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The RNA-binding protein Quaking in vascular health and disease

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Propositions accompanying the thesis

The RNA-binding protein Quaking in vascular health and disease

R.G. de Bruin

1. The RNAissance is now. *This thesis*
2. Quaking is a potent modulator of RNA fate, in particular splicing, which is also supported by the extreme conservation of the RNA-binding motif in RNA transcripts amongst species. *This thesis & D. Ray, PhD (Nature. 2013;499(7457):172-177)*
3. Interfering with RNA-binding protein function is a challenging, but potentially very potent therapeutic strategy for ameliorating both rare and common human diseases. *This thesis*
4. Investigating the role of Quaking in cellular biology, alternative splicing and disease pathophysiology requires you to “embrace complexity.” *Quote by M. Ares Jr., professor of molecular, cell and developmental biology at the University of California Santa Cruz, USA*
5. The predictive power of bio-informatic analyses is immense and should not be under-appreciated, as evidenced by the prediction in 2008 that Quaking could well be a central governor of alternative splicing. *Wang et al. (Nature. 2008;456(7221):470-476)*
6. The risk of inducing permanent harmful off-target effects in DNA-modifying strategies to ameliorate disease in humans, as CRISPR-CAS9 based technologies could enable, might be the strongest argument to target gene expression post-transcriptionally.
7. If you're not often wrong, you're not at the frontier. Discovering you were wrong through proper experimentation is unfortunately under-appreciated in modern science. *First sentence: Lewis C. Cantley, professor of cancer biology at Cornell University, USA*
8. When I am working on a problem, I never think about beauty ... but when I have finished, if the solution is not beautiful, I know it is wrong. *R. Buckminster Fuller, architect (1895-1983)*
9. Competition has been shown to be useful up to a certain point and no further, but cooperation, which is the thing we must strive for today, begins where competition leaves off. *Franklin D Roosevelt (March 3, 1912)*
10. Never be the brightest person in a room. *James Watson commenting on how they discovered the structure of DNA, TED conference 2005, California, USA*
11. Assumption is, both in science and clinical medicine, the mother of all screwups