Stellingen

behorende bij het proefschrift

“Schistosoma mansoni and Schistosoma haematobium infection and morbidity in a co-endemic focus: Integrated study of epidemiological, micro-geographical and immunological patterns”

1. *Schistosoma mansoni* infection has a protective effect on *S. haematobium*-induced urinary morbidity [this thesis].

2. Micro-geographical patterns of *S. mansoni* infection and *S. mansoni*-specific hepatic fibrosis strongly suggest that cumulative cercarial exposure may be the main driver of this form of morbidity on the community level [this thesis].

3. Strong micro-geographical clustering of *S. mansoni* and *S. haematobium* infection and disease suggests that less uniform strategies should be developed to better tailor control efforts at the local level [this thesis].

4. Both epidemiological and immunological studies strongly indicate that *S. haematobium* is more immunogenic than *S. mansoni* [this thesis].

5. Helminths are not only neglected tropical infections; they are also neglected members of the human microbiome.

6. Reduction or elimination of active *Schistosoma* infection might exacerbate pathology that is induced by eggs (and remnants thereof) that are still trapped in host tissues.

7. Heterogeneity in the spatial distribution of *Schistosoma* infection and morbidity should always be taken into account in schistosomiasis research.

8. In adverse conditions, health and disease are products of many interacting factors of host, environment, pathogens and vectors. Under these circumstances it is difficult to see how one can single out a specific health condition for study without examining whether and to what degree its frequency, distribution and severity are influenced
by other factors and diseases in the community [Buck et al. Tropenmed Parasitol. 1978 Sep;29(3):253-69].

9. A fortnight’s water shortage in Dakar due to a broken pipe line between Lac de Guiers and Dakar is world news, but people living on the other end of the line - in the area studied in this thesis - still do not have safe water.

10. Disciplines are disciplines because they fail to have conversations with other disciplines [Esther Sonnet at the conference “Revealing lives: women in science 1830-200”, 2014 May 22, The Royal Society, London].

11. Multidisciplinary research leads to a goldmine of data too big to excavate during the period of a PhD fellowship.

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