

## Propositions accompanying the thesis

### **Magnesium**

#### Epidemiological Aspects of a Forgotten Electrolyte

1. Serum magnesium should be measured routinely in patients using proton pump inhibitors or diuretics (this thesis).
2. The cut-offs for normal serum magnesium levels should be revised, as levels considered normal are associated with an increased risk of disease (this thesis).
3. Normal levels of magnesium should be maintained in persons at increased risk of diabetes mellitus (this thesis).
4. Advanced epidemiological techniques will help determining whether serum magnesium is an innocent bystander or an active player in modulating disease risk, since randomized clinical trials are scarce (this thesis).
5. All laboratory measurements within a study should be subjected to quality control processes to minimize erroneous results and incorrect interpretation of risk estimates (this thesis).
6. The focus of a PhD should not be on the number of papers published, but on the individual growth of the candidate as an independent researcher.
7. Behind every great researcher there is a team of research assistants which get too little recognition for their extensive work.
8. The clinical impact of magnesium deficiency may be largely underestimated (de Baaij *et al.*, *Physiol Rev*, 2015).
9. Even if you put rubbish into an analysis you will still reach conclusions that are statistically meaningful, but are unlikely to be empirically meaningful (Andy Field, *Discovering Statistics using SPSS*, third edition).
10. One of the beautiful things about science is that it allows us to bumble along, getting it wrong time after time, and feel perfectly fine as long as we learn something each time (Martin A. Schwartz, *Journal of Cell Science* 2008).
11. Donker betekent alleen maar dat er geen licht op schijnt. Vind de lichtschakelaar en er is altijd licht aan het einde van de tunnel (Stephanie Lampe, 2018).