

# Effects of air pollution on haemostasis and atherosclerosis

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## Stellingen behorend bij het proefschrift

### *Effects of Air Pollution on Haemostasis and Atherosclerosis*

- 1) Exposure to particulate matter (PM) with a diameter of less than 10  $\mu\text{m}$  aerodynamic size and gas pollutants increase platelet aggregation and tissue factor dependent thrombin generation in healthy human subjects (this thesis).
- 2) An adaptive mechanism in response to mild pulmonary inflammation is protective against procoagulant effects of exposure to PM<sub>2.5</sub> (PM < 2.5  $\mu\text{m}$ ) and diesel exhaust in rats (this thesis).
- 3) Ultrafine size particles in air increase both tissue factor and factor XII dependent thrombin generation (this thesis).
- 4) The factor XII mediated procoagulant effects of PM provide additional ground for the hypothesis that factor XII, although irrelevant for hemostasis, is relevant in PM driven thrombotic cardiovascular disease (this thesis).
- 5) Exposure to biodiesel in LDL<sup>-/-</sup> mice induces a more vulnerable plaque phenotype characterized by loss of smooth muscle cells, thinner fibrous cap, bigger necrotic core, increased apoptosis, and increased oxidative stress than exposure to petroleum diesel (this thesis).
- 6) The name biodiesel is misleading, given its harmful vascular effects *in vivo* as compared to regular petroleum diesel (this thesis). Hence, the investment by the Dutch Ministry of Transportation and Provinces of approximately 3,6 million euro in new biodiesel filling stations is premature.
- 7) Rather than cutting in university budgets, the government should invest in basic and clinical research: the best way to deal with the economic crisis.
- 8) Please do something good for yourself and your heart; rather find a green area (clean air supply) to jog or cycle than a place next to the highway.
- 9) Believe in science is always the best guide but scientists should prove whether the hypothesis is correct or false by performing experiments.
- 10) The new to build A2 highway tunnel in Maastricht can be seen as a vascular stent: initially it will solve a major traffic infarct, but when will it clot again?
- 11) There are many ways to reduce health care costs: one is to get rid of managers.