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Universiteit Leiden



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Title: Immunology and immunotherapy of high grade cervical lesions and cancer

Issue Date: 2015-05-19

Stellingen

1. Understanding the mechanisms underlying the generation of tumour immunity is vital if immunotherapeutic strategies are to join ranks in standard cancer therapy. (*This thesis*)
2. Overcoming tumour-induced immune failure is the key to successful immunotherapy. (*this thesis*)
3. Clinical development of the HPV16-SLP vaccine for treatment of pre-cancerous lesions requires the reduction of its side effects. (*This thesis*)
4. The detection of HPV16-specific T cells with a non-Th1/Th2 cytokine and even immunosuppressive signature in patients with HSIL may bear negative impact on immunotherapeutic vaccine approaches aiming at reinforcing HPV-specific immunity to attack HPV-induced lesions. (*This thesis*)
5. Next generation immunotherapy for the treatment of cervical cancer should consist of the induction of a strong Th1 T cell response by currently available vaccines, combined with immune modulators to skew the local myeloid cells toward a tumour-rejecting phenotype. (*This thesis*)
6. A realm of possibilities lies ahead, but all new immunotherapeutic strategies and combinations of therapies need extensive and accurate exploration as to dose optimization, interaction, timing of delivery and feasibility. (*This thesis*)
7. Clinical trials test theories about cancer learned in the basic science laboratory. They are imperative for continued progress. (*Susan Pories, Biographies of disease cancer, 2009*)
8. Cancer is a destructive disease often with tough therapies mutilating much more than just cancer cells. Emotionally draining, with hope and despair coming hand in hand. For patients and their families finding effective, humane treatments is imperative. (*Siddhartha Mukherjee, The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer, 2011*)

9. Know thy enemy. (*Sun Tzu, The Art of War, 6th century BC*)
10. Never regard study as a duty, but as the enviable opportunity to learn (....) for your own personal joy and to the profit of the community to which your later work belongs. (*in the spirit of Albert Einstein, 1879 - 1955*)
11. Een klinische blik leer je niet uit de studieboeken.
12. A lie may take care of the present, but it has no future. (*Author Unknown*)