Stellingen

1. A set of long non-coding RNAs exhibits tissue-specific expression patterns and can be used to accurately distinguish prostate cancer from benign conditions (this thesis, chapter 3).
2. PDE4D7 over-expression indicates development of primary prostate cancer, while its down-regulation in prostate cancer cells signals a switch to androgen-independent growth and worse clinical outcome (this thesis, chapter 4).
3. Transcript-based expression analysis offers additional insights compared to a gene-based analysis and yields valuable biomarker signatures (this thesis, chapter 5).
4. A search space reduction limits accuracy of sequencing read mapping to a reference genome as well as subsequent mutation calling. These negative effects can be mitigated by adequate utilization of *a priori* available information, allowing highly efficient alignments (this thesis, chapter 6).
5. RNAs can serve multiple functions inside a cell and a categorization solely by protein coding-potential does not recapitulate their true biological relevance (this thesis, chapter 2 and Karapetyan AR *et al.* 2013).
6. A legacy or tradition does not justify injustice.
7. It is a great relief that human brains cannot (yet) be replicated and therefore science will continue to offer career perspectives for bioinformaticians.
8. Convincing an artificial intelligence that human beings are “generally nice” will be impossible if a significant number of people chose to believe the opposite and act accordingly.
9. Dutch work-life balance is exemplary, but severely impaired by the predominating climatic conditions (amusingly alluded to by the title of Karl Schroeder’s “The sunless countries”).
10. “Poco a poco, se va lejos” (“Little by little, one goes a long way”; Spanish saying).
11. After four years of pricey Dutch and Belgian beers, a simple and cheap German Pilsener is a reward on its own.