1. A combination of standardization and external quality assurance may reduce the inter-laboratory variation for CTC counting in peripheral blood. [this thesis]

2. Stringent selection of genes combined with sensitive pre-amplification, using multiplex real-time PCR enables the molecular characterization of a single CTC in the presence of large quantities of contaminating leukocytes. [this thesis]

3. The vascular sialomucin CD34, a signature marker for hematopoietic progenitor cells, is highly expressed on mature endothelial cells. [this thesis]

4. CEC enumeration protocols require a DNA specific stain to exclude platelets, aggregates and endothelial micro and/or macro particles, as these objects have an overlapping phenotype with CEC. [this thesis]

5. Endothelial CD276 (B7-H3) expression is increased in human malignancies and distinguishes between normal and tumor-derived circulating endothelial cells. [this thesis]


8. Keeping endothelial homeostasis is the central key for a healthy long life of the human individual. “A man is as old as his arteries”. Thomas Sydenham, English Physician (1624 – 1689)

9. If you can’t see your negatives, you have no idea where your positives are. Robert Sutherland and Michael Keeney

10. In plaats van dat we organiseren waar het om draait, is het dankzij management (en kwaliteitssystemen) gaan draaien om hoe we organiseren.

11. Als een stelling te stellig wordt in wetenschap, politiek of religie ontaardt zij in een dogma.