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**Title:** Mechanistic studies on human minor histocompatibility antigens in graft-versus-host disease  
**Issue Date:** 2013-01-30
Stellingen behorende bij het proefschrift: ‘Mechanistic studies on human minor Histocompatibility antigens in graft-versus-host disease’
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1. Tetrameric and dextrameric MHC/peptide complexes allow direct visualization and quantification of antigen-specific cytotoxic T cells. *(this thesis)*

2. The association of hematopoietic-restricted minor H antigen HA-1 with the development of clinical GVHD after HLA-matched minor H antigen HA-1 mismatched SCT may be explained by the presence of recipient’s APCs in the GVHD target organs or by crosspresentation of hematopoietic cell-derived HA-1 by non-hematopoietic cells. *(this thesis)*

3. It can be expected that the presence of cytotoxic T cells specific for ubiquitously expressed minor H antigens in female stem cell products may identify SCT patient-donor pairs at risk for aGVHD *(this thesis)*

4. The therapeutic GVL response due to mismatching for hematopoietic-restricted minor H antigens is most effective in recipients that develop GVHD. *(Muts T. et al. Leukemia. 2010, 24:1388-1392 and this thesis)*


6. Obstacles to the improvement of HCT include the tight linkage between GVHD toxicity and the beneficial GVL effect, as well as the impairment of immune reconstitution by immunomodulatory drugs leading to life-threatening infections. *(Paczesny, S. et al., Current Opinion in Hematology 2009, 16:427–436)*


9. Perturbation of the cytokine network may function as a final common pathway of target organ damage, and the rapid onset of severe, acute GVHD can be considered a ‘cytokine storm’. *(Ferrara, J. Current Opinion in Immunology 1993, 5:794-799)*

10. It is the tension between creativity and skepticism that has produced the stunning and unexpected findings of science. *(Carl Sagan)*

11. No one is free who does not lord over himself. *(Claudius Galenus)*