiological Studies in China

1. Emerging and re-emerging tickborne rickettsial agents are present in mainland China. They are potential threats to humans and livestock (this thesis).
2. The vectors and animal hosts of tickborne rickettsial agents in mainland China are universal (this thesis).
3. The tickborne rickettsial agents recently discovered in China seem genetically different from those on other continents (this thesis).
4. Although the pathogenicity for humans of the agents mentioned in proposition 3 has yet to be demonstrated, they are good candidates since they have been detected in ticks that readily bite people (this thesis).
5. Tickborne rickettsial agents often co-circulate with other microorganisms in the same natural foci (this thesis).
6. Ticks rank second only to mosquitoes as vectors for human illness and, as our environment changes and the way in which we interact with it also evolves, tickborne diseases are likely to become more commonly recognized (Edlow JA. *Infect Dis Clin N Am.* 2008)
7. Important lessons have been learnt in China from the SARS outbreak, including the need for more honesty and openness, improvement of surveillance, laboratory facilities and case management (Zhong N & Zeng G. *Brit Med J.* 2006).
8. Cocirculation of 2009 pandemic H1N1 virus and seasonal H3N2 virus led to a mixed infection in patients. Pandemic H1N1 virus, however, took prevalence over seasonal influenza virus in the course of transmission (Liu *et al.* *Clin Infect Dis.* 2010).
9. Infectious diseases continue to be a serious burden around the world, both in developing and industrialized countries (Smolinski MS, *et al.* ed. *Microbial Treats to Health: Emergence, Detection, and Response.* 2003. The National Academies Press, Washington D.C.)
10. If you think research is expensive, try disease (Mary Lasher).
11. Learning without thought is labor lost; thought without learning is perilous (Confucius).

Wu-Chun Cao

Rotterdam, June 2, 2010