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## Basic and clinical aspects of mucosal inflammation and healing in Crohn's disease

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## **Statements**

with the thesis

### **Basic and Clinical Aspects of Mucosal Inflammation and Healing in Crohn's Disease**

1. Basic fibroblast growth factor, in concert with tumor necrosis factor- $\alpha$ , plays a role in the inflammation and tissue repair process in Crohn's disease patients with a fistulizing disease phenotype. (This thesis)
2. Matrix metalloproteinase-2 participates in the stromal processes, whereas matrix metalloproteinase-9 is predominantly associated with the leucocyte-mediated inflammatory process in the intestinal mucosa of patients with inflammatory bowel disease. (This thesis)
3. The basis of the anti-inflammatory and immunodulatory efficacy of infliximab in Crohn's disease is not by directly affecting the TNF- $\alpha$  producing cells. (This thesis)
4. The serum matrix metalloproteinase-2 and matrix metalloproteinase-9 level in Crohn's disease patients display an inverse changing pattern, i.e. an increase of matrix metalloproteinase-2 and a decrease of matrix metalloproteinase-9, during the treatment with infliximab, although not strictly related to the clinical effect of infliximab. (This thesis)
5. The enhanced leucocyte matrix metalloproteinase-9 expression in Crohn's disease seems to be regulated by and responsive to tumor necrosis factor- $\alpha$  mediation. (This thesis)
6. There is ample evidence that implicate genetic susceptibility, immune abnormalities and the luminal microflora as contributors to the aetio-pathophysiology of inflammatory bowel disease.
7. Nowadays, infliximab is an important treatment option for patients with moderately to severely active and/or fistulizing Crohn's disease.
8. Matrix metalloproteinase activity is not only relevant to acute tissue injury but also related to matrix modelling, angiogenesis, and healing.
9. Increased tumor necrosis factor- $\alpha$  expression in the intestinal mucosa rather than in serum of Crohn's disease patients is of importance to the inflammatory process.
10. A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.
11. Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere.
12. To Chinese people, Holland stands for windmills, wooden shoes and tulips, as well as Heineken and Philips. However, most of them do not expect that there is a great similarity between these two countries: almost everyone owns and rides a bike.

**Qiang Gao**

Leiden, 1 February 2005