

The complement system and cardiovascular disease

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PROPOSITIONS

accompanying the dissertation

THE COMPLEMENT SYSTEM AND CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE:

THE CODAM STUDY

- 1) A higher potential to activate the alternative complement pathway in the circulation is associated with future cardiovascular events. (*this dissertation*)
- 2) Both high and low plasma concentrations of the pattern recognition molecule C1q of the classical complement pathway are associated with development of cardiovascular disease. (*this dissertation*)
- 3) Plasma concentrations of the pattern recognition molecule mannose-binding lectin but not of the proteins mediating downstream lectin pathway activation are associated with inflammation and atherosclerosis. (*this dissertation*)
- 4) Systemic activation of the terminal complement pathway is associated with low-grade inflammation and endothelial dysfunction, but not with atherosclerosis or cardiovascular disease. (*this dissertation*)
- 5) Identification of triggers and clarification of the exact location of alternative pathway activation in the circulation can help to develop treatment and prevention strategies of cardiovascular disease.
- 6) Prevention and treatment of chronic diseases is primarily viewed as a medical challenge, however it is largely a societal challenge.
- 7) “The Faustian trade of the 20th century was, we got 30 years of additional life, but in return we got heart disease, cancer, stroke, Alzheimer's and sensory impairments. The question is: What Faustian trade are we making now, as we go after heart disease, cancer, stroke and Alzheimer's?” (S. Jay Olshansky)
- 8) “Science may be described as the art of systematic over-simplification” (Karl Popper)
- 9) The only true wisdom is in knowing you know nothing. (Sokrates)