

## Propositions

Belonging to the thesis:

### **Novel molecular insights into the combination treatment of acromegaly**

1. The combination treatment with long-acting somatostatin analogues and pegvisomant appears to be highly effective in treating acromegaly patients, provided that the appropriate PEGV dose is used. (this thesis)
2. The combination of long-acting somatostatin analogues and pegvisomant is generally well tolerated, and side effects as lipohypertrophy and elevated liver transaminases are usually mild and transient. (this thesis)
3. The somatostatin receptor subtype 2 expression on growth hormone secreting pituitary adenomas is lower in patients pre-treated with long-acting somatostatin analogues in combination with pegvisomant compared to drug-naïve acromegaly patients. (this thesis)
4. The growth hormone receptor polymorphism lacking exon 3 has no effect on biochemical disease control in acromegaly, as it is not of added value for either the prediction of pegvisomant responsiveness or the determination of the required pegvisomant dose. (this thesis)
5. Factors that are associated with the required pegvisomant dose in order to normalize insulin-like growth factor I levels in addition to long-acting somatostatin analogue are insulin-like growth factor I levels before the addition of pegvisomant, weight, height and age. (this thesis)
6. Increased intrahepatic lipid may be causally linked to the transient elevations in liver enzymes observed during pegvisomant treatment. (Madsen et al. JCEM 2012)
7. Standardization of the growth hormone measurements will be more reliable when using commutable reference materials. (Boulo et al. Clin Chem 2013)
8. In the light of the recent availability of different medical treatment modalities for patients with acromegaly, such as growth hormone receptor antagonists and somatostatin receptor ligands, a trustable standardized evaluation of somatostatin receptor subtype 2 expression could be crucial to lead to the best individualized medical approach, avoiding a delay in the establishment of an effective medical treatment. (Gatto et al. JCEM 2013)
9. The important thing is not to stop questioning. (Albert Einstein)
10. The matter with human beans is that they is absolutely refusing to believe in anything unless they is actually seeing it right in front of their own schnozzles. (Roald Dahl, The big friendly giant)
11. Een boek schrijven is zitten blijven tot dat het staat. (Kees van Kooten, Kijk in de ziel schrijvers)