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Towards implementation of the tumour-stroma ratio in colorectal cancer

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Stellingen

behorend bij het proefschrift

“Towards implementation of the tumour-stroma ratio in colorectal cancer”

1. The tumour-stroma ratio (TSR) should be implemented as prognostic parameter scored during routine pathology diagnostics in colorectal cancer. (this thesis)
2. The TSR scored on biopsies can support an upfront patient selection for a watch-and-wait strategy in rectal cancer. (this thesis)
3. Fibroblast-activation protein (FAP) as a marker could aid the diagnostic process in colorectal cancer, but care should be taken to directly translate expression to disease extension and activity. (this thesis)
4. Artificial intelligence can further improve a personalised medicine approach. (this thesis)
5. The TSR can aid an upcoming paradigm shift in medical oncology, increasingly focussing on de-escalation and quality of life.
6. Implementation of biomarkers in (inter)national guidelines pertains to more than the presentation of evidence, and requires collaborations, coincidence and consequences.
7. More research into tumour stroma is crucial to further our understanding of tumour behaviour, as well as ascertaining theragnostic targets within the tumour stroma.
8. Negative and inconclusive results are just as important as positive results – researchers have a duty to report them all. (On the publication bias; adaptation from the Helsinki Declaration, 1964)
9. More knowledge on self as well as the tumour stroma, will make one question their knowledge. (*“scio me nescire”* - *Apologia* by Plato, on philosopher Socrates, 400BC)
10. Curiosity and questioning the standards was and still is the case for research into the tumour stroma. (“Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning” - Albert Einstein, 1879-1955)
11. Showing resilience, perseverance and not be defeated by an obstacle, accounts for life as well as in research. (Elbows up! - Canadian ice hockey and military defence term, initially by ice hockey player Gordie Howe, 1946)
12. (14) *Tegenslagen en ongelukken in het leven, kunnen ook leiden tot mooie momenten en doorbraken.* (“*Elk nadeel heb z'n voordeel*” - Johan Cruijff, 1947-2016)