

## STELLINGEN

behorende bij het proefschrift

### **Ethnic heterogeneity of cancer in Europe - Lessons from registry-based studies in migrants**

Melina Arnold  
29<sup>th</sup> January 2013

1. Changing disease patterns in migrants can partly be explained by conceptualizing migration as a high-speed health transition. While infectious diseases often diminish shortly after migration, non-communicable diseases simultaneously increase and slowly approach the risk of the local-born population of the host country. *(this thesis)*
2. Cancer patterns in Europe are influenced by immigration in terms of a lower burden of lifestyle- (like breast and prostate cancer) and a higher burden of infection-related malignancies (like non-cardia stomach and liver cancer) among immigrants that can persist over time and generations. *(this thesis)*
3. Migration-sensitive cancer registration is gaining importance in terms of public health monitoring, but continues to be scarce in most European countries despite increasing policy commitments from WHO and IOM. *(this thesis)*
4. In cancer, disparities in incidence and/or survival are not always inequities and migrants are in most instances not worse off. Breast cancer, for example, is less common and less fatal in non-western migrant women relative to native Dutch women. *(this thesis)*
5. Cancer mortality among Turkish migrants in France differs from that of Turkish migrants in the Netherlands and that in Turkey itself. This strong context-dependence of mortality risks emphasizes the importance of environmental, behavioural and other extrinsic factors involved in carcinogenesis. *(this thesis)*
6. Ethnicity matters for health and is a self-evident variable in epidemiological research. *(Prof. dr. Karien Stronks, WEON 2011)*
7. The 'cancer patient' does not exist, just as the 'migrant cancer patient'. *(VLK, 2010)*
8. Evidence from random migration lottery in New Zealand showed that experimental study designs may represent a promising new tool in migration research. The study revealed significantly decreasing stunting but increasing overweight and obesity in young children shortly after migration. *(Stillman et al., Economic Inquiry 2012)*
9. The genetic differences between the snail populations of two Pyrenean valleys are much greater than those between Australian aboriginals and ourselves. If you were a snail it would make good biological sense to be a racist: but you have to accept that humans are tediously uniform animals. *(Dr. Steve Jones, The Independent, 1991)*
10. It is the duty of the human understanding to understand that there are things which it cannot understand, and what those things are. *(Søren Kierkegaard)*
11. Are you suggesting that coconuts migrate? *(Monty Python)*