

# Small molecules, big consequences

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## **Propositions**

Accompanying the dissertation

### **Small molecules, big consequences:**

#### **Novel therapeutic approaches for treating chronic inflammatory diseases**

1. Due to their distinct pathophysiological functions inside and outside the cell, studying cathepsins provides a unique perspective on disease etiology. (This thesis)
2. The extracellular fraction of cathepsin D plays a key role in lipid metabolism and inflammation during NAFLD progression and its selective targeting may be a safe therapeutic strategy for NAFLD (This thesis).
3. 2-hydroxypropyl- $\beta$ -cyclodextrin treatment induces time and dose-dependent inflammatory effect. (This thesis)
4. Stress management can lead to a healthier gut and improved mental health. (This thesis)
5. Extracellular CTSD plays a critical role in metabolic inflammation and should be considered as a potential therapeutic target for co-morbidities including atherosclerosis, cancer and lysosomal storage diseases.
6. Preclinical studies lay the foundation for drug development and are often monitored using big lenses; their success depends on understanding where to focus and how to control the aperture precisely.
7. Science is not a boy's game, it's not a girl's game. It's everyone's game. It's about where we are and where we're going - Nichelle Nichols
8. Quality mentorship, flexible teammates and effective communication form the iron triangle of research.
9. Between manuscript submitted and manuscript accepted, a PhD goes by.
10. Life is like a topography. There are summits of happiness and success, flat stretches of boring routine and valleys of frustration and failure - Bill Waterson, Calvin and Hobbes; Just that in science, valleys feel like the Mariana Trench.
11. Living in a foreign country is a struggle between overwhelming independence and overweight suitcases.

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