

Propositions (Stellingen) for the thesis

## Identifying Determinants For Neurobehavioral Morbidity In Tuberous Sclerosis Complex

The strong relationship between focal brain abnormalities and neurocognitive morbidity, strongly suggests that these underlie the neurocognitive deficits in TSC. (This thesis Chapter 4)

TSC seems a valid genetic disorder to study the epilepsy-intelligence-autism triad, but may be less useful to elucidate the pathophysiology of isolated autism spectrum disorders. (This thesis Chapter 6)

The use of genetic indicators of disease severity in TSC should not be underestimated, as they are currently the only biomarker available before the development of brain malformations. (This thesis Chapter 2 and Chapter 3)

In TSC, investigating neurological outcomes will ultimately help understand the entire neurobehavioral phenotype. (This thesis Chapter 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9)

The neurobehavioral phenotype of patients with TSC is pervasive and complex, and demands expert care throughout the lifetime, such as provided by a physician for the intellectually disabled (AVG). (This thesis Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9)

“The identification of determinants *of the variability* of the neurobehavioral phenotype of TSC” would have made this a truly fascinating thesis.

Diagnosing multiple neurodevelopmental disorders in a single individual seems ignorant of the patient, as well as the underlying biology.

Physicians for the intellectually disabled (AVGs) can move towards redefining themselves as clinical neuroscientists with shared interests and expertise that permit a more cohesive and effective approach to improving the lives of patients.

Longitudinal databases, quantitative measurements, cross-disorder approaches, and collaborations are invaluable for clinical research in rare disorders.

Every scientist needs to learn to talk science with laymen.

*Max Tegmark, in ‘This will make you smarter’*

“Happiness is like a butterfly; the more you chase it, the more it will elude you, but if you turn your attention to other things, it will come and sit softly on your shoulder.”

*Henry David Thoreau*

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