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Exploring the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* antigenome: New insights for the development of vaccines, diagnostics and drugs

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Citation

Coppola, M. (2022, November 3). *Exploring the Mycobacterium tuberculosis antigenome: New insights for the development of vaccines, diagnostics and drugs*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/3485193>

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Note: To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).

Stellingen behorende bij het proefschrift getiteld: "Exploring the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* antigenome. New insights for the development of vaccines, diagnostics and drugs."

1. Robust data on the *Mtb* *in vivo* expressome can help de-risking TB vaccine and drug development. (This thesis)
2. IFN- γ based screening approaches may have significantly underestimated as well biased *Mtb* antigen discovery studies. (This thesis)
3. Only when it will be clear why certain people are susceptible to TB, it will be possible to develop tools to protect them. (This thesis)
4. Pre-clinical research for preventive measures against several mycobacterial diseases should be integrated at an early stage of antigen discovery and considered in future clinical trials. (This thesis)
5. Lymph nodes certainly play an essential role in shaping the adaptive response against *Mtb*. Studying the lymphoid microenvironment and how organizer cells, such as stromal cells, affect *Mtb* immunity, could reveal unknown mechanisms involved in TB pathogenesis.
6. When evaluating the efficacy of BCG, the viable bacterial count per dose must be taken into account.
7. Redundancy of mycobacterial epitopes with proteins from the host and the human microbiome should be carefully evaluated to exclude potential antigen camouflage.
8. Definitions are not static entities, e.g. LTBI.
9. Vaccinologists shall embrace complexity instead of avoiding it.
10. Society should stop characterizing females as 'the second sex' (term coined by Beauvoir). Science should start studying them.
11. "...a sort of intoxicated joy and amazement at the beauty and grandeur of this world, of which man can form just a faint notion. This joy is the feeling from which true scientific research draws its spiritual sustenance" (Einstein). I believe this feeling moves science and scientists.