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## Therapeutic and imaging potential of peptide agents in cardiovascular disease

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## Stellingen

### Therapeutic and Imaging Potential of Peptide Agents in Cardiovascular Disease

1. Given the endless possibilities in side group modification, the contribution of peptide phage display to drug discovery should not be confined to application of the derived peptides themselves (Smith,G.P. & Petrenko,V.A. Chem. Rev. 1997:97, 391-410).
2. CD40/CD40L receptor/ligand dyad is instrumental in many inflammatory responses, disqualifying it as novel target in the treatment of atherosclerosis (Schonbeck,U. & Libby,P. Circ. Res. 2001: 89, 1092-1103).
3. Application of phage display derived peptide ligands for scavenger receptor-AI as homing device for contrast agents will not only improve the sensitivity of atherosclerotic plaque imaging but also give insight into the actual composition and stability of the plaque (this thesis).
4. Unlike FK506 or Cyclosporin A, application of the VIVIT analogue MCV-1 will not be accompanied by non-NFAT mediated side effects on calcineurin signaling and thus constitutes a promising new lead in immunosuppressive therapy. (this thesis)
5. The therapeutic success of Cyclosporin A may very well be attributable to the inhibitory potency on calcineurin and a concomitant activation of extracellular signal-regulated kinase (ERK) activation (this thesis).
6. The design of bipartite inhibitors is an effective but often overlooked strategy to achieve superior interaction of ligands with their target (this thesis).
7. The '*Self-Portrait with Bandaged Ear*' of Van Gogh (1889) suggests a bandaged right ear. Interestingly, he in fact cut off his left ear. A creative mind obviously has more difficulty in appreciating stereochemistry than most enzymes (Vincent van Gogh biography).
8. 'A man is as old as his arteries' (Thomas Sydenham) makes one wonder how aging is regulated in woman.
9. While Confucius advised that one should not journey afar during the parents' lifetime, this deep insight did not hold for him nor should it for any ambitious scientist. (Confucius).
10. The miraculous disappearance of stolen bikes in both China and the Netherlands raises some doubts on the general validity of the law of mass action (Cycling Association of China).
11. The amazing length of the average Dutch may not only be a reflection of a favorable genetic make up but could also result from growth hormones secreted during their long sleeps and from their huge milk consumption (Hoppe C. et al, Annu. Rev. Nutr. 2006, 26, 131-73).
12. The complex grammar of both the Chinese and Dutch languages does not facilitate the integration of Chinese scientists into the Dutch Society.

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