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Unravelling beta cell destruction in type 1 diabetes

1. Type 1 Diabetes is the consequence of a well-intended immune response to stressed and dysfunctional beta cells (this thesis).
2. Endoplasmic reticulum stress in beta cells has extensive implications on (neo)epitope generation, processing, and presentation (this thesis).
3. Non-conventional insulin gene-derived polypeptides contribute to beta cell autoimmunity in type 1 diabetes (this thesis).
4. The beta cell-specific endoplasmic reticulum stress reporter offers a platform for high throughput screening of potentially novel therapeutics to restore beta cell homeostasis (this thesis).
5. The circulation of autoreactive CD8⁺ T cells in type 1 diabetic patients as well as in healthy individuals indicates that a peripheral tolerance problem underlies type 1 diabetes.
6. Heterogeneity among patients in disease development and progression dictates a personalized therapeutic treatment.
7. Research to type 1 diabetes has been focused on the interaction between the immune system and the beta cells, thereby neglecting the potential involvement of other islet-resident endocrine cells.
8. Identification of (neo)epitopes is like finding a needle in a haystack.
9. Science is limited by the imagination of scientists and by the dogmas in the field.
10. Positive gender discrimination in the workplace has a negative impact on the perception of female employees.
11. Life is like a dirty flip cup: you will never know in advance what the outcome will be.

Maria J.L. Kracht
Leiden, 25 juni 2019