Stellingen behorende bij het proefschrift:

# The Role and Modulation of Pathogenic CCR6 Positive T Helper Cells in Rheumatoid Arthritis

1. $PGE_2$ is a critical factor in driving IL-17A production from CCR6+ Th cells. (This thesis)

2. IL-22 has limited effects in CCR6+ Th cell mediated synovial inflammation. (This thesis)

3. Future therapies directed against CCR6+ Th cells in RA should not just focus on IL-17A inhibition alone, but also on proteins expressed by all CCR6+ Th subpopulations. (This thesis)

4. The proportion of CCR6+ Th cells distinguishes ACPA+ RA from ACPA- RA. (This thesis)

5. Multidrug resistant lymphocytes are present in patients with RA and are a promising tool to predict and monitor DMARD/GC treatment response. (This thesis)

6. ACPA titers are equally sensitive but more specific than RF titers in diagnosing RA and therefore ACPA should be given more weight than RF in diagnostic criteria for RA.

7. As more autoantibodies against post-translationally modified proteins are discovered in RA, it appears that RA is a disease in which aberrant post-translational modification, instead of merely citrullination, is the main culprit. (Adapted from: E. Darrah and F. Andrade, Arthritis and Rheumatology, Vol. 67, No. 3, Mar 2015, pp 604–608)

8. The association between the PTPN22 W620 polymorphism and an increased risk of developing RA might be explained by the recent finding that the PTPN22 W620 polymorphism, in contrary to the PTPN22 R620 variant, is unable to suppress PAD-4 activity and citrullination. (H. Chang, N. Dwivedi, A. Nicholas, I. Ho, Arthritis and Rheumatology, Vol. 67, No. 9, Sep 2015, pp 2323-34)

9. Long non-coding (lnc)RNAs are involved in the development of autoimmunity and autoimmune diseases. Therefore, targeting lncRNAs may be beneficial in the treatment of autoimmune diseases. (G. Wu, H. Pan, R. Leng, D. Wang, et al., Autoimmunity Reviews, Vol. 14, No. 9, Sep 2015, pp 798–805)

10. There is a gap between PhD candidate's ambitions – who for the larger part wish to continue their career in academia after gaining their PhD – and the available job opportunities in academia. Therefore, both the institutions and the PhD candidates should invest in exploring other career opportunities. (Adapted from: De Goede, M., Belder, R. & De Jonge, J., 2014. Promoveren in Nederland. Motivatie en loopbaanverwachtingen van promovendi. Den Haag, Rathenau Instituut)

11. Promoveren en een privéleven combineren is heel goed mogelijk, mits de promovendus zijn/haar partner en een groot deel van zijn/haar vrienden binnen de werkomgeving kiest.