

Stellingen behorend bij het proefschrift:

**UNRAVELLING PATHOBIOLOGICAL MOLECULAR MECHANISMS
OF T-CELL ACUTE LYMPHOBLASTIC LEUKEMIA**

1. Microdeletions represent an additional inactivation mechanism for PTEN in human T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia. (this thesis)
2. RAG-mediated *PTEN* microdeletions are not exclusive to T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia, but also occur during normal T-cell development. (this thesis)
3. The OP9-DL1 *in vitro* co-culture system is a true representative of human T-cell development in the thymus (this thesis)
4. Loss of CD44 represents a previously unrecognized stage that defines the earliest committed T-cell population in the human thymus. (this thesis)
5. Constitutive expression of MEF2C, LYL1, or LMO2 in very early thymocyte progenitors results in developmental arrest prior to T-cell commitment and may therefore play an important role in the pathogenesis of Early T-cell Precursor Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. (this thesis)
6. Covert (hidden) tumours arise constantly, reflecting our intrinsic vulnerability, and each and every one of us harbours mutant clones with malignant potential. (Mel Greaves, Nature Rev Cancer 2007)
7. How elegantly you manage disappointment determines how quickly you will experience success. (Robin Sharma)
8. Many small contributions add up to something big: this is how the impact of this thesis has to be perceived in the treatment of pediatric T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia patients.
9. Life is a kind of music, a symphonic interplay between genes, cells, organs, body, and environment. (Denis Noble)
10. What makes a champion is not how elegant you start, but how strong you finish. (Robin Sharma)
11. Loving life is easy when you are abroad. Where no one knows you and you hold life in your hands all alone, you are more master of yourself than at any other time. (Hannah Arendt)