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Propositions

1. ARA290 modulates some aspects of emotional processing, however, the direction and the strength of its effects do not unequivocally support an antidepressant-like profile for ARA290. *(dit proefschrift)*

2. Single administration of ARA290 does not affect brain functional connectivity in healthy volunteers. *(dit proefschrift)*

3. As an anti-inflammatory compound, ARA290 may have potential as an antidepressant compound within a subgroup of depressed patients in whom inflammation of the central nervous system is present. *(dit proefschrift)*

4. Tryptophan supplementation attenuates the cortisol response to acute social stress depending on 5-HTTLPR genotype. *(dit proefschrift)*

5. Tryptophan supplementation and 5-HTTLPR genotype do not affect social decision making as measured by the response to unfairness in the ultimatum game. *(dit proefschrift)*

6. “While current treatments are more selective than first generation antidepressants, and suffer from fewer associated side-effects, their efficacy is no better than original drug treatments discovered in the 1950s.” *(Harmer et al., 2011)*

7. “With this degree of heterogeneity among participants in depression-trials, it is not a major surprise that researchers are struggling to tease out clinically relevant effects of treatments and significant interactions between genetic and environmental risk factors.” *(Østergaard et al., 2011)*

8. “Focusing CNS research on treatments that target disease pathophysiology will improve the chances of developing therapies that go beyond current symptomatic therapies.” *(Pangalos et al., 2007)*

9. “A biologically informed classification of major depression will be an important approach toward a better understanding of individual differences in disease pathophysiology and treatment requirements.” *(Anacker, 2014)*

10. That which does not kill me, may leave me both stronger and more vulnerable. (Adapted from F. Nietzsche, "Was mich nicht umbringt, macht mich stärker.").

11. Every PhD trajectory has its pleasures and its price. (Adapted from Socrates, "Every action has its pleasures and its price.").

12. Cultureel hermafroditisme en blootstelling aan een omgeving waar bilaterale onwetendheid heerst, vormen samen een vruchtbare bodem voor het ontwikkelen van een kwetsbaarheid voor depressie.

13. For everything in the world – for civilization, for life, for success – the truest guide is knowledge and science. To seek a guide other than knowledge and science is [a mark of] heedlessness, ignorance and aberration. (Mustafa Kemal Atatürk)