Stellingen behorende bij het proefschrift

*Schistosoma mansoni* and host-parasite interactions

1. The presence of minor proteins in the schistosome eggshell can have major consequences for eggshell interactions with the hemostatic and immune systems of the host. (*This thesis*)

2. The absence of host proteins in the schistosome eggshell indicates that eggshell cross-linking is a rapid process that fully occurs within the female worm and is finished before oviposition. (*This thesis*)

3. Host hemostatic factors bind to schistosome eggshells and this facilitates excretion of schistosome eggs. (*This thesis*)

4. The ratio of anti-egg antibodies versus anti-worm antibodies in cerebral spine fluid (CSF) compared to serum can distinguish between true neuroschistosomiasis and other disorders damaging the blood-brain barrier in patients with systemic schistosomiasis only. (*This thesis*)

5. The pronounced reduction of phosphatidylinositol levels in serum of infected hamsters implies that yet unknown host-schistosome interactions occur. (*This thesis*)

6. A healthy ecosystem is one that is rich in parasites. (*Trends Ecol Evol* 2006, 21:381–385)


8. Although classical music seems to relax animals more than pop music does, playing the latter in animal facilities can be justified when this is preferred by human workers. (*J Appl Anim Welfare Sci* 2006, 9:327–332)


10. Empowerment of rural women is key to ending hunger. (*FAO, State of Food and Agriculture, Rome* 2010)

11. All data and results of research funded by public means should be freely accessible.

*Saskia de Wallick*
Rotterdam, 22 mei 2015