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Improving response and reducing toxicity to immune checkpoint blockade therapy in melanoma

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Stellingen behorende bij het proefschrift:

'Improving response and reducing toxicity to immune checkpoint blockade therapy in melanoma'

1. The results of the first neoadjuvant immune checkpoint blockade studies show higher (durable) response rates, and applying neoadjuvant treatment as standard of care will increase the benefit of immune checkpoint blockade treatment to a larger group of patients. *This thesis.*
2. With a swathe of clinical, quality-of-life, and economic benefits, neoadjuvant immunotherapy has the potential to redefine the contemporary management of resectable tumors. *G. V. Long et al., Journal of Clinical Oncology (2023)*
3. It is important to realize that the formation of neoantigens is a probabilistic process ("neoantigen lottery") in which each additional mutation increases the odds that a relevant neoantigen is created. *T. N. Schumacher & R. D. Schreiber, Science (2015)*
4. There should be a rationale behind novel combination treatment strategies, which need to be driven by pre-clinical analysis with laboratory interrogation. *This thesis.*
5. The immune system has endless possibilities for treating disease. *J. P. Allison*
6. Therapies that increase antigen cross-presentation might provide new ways to restore anti-tumor immunity and overcome resistance to immune checkpoint blockade. *This thesis.*
7. Although DCs are not known to have direct antitumor activity, they nonetheless shepherd tumor control through a mutualistic relationship with T cells. In other words, DCs are the "best supporting actors" of antitumor immunity. *M. J. Pittet et al., Immunity (2023)*
8. A multi-national collaborative effort is needed for gathering enough patient samples to identify susceptible loci with confidence, especially for rarer immune related adverse event subtypes. *This thesis.*
9. 'Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving.' This is especially relevant for the challenges faced in a PhD trajectory, emphasizing the importance of constant progress and adaptability. *Albert Einstein (1930)*
10. Remember, 'No one's more important than people.' In other words, friendships and family are the most important thing – not career or housework, or one's fatigue – and it needs to be tended and nurtured. *Adapted from Julia Child*
11. Wetenschap staat of valt bij maatschappelijk vertrouwen.