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Helminth infections, allergic disorders and immune responses: studies in Indonesia

Wahyuni, Sitti

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Stellingen behorende bij het proefschrift:

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1. In areas with a low intensity of lymphatic filariasis transmission or in areas where control programs are implemented, the RAST method would have to be the method of choice for measuring parasite specific IgE (this thesis).
2. Antibody response to filarial antigens in children below 4 years of age is influenced more by intrauterine exposure than by household/ environmental factors (this thesis).
3. When performing genetic studies to identify genes that control filarial infection preference should be given to studying children and not adults (this thesis).
4. In areas endemic for lymphatic filariasis, genetic factors contribute to both total and allergen-specific IgE but not to SPT (this thesis).
5. Not only the levels but also the dynamics of pro-versus anti-inflammatory cytokine production need to be studied when associations between cytokines and diseases states are investigated (this thesis).
6. The ISAAC study which showed that Indonesia has the lowest prevalence of allergic disorders in the world is not valid (The International Study of Asthma and Allergies in Childhood (ISAAC) Steering Committee. *Lancet* 1998. 351: 1225-1232).
7. It is premature to conclude that geohelminths do not protect against atopy or allergic disorders after only a 12 months anti-helminth treatment and follow up (Cooper,P.J., Chico,M.E., Vaca,M.G., Moncayo,A.L., Bland,J.M., Mafla,E., Sanchez,F, Rodrigues,L.C., Strachan,D.P., and Griffin,G.E. *Lancet* 2006. 367: 1598-1603).

8. IgG/IgG4 measurements in the study of Krause *et al.* will help us to understand whether our immune system or our tissue physiology has changed in parallel with allergic march (Krause,T., Koch,A., Friborg,J., Poulsen,L.K., Kristensen,B., and Melbye,M. *Lancet* 2002. 360:691-692).
9. If Palmer and co-workers had used the presence of helminth infections detected by parasitological examination, they might not have concluded that *Ascaris lumbricoides* infection is associated with increased risk of childhood asthma and atopy in rural China (Palmer,D.R., Hall,A., Haque,R., and Anwar,K.S. *Parasitology* 1995. 111: 385-393).
10. "The power of a man is in his blood" is the local belief in rural areas in Indonesia. Therefore, compared to women and children, more effort is needed when asking man to participate in the study that involves blood collection.
11. If it is taken into account that the majority of the inhabitants of Indonesia perceive anyone giving drugs in Puskesmas to be a doctor, than the ratio of doctors to inhabitants is much higher in Indonesia than in western countries.
12. It took me ten periods of absence from my family to change 'dr' into 'Dr'.