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PROPOSITIONS

accompanying the thesis

The IL-17 and Th17 cell immune response in cervical cancer

1. IL-6 is independently correlated with poor survival in cervical cancer and can be suppressed by a Th17 cell immune response (this thesis).
2. IL-17 is predominantly produced by granulocytes in cancer (this thesis).
3. IL-17 is predominantly associated with poor cancer patient survival, whereas Th17 cells are commonly associated with improved survival (this thesis).
4. The effects of IL-17 and Th17 cells are tumor type and context dependent (this thesis).
5. IL-17 positive cells are not synonymous with Th17 cells (Wilke *et al.* *Carcinogenesis*, 2011; 32: 643-9 and this thesis).
6. Th17 cells have a stem-cell like phenotype, with the ability to differentiate into other T helper cell subsets (Muranski *et al.* *Immunity*, 2011; 35: 972-85).
7. Tumors reroute the adaptive immune response into stimulating tumor progression (Langowski *et al.* *Trends in Immunology*, 2007; 28: 207-12).
8. The type of immune infiltrate is more important for cancer progression and prognosis than the histological tumor stage still used today (Galon *et al.* *Science*, 2006; 313: 1960-4).
9. The necessity of validating research in animal models is overestimated, particularly considering the potential of optimizing human and alternative models.
10. The increasing desire of insurance policy holders to design their own health insurance package is a sign of diminishing solidarity within society.
11. The warmth of ‘perhaps’ tastes more bitter than the coldness of ‘no’.
12. Nothing provides a better preparation for completing a PhD thesis than taking care of horses: it develops your patience, discipline and perseverance.

Simone Punt, 8 September 2015