



Universiteit  
Leiden

The Netherlands

## **Maternal-fetal HLA compatibility and trophoblast-immune interactions in healthy and preeclamptic pregnancy: elegance in complexity**

Hof, L.J. van 't

### **Citation**

Hof, L. J. van 't. (2026, May 22). *Maternal-fetal HLA compatibility and trophoblast-immune interactions in healthy and preeclamptic pregnancy: elegance in complexity*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/4303848>

Version: Publisher's Version

License: [Licence agreement concerning inclusion of doctoral thesis in the Institutional Repository of the University of Leiden](#)

Downloaded from: <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/4303848>

**Note:** To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).

# Stellingen

behorende bij het proefschrift getiteld

## Maternal-fetal HLA compatibility and trophoblast-immune interactions in healthy and preeclamptic pregnancy

*Elegance in complexity*

1. HLA dissimilarity is as important as HLA compatibility for pregnancy success. (*this thesis*)
2. Maternal-fetal HLA-C compatibility influences pregnancy outcome: higher HLA-C matching is associated with preeclampsia, supporting the pivotal role of KIR/HLA-C interactions in placental development. (*Modified from Hiby et al., JEM 2004 and this thesis*)
3. Maternal-fetal mismatches in HLA class II loci contribute to hypertensive complications during pregnancy, likely via indirect CD4<sup>+</sup> T-cell activation rather than direct trophoblast recognition. (*this thesis*)
4. In oocyte donation pregnancies, the increased maternal-fetal HLA dissimilarity is associated with enhanced placental co-inhibitory molecule expression, reflecting compensatory immune regulation. (*Modified from van Bentem, et al. Human Immunology 2022 and this thesis*)
5. Immunological success of pregnancy depends not only on the maternal-fetal genetic (HLA) compatibility, but also on the modulation of the maternal immune response to it. (*this thesis*)
6. The future of preeclampsia care lies in its subclassification; pathophysiological subtyping of preeclampsia will facilitate the identification of specific, targetable pathways, which opens the way to new therapies. (*Modified from Roberts, et al. Hypertension 2021*)
7. The apparent divide between vascular and immune perspectives in preeclampsia research reflects insufficient attention to spatial and temporal dynamics at the maternal-fetal interface. (*this thesis*)
8. Accurate modeling of the maternal-fetal interface requires physiologically relevant systems that replicate cellular complexity, bloodflow, and immune interactions beyond conventional in vitro co-cultures. (*Modified from Park, et al. eBioMedicine 2023*)
9. Advancement of reproductive immunology requires transparent reporting, replication of findings, and counteraction of both publication and confirmation bias. (*this thesis*)
10. A good researcher is their own greatest critic.
11. A PhD is not merely a testament to talent, but above all to perseverance.
12. The deep sea of research holds mysteries as profound as the ocean; only those who dare to dive discover its wonders. (*Adapted from Jacques-Yves Cousteau*)