Peri- and extravascular inflammation : impact on atherosclerosis

Stellingen behorende bij het proefschrift:

Peri- and extravascular inflammation: Impact on atherosclerosis

Isabelle Daissormont, Maastricht, 13 April 2012

1. Plasmacytoid dendritic cells act as commanders of the immune system: they instruct T cells and adopt their strategy to changes in their environment (this thesis).

2. The role of the adventitia in atherosclerosis has been underestimated for too many years: it is not as adventitious as it seems. (this thesis).

3. Besides an important role in lymphocyte homing (Förster et al. Cell 1996), the significant decrease in myeloid cells in CXCL13 and CXCR5 deficient mice suggests that the CXCL13-CXCR5 axis is also involved in myeloid development and/or survival. (this thesis)

4. Processes within the plaque are not only regulated at local level but also by peri-vascular tissue (this thesis).

5. From the fact that ovarian hormones regulate macrophage phenotype, function and numbers, one might infer that the outcome of mouse atherosclerosis studies depends on gender (Scotland et al. Blood 2011).

6. When studying the role of the immune system in atherosclerosis, the notion that the immune system of elderly, the actual target group for treatment of atherosclerosis-related disorders, differs completely from that of young and middle-aged adults should also be taken into consideration. (Linton et al. Nat Immunol 2004).

7. The significantly higher prevalence of acute myocardial infarctions in the Netherlands compared to Belgium (Nederlandse Volksgezondheid, Belgische Cardiologische Liga) might well be related to the higher density of Mc Donalds fast food restaurants in the Netherlands (13.7/mill. habitants in the Netherlands compared to 5.7/mill. habitants in Belgium).

8. To be successful, research not only requires a brilliant idea, but also a lot of luck and persistence!