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Evaluating Strategies for the Primary Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease

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STELLINGEN BEHORENDE BIJ DIT PROEFSCHRIFT:

- (1) Disentangling cardiovascular disease into coronary heart disease and stroke separately provides additional and clinically relevant information on the contribution of coronary heart disease and stroke to the individual's total risk of cardiovascular disease (*this thesis*)
- (2) Three structurally different but commonly used methods of modeling statin treatment efficacy in published and (claimed) validated decision models lead to opposing optimal decisions for the same decision problem (*this thesis*)
- (3) Extrapolating short term cardiovascular risk predictions can be used to adequately model longer term predictions of cardiovascular risk when the evolution of the risk factors driving the risk predictions are jointly modeled (*this thesis*)
- (4) The expected benefit from initiating statin therapy is inadequately represented in the current guidelines on prevention of cardiovascular disease (*this thesis*)
- (5) The perceived individual disutility of taking daily medication plays a key role in whether or not to screen an individual for cardiovascular disease (*this thesis*)
- (6) For individuals at intermediate risk of cardiovascular disease, screening men with computed tomography coronary calcium is likely to be cost-effective compared to three other proposed novel risk markers for screening, current practice, current guidelines, and aggressive medical therapy as possible alternatives (*this thesis*)
- (7) Suppose there are 6 people at a party – then there are always at least three of them so that every two know each other, or no two know each other - *Paul Erdos**
- (8) The key to getting work done on time is to stop wearing a watch - *Ricardo Semler***
- (9) If you cannot explain it simply, you don't understand it well enough - *Albert Einstein*
- (10) Learning to choose is hard. Learning to choose well is harder. And learning to choose well in a world of unlimited possibilities is harder still, perhaps too hard - *Barry Schwartz*
- (11) There must be no barriers to freedom of inquiry. There is no place for dogma in science. The scientist is free, and must be free to ask any question, to doubt any assertion, to seek for any evidence, to correct any errors - *J. Robert Oppenheimer*

*Most famous illustration of Ramsey's Theorem
(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ramsey%27s_theorem)

**See Ricardo Semler's 'The seven day weekend' 2004 ISBN 9780099425236