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Leiden**  
The Netherlands

## **A study into genes encoding longevity in humans**

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# Stellingen

behorende bij het proefschrift:  
*“A Study into Genes Encoding Longevity in Humans”*

Maris Kuningas

1. The regulation of lifespan is complex and depends not only on multiple genetic-, epigenetic- and environmental factors, but also on the interaction between them. (*This thesis*)
2. Stress-responsiveness determines susceptibility for disease and is highly variable among humans. (*This thesis*)
3. Common genetic variants in the DNA repair genes do not influence ageing-trajectories and survival in the population at large. (*This thesis*)
4. It is still uncertain to what extent the candidate genetic mechanisms identified in model organisms explain variation in lifespan in human populations. (*This thesis*)
5. Genetically diverse populations provide the means to refine association signals detected in relatively homogeneous populations characterized by extensive linkage disequilibrium (*Nat Genet. 2007 Feb;39(2):218-25*)
6. The inability to replicate results stem frequently from between-study heterogeneity. (*Nat Genet. 2001 Nov;29(3):306-9*)
7. The genetic susceptibility to common diseases is largely due to alleles which have a relatively moderate impact but high frequency in the population.
8. The analytical power arising from reference DNA sequences has jump-started what some call the “biology century”. (*Human Genome Project web-page*)
9. It is difficult to find a more multidisciplinary field than research into ageing.
10. Anyone can get old; all you have to do is live long enough. (*Groucho Marx*)
11. Modesty is not a virtue in science.
12. The experience of living in a foreign country makes you better understand your native country.

Leiden, December 4, 2007