Propositions (stellingen) of the thesis
“Towards a blood stage malaria vaccine; dealing with allelic polymorphism in the vaccine candidate apical membrane antigen 1”

1. Despite the many allelic variants found in nature, PfAMA1 antigens do have common epitopes, which enable the induction of broad protective responses (this thesis).

2. Multi-allele vaccines incorporating three PfAMA1 alleles elicit the broadest possible proportion of cross-strain anti-AMA1 antibodies (this thesis).

3. Individuals exposed naturally to variant malaria parasites are likely to accumulate a strain-transcending repertoire of protective antibodies against polymorphic vaccine targets with time (this thesis).

4. The polymorphic nature of PfAMA1 does not necessarily mean it will fail as a vaccine candidate (this thesis).

5. An effective subunit malaria vaccine would ultimately be one with a mixture of individually proven immunogens from multiple stages of the parasite’s life cycle.

6. The most advanced malaria vaccine to date (RTS,S) has been shown to have 50% efficacy over the first 8 months of study follow-up and protection that persists for up to 15 months after vaccination of 5 – 17 month old children in two malaria-endemic areas (Bejon et al., *N Engl J Med* (2008). 359: 2521–2532; Olotu et al., *Lancet Infect Dis* (2011). 11: 102–109). Though modest, this is an encouraging prospect for malaria vaccine development.

7. The pace of current vaccine development efforts would be greatly enhanced by the availability of non-proprietary, highly potent adjuvants.

8. The global fight against some infectious diseases can be won with a little science and much more commitment.

9. Africa’s stagnated development is mainly due to a lack of adequate investment in science and technology.

10. All of mankind inherently look up to a higher being; for some it is God, for others it is themselves.

11. The quest for knowledge has but one purpose; to enable us make an informed choice.

12. Wisdom is like a baobab tree; no one individual can embrace it. ~ A Ghanaian proverb