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## Shedding a light on vascular remodeling

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Stellingen behorende bij het proefschrift getiteld  
**Shedding a light on vascular remodeling**

1. Optoacoustic-ultrasound imaging enables longitudinal visualization of blood vessels on a structural and compositional level, shedding a new light on atherogenic processes in vivo (*this thesis*)
2. Despite the pervasive and intertwined nature of TGF- $\beta$  signaling where even selective interference can yield unexpected double-edged effects, targeted imaging of specific TGF- $\beta$  superfamily members provides a powerful means to quantify intraplaque angiogenesis (*this thesis*)
3. PCSK9-inhibition should be considered for the treatment of vein graft disease, as it stabilizes intraplaque neovascularization and limits leukocyte influx in addition to its lipid-lowering effects (*this thesis*)
4. Large-scale plasma proteomics is a potent tool for hypothesis generation and forms a natural bridge between basic, translational, and clinical research (*this thesis*)
5. Preservation of the structural and functional integrity of the conduit during graft harvesting and storage, prevention and treatment of vasospasm, and attenuation of atherogenesis should all be addressed to ensure graft patency and the clinical benefits of surgical revascularization (*modified from Sandner et al., 2024, European Heart Journal*)
6. Even strict adherence to healthy lifestyle behaviors only partially offsets the cardiovascular risks driven by obesity-induced systemic inflammation
7. Examination of Egyptian mummies provides overwhelming evidence that atherosclerosis is a disease of ancient times and that the epidemic of atherosclerosis which began in the 20th century is nothing more than history revisiting us (*modified from David et al., 2010, The Lancet*)
8. Combining measures of luminal narrowing and vascular remodeling with quantitative metrics of plaque composition and vulnerability will bring imaging strategies for the clinical assessment of atherosclerosis to the next level
9. Without cathedral thinking, whether on a personal or societal level, progress becomes shortsighted
10. Large language models democratize the communication of ideas but do not automatically create better human writers
11. Your vision will become clear only when you can look into your own heart (*Carl Jung, 1916*) — Awareness of one's own personality and those of others is fundamental to transforming individuals into a purpose driven team
12. Wat er ook gebeurt, altijd blijven lachen (*Adriaan en Bastiaan van Toor, 1978; "Wat er ook gebeurt"*) — In and beyond science, many problems are solved by trying once more, and doing so after failure is best paired with a smile