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Universiteit Leiden



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Stellingen behorende bij het proefschrift

“Parasitic Infections during Pregnancy in Gabon: Birth outcomes and Immunological changes”

1. Carriage of *Loa loa* microfilaria is common during pregnancy in rural areas of Gabon, but this filarial infection is not associated with increased risk of adverse pregnancy outcomes [this thesis].
2. *Schistosoma haematobium* a common infection in pregnant women in rural areas of Gabon is associated with low birth weight [this thesis].
3. Considering that low birth weight is only one of the deleterious consequences of malaria in pregnancy and is prone to multiple confounding, other study outcomes such as placental infection or inflammation may be better suited to reflect the efficacy of malaria control strategies in pregnant women [this thesis]
4. Development of tailored antenatal care and facilitation of early attendance by young adolescent girls should be a priority in sub-Saharan Africa as they are at considerably higher risk for premature and low birth weight deliveries [this thesis].
5. Observational studies on the effects of helminth infections in humans are fraught with strong potential for both measured and unmeasured confounders: helminths occur in the most disadvantaged communities alongside poverty, lack of education and malnutrition. [Mpairwe et al. *Parasite Immunol.*, **36**, 328-337 (2014)]
6. New scientific developments in genomics, epigenetics, developmental biology, social science, and ecology are altering the prevailing, gene-centric view of evolution. [Laland et al. *Nature* **514**,161–164 (2014)]
7. Neither the Th1 versus Th2 balance nor the more recently discovered ILC1 versus ILC2 balance can explain the immunological basis of the hygiene hypothesis. [Bal et al. *Nature Immunology* (2016), doi:10.1038/ni.3444]
8. Parasites have played a role in driving the evolution of the immune system, apparent from common genetic loci that regulate susceptibility to parasitic infections as well as to immunological disorders such as allergy or autoimmune disease. [Mangano et al. *Clin Microbiol Infect.*; **20**:1265-75 (2014).]
9. We know accurately only when we know little, with knowledge doubt increases. [J. W. von Goethe, *Maxims and Reflections* (1833)]
10. Most people say that it is the intellect which makes a great scientist. They are wrong: it is the character. [Albert Einstein, *The World As I See It* (1949)]
11. If your desire is the well-being of the greatest number, the desire of the majority will be for your well-being.
12. As one writes a thesis one does neither suspect nor expect that the most difficult part has yet to come and realizes so only when starting to write the propositions.

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