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The immune compartment at the maternal-fetal interface throughout human pregnancy

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Stellingen

behorende bij het proefschrift

The immune compartment at the maternal-fetal interface
throughout human pregnancy

1. A better understanding of the complexity at the maternal-fetal interface throughout healthy pregnancy is essential for the comprehension of pregnancy complications and thereby the development of novel therapies. (this thesis)
2. Heterologous immunity may contribute to tolerance break-down in pregnancy. (this thesis)
3. Decidual CD8+ T cells have commitment issues; they have a stimulatory and inhibitory signature. (this thesis; Nature Immunology 19:797-799 (2018))
4. A tolerant immune microenvironment during pregnancy is not merely maintained by one Treg cell subtype. (this thesis)
5. Just as most diseases are not caused by a single defective gene, so are pregnancy complications not caused by a single defective cell subset.
6. Systems biology is necessary for forward-thinking in the field; The whole is better than the sums of its parts. (Aristotle, 384-322 BC)
7. T cells at the maternal-fetal interface are the fetus's friend not foe.
8. Nobody is born naïve: we are all microchimeras. (Chimerism 4:18–19 (2013))
9. A PhD is far from a sprint, it is a marathon that requires endurance, patience, and reflection; and akin to a marathon, the fortitude to continue on moving.
10. If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together. (African proverb)
Collaboration in research is essential for success
11. In science any fool can know, the point is to understand. (Adapted from Albert Einstein, 1879-1955)
12. Do not judge me by my successes, judge me by how many times I fell down and got back up again. (Nelson Mandela, 1918-2013)
Science is a process of trial and error

Anita van der Zwan
Leiden, 6 februari 2020