Contents

1. General introduction 9

2. A high response is not required to prevent selection bias 21
   *J Clin Epid in press*

3. Cognitive function in the “oldest old” 37
   *J Neurol Neurosurgery Psychiatry 2001*

4. Atherosclerosis and cognitive impairment are linked in the elderly 49
   *Atherosclerosis in press*

5. Association between high-density lipoprotein and cognitive impairment 65
   *Ann Neurol 2002*

6. Interaction between atherosclerosis and inflammation and cognitive function 79
   *Submitted*

7. Interleukin-10 is associated with the metabolic syndrome and type-2 diabetes 99
   *Diabetes 2002*

8. Inflammation and stroke 113
   *Stroke 2002*

9. Summary and general discussion 125

10. Samenvatting 137

    Nawoord 145

    Curriculum vitae 147