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**Title:** Clinical allergy: basophils, T cells, and therapeutic design
**Issue Date:** 2016-06-16
Stellingen behorende bij het proefschrift

“CLINICAL ALLERGY: BASOPHILS, T CELLS, AND THERAPEUTIC DESIGN.”

1. The treatment of atopic dermatitis or eczema should consist of a bland moisturizer devoid of any potential allergens, in particular food allergens, as this can lead to sensitization to the product. (this thesis)

2. Although human basophils are capable of expressing MHC Class II molecules, this does not equate to induction of T cell proliferation through antigen presentation. The reason for this is not clear but may be, in part, due to a lack of co-stimulatory molecule expression. (this thesis)

3. Basophil sensitivity and the frequency of exacerbations experienced by patients suffering from Allergic Bronchopulmonary Aspergillosis can be significantly reduced with omalizumab treatment, despite serum IgE levels well in excess of the dosing guidelines. This not only shows potential for off-label use of omalizumab but also warrants a re-evaluation of the dosing guidelines. (this thesis)

4. Short peptides containing dominant epitopes of the major peanut allergens Ara h 1 and 2 do not cause basophil activation and are therefore suitable candidates for a safe immunotherapeutic to treat peanut allergy. (this thesis)

5. The basophil activation test is broadly applicable as it can aid in the evaluation of therapy safety or efficacy as well as in allergy diagnosis, thereby potentially reducing the need for oral food challenges. (this thesis; Santos et al., J Allergy Clin Immunol 2014)

6. Due to the considerable functional differences between human and murine basophils, caution should be applied when translating the findings from murine models to the human situation. (Van Beek et al., Int Arch Allergy Immunol, 2013)

7. Appropriate selection of T cell epitopes and corresponding peptides for therapeutic vaccines is crucial for success. (Larche et al. Nat Med, 2005)

8. We face a new challenge in understanding T helper cell function, as simply adding more “Th” cells to our lexicon does not provide a satisfactory understanding of immune homeostasis and immune-mediated pathology. (Hiraha et al., J Allergy Clin Immunol, 2013)

9. We should make things as simple as possible, but not simpler. (Albert Einstein, cited by Jeff Camhi, A Damn in the River, 2013)

10. One of the most valuable assets to have as a medical researcher is a good relationship with the clinical staff.

11. Nobody ever figures out what life is all about, and it doesn’t matter. Explore the world. Nearly every thing is really interesting if you go into it deeply enough. (Richard P. Feynman, Perfectly Reasonable Deviations from the Beaten Track, 2005)

12. You will never be completely at home again, because part of your heart will always be elsewhere. That is the price you pay for the richness of loving and knowing people in more than one place. (Miriam Adeney, Kingdom Without Borders, 2003)

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16 June 2016