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## **Elucidation of the migratory behaviour of the corneal endothelium**

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## Stellingen

Behorend bij het proefschrift getiteld

Elucidation of the migratory behaviour of corneal endothelium

1. The one-day endothelial cell density (ECD) count can be used as a baseline to evaluate the *in vivo* change in ECD after DMEK. – this thesis
2. *In vitro* studies indicate that the endothelial cell counts provided by eye banks overestimate the actual number of viable endothelial cells on a graft. – this thesis
3. *In vitro* peripheral endothelial cell migration from Quarter-DMEK grafts is not triggered by increasing cell exposure to free space. – this thesis
4. Outer graft rims cultured *in vitro* in a 3D temperature-reversible hydrogel matrix are the source of migration of two morphologically distinct cell populations. – this thesis
5. “Small diameter” 4mm circular DMEK grafts represent an option for central Fuchs endothelial cell dystrophy (FECD) and a potential alternative, or rescue strategy, for Descemet stripping only (DSO). – this thesis
6. Progenitor cells found to reside in specific niches in the corneal far periphery constitute a target for regenerative therapies.
7. Based on recent research, alternative strategies for the treatment of corneal endothelial diseases depend less on the availability of donor tissues.
8. The human eye has millions of functional cells and is considered the second most complex organ in the body after the brain.
9. Neutralizing free radicals, by making sure there are adequate antioxidants in the body, will support healthy vision.
10. Strength and creativity reside in the eyes: "the ear tends to be lazy, craves the familiar and is shocked by the unexpected; the eye, on the other hand, tends to be impatient, craves the novel and is bored by repetition". - W. H. Auden (1907-1973)
11. The Hippocratic Oath creates an imperishable and everlasting bond between art, science, and medicine. "I will remember that there is art to medicine as well as science".