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## The aging B cell landscape in atherosclerosis

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# **Stellingen**

## **Behorende bij het proefschrift**

### **The aging B cell landscape in atherosclerosis**

1. As most cardiovascular disease patients are of advanced age, it is essential to account for age-associated immune alterations when investigating potential therapies for atherosclerosis. (This thesis)
2. The aged *Ldlr*<sup>-/-</sup> mouse model captures both the chronic progression and age-related immune features of human atherosclerosis, unlike models based on rapid disease induction in young mice. (This thesis)
3. The heterogeneity of surface markers described for age-associated B cells in literature complicates their study, but the surface markers identified in this thesis provide a robust and consistent framework applicable across models. (This thesis)
4. Age-associated B cells actively promote atherosclerosis in mice and serve as predictors of first-time coronary events in humans. (This thesis)
5. In essence, all models are wrong, but they still provide valuable insights when their limitations are understood. (Adapted from George P. Box. J. of Am. Stat. Ass. (1976))
6. To fully understand B cell involvement in atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease, the antigens driving their activation must be identified. (Adapted from Porsch et al. Cardiovasc Res. 117(13):2544-2562 (2021))
7. Advancing immunotherapy for cardiovascular disease requires coordinated efforts among researchers, clinicians, industry, and healthcare systems. (Adapted from Jyotsna et al. Cureus. 15(8):e42790 (2023))
8. Crying stimulates the production of oxytocin and endorphins and even boosts the immune system by lowering stress levels. (Adapted from Sharman et al. Emotion. 20(7):1279-1291. (2020))
9. True research creativity requires thinking beyond established frameworks and daring to move past conventional solutions — after all, if Henry Ford had asked people what they wanted, they would have said faster horses.
10. The message of a woman in a leopard-print suit is clear: I'm a huntress and I'm going to get what I want. (Adapted from Simon Doonan)
11. Een PhD-traject is als een pubquiz: soms gok je op een antwoord, en soms ben je verbaasd dat je het écht wist.
12. Een 'Hollandse meezinger' doet wonderen voor je humeur. (Adapted from Guus Meeuwis)

Jill de Mol  
Leiden, 11 December 2025