ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
Acknowledgements

So, this is the fruit of the scientific Dutch adventure! New environment, new challenges – that all had influenced me greatly. But it was, is and always will be the people who have the biggest impact on life and work. While writing this down I have discovered how many people I have met here, how much we experienced together… With you this was truly adventurous and exciting journey! Thanks to you all!

First of all I would like to thank my promoter Prof. Dick Hoekstra and co-promoter Dr. Sven van IJzendoorn for offering me the possibility to conduct this PhD project. My sincere thank to MD Edmond Rings for letting me in to the medical world and for helping with all the matters concerning the patients. Also thank you for the possibility to be in the surgery room during the transplantation – that was truly unforgettable experience! Furthermore I would like to thank the members of my reading committee, Prof. dr. K.N. Faber, Prof. dr. R.M.W. Hofstra and Prof. dr. H.J. Verkade for taking time to review this manuscript and your comments that made it even better.

The MVID project was greatly interdisciplinary one. There were 5 departments closely involved: section Membrane Cell Biology of the Department of Cell Biology, Department of Pediatrics, Department of Genetics, Department of Biophysical Chemistry, Pathology division of the Department of Pathology and Medical Biology. I would like to thank all of you who helped me so much with conducting this research, both by sharing your time and experience, technical skills or specific compounds. Thanks to Agata Szperl and Martin Wapenaar for the genetics studies – thanks to your input and devotion we have found the mutated gene, and moved the whole project big step forward! Thanks to Juul Baller (also for being the fan of my dancing performances!), Arend Karrenbeld, Marcory van Dijk, Arjan Diepstra. Thanks to AndyMark Thunnissen and Eswar Reddy. Thanks to Rytis Prekeris for sharing the antibodies. And last but not least NaiHua and Herschel. We formed together a great
Acknowledgements

team, a truly “Goede MIDdag”, sharing the joy of success and supporting during the times of dejection. It was a pleasure to work with you!

My sincere thanks to Klaas Sjollema and all members from UMIC department for patience in helping me with the life imaging and all work with microscopes and the data processing. Thanks to Ben Giepmans for the Golgi-related work!

I would like to acknowledge the GUIDE office for helping me with all the papers and formalities, and for organizing the courses. Thanks to the ISD office for all help with the troublesome blue envelopes.

Very warm and big thanks to the entire Membrane Cell Biology group (past and present): Dick, Sven, Inge (also for being my supervisor during the Erasmus project), Wia, Jan Willem, Karin, Ina, Jenny, Anita, Jan, Gerry, Tini. Special thanks to the old-team, who has warmly welcomed me in the group – Luc, Tiemen, Zuzanna, Delphine, Bert, Olaf and Kacper (and Danny, Koen, Paco) – for helping me not only in the lab work, but in living in The Netherlands and dealing with the “dutchness” (especially during the famous BBQs, long talks at the lake side and jam sessions ;-)!)! The most great thanks to the fresh-team and by-passers: Hershel, NaiHua, Katica, Bispo, Zia, Hande, Michael, Nicoletta, Kati, Kousei, Ryuichi, Ruben, Kim, Pawel, the polish exchange students... You, my dearest office-mates – Julia, Peter and Mira - I will thank separately! Guys..! What can I say, you were the best, and I’m going (I already am) missing you awfully! I’m really grateful I could ride this journey in your company – why? You know it well, but if you wish I could put the facts together and wrap it in a nice theory, or two! ☺

Thanks for all celebrations at the elevators, great fun during the lab-days, and the semi-legal pizza-movie or sushi-parties in the office after hours ☺. Thanks for unforgettable trips, for the cocktail parties, for all sportive activities (I’m still proud of this 28 km-long Walk for Life). Thanks for all the discussions about finding “the answer to life the universe and all the rest”, and for patiently listening to and nodding
Acknowledgements

at all my theories! ☺ Thanks for being there when needed the most! I wish you all the best!

Thank for all my housemates – Mark, Ching-Tzu and Ewa (sorry for all the noise I’ve made while practicing dancing ☺).

Very big acknowledgements to the whole, past and present, GRASP team. Working with you (just to mention Anke, Ingrid, Lotte, Daniel and Killian) gave me the experience that actually I find very useful right now! I wish lots of successes for you personally and for the whole, expanding and changing organization!

Dance – a shortcut to happiness! Although I was already dancing in Poland, it was here in Groningen where it developed into theater performances! Starting first at USVA classes, being in the La Ruela Flamenco School, learning the argentinean tango with Rob and Inez to reaching the tops in Aglaya Koika Dancing Group! You all, always smiling and little crazy, were like antidote for all worries and the grayness of dutch weather. Aglaya – I must say this was you responsible for breaking my limits! ;-) I would never ever imagine myself performing on the stage, dancing and acting, wearing feathers in my hair and fake eyelashes! My warmest thanks and appreciation to you and the whole dancing group that you have established! Guys – it was so wonderful to be there! In the Waterhouse performance and Salon Berlin we were rocking!! I wish you all a lot of successes for the next shows, full and amazed audience, a little bit of confusion (improvisation is always the most unforgettable ☺) and most of all – great fun! I can say only: “Nein Mann, ich will noch nicht geh’n, ich will noch ’n bisschen tanzen!“ ☺

Great thanks to the milongueros! Frank, Binnert, Bert, Rento, Hans and DJ Avi and everyone there – thanks to you the argentinean tango became really delightful, cheerful and magic!
Another dream that came true in Groningen was thanks to Truus! You let me take care of the most beautiful and nice Frisian horse ever! Galloping around the Kardinge fields, while running away from the kites, all the trips I’ve made on Afke’s horseback was truly amazing and unforgettable! Many thanks to you, to Rosalie and Desmond, and everyone from the horse-ridding club!

One more experience that had the biggest impact on my life while being in Groningen was the meditation course organized by Shriprakash and the teachers Katia and Andreas (Art of Living). Thanks to Deepa for your open eyes and heart; thanks for the whole group that participated in the “Free Hugs” event in Groningen (twice) – that was magic!

I would like to send my warmest acknowledgements to everyone I have met in Groningen and else, at university and beyond – if only I could list you all here! To all polish friends (PhDs and exchange students) for keeping me up, Gosia and Pawel, Jacek, Marek, all Joannas, (with special thanks to Asia Kaplon for all great support, sportive adventures and lots of positive energy! and Joanna Krzeslak for all good talks!), Magda (for all discussions about guys), Krzysiek (for all help at work) and Szymek (I'm still sorry for making you addicted to Terry Pratchet books). Thanks to all Iranians for the great dancing at “Persian nights”, Hossein, Farahad, Arash, Kamal, Shahab and his family for opening an Iranian world to me!

Thanks to Thecla for organizing the dancing workshops (I also didn’t expect I will be flying high while dancing boogie-woogie with Jesus ;-).

Thanks to all friends from Poland, to Iwonka, Ola and Marta for all your support, thanks to Piotrek Pyterson (za nieustająco płynącą pozytywną energię i różową syrenkę!) and Pawełek (za rozbrajające powiedzonka!). Warmest thanks to Wojtek for dancing tango in the most unexpected places, for your help with finalizing this book, and for lots of other good moments!
Acknowledgements

Serdeczne podziękowania dla p. Mrugasów z Oldenburga, za całą pomoc, przepyszne polskie obiadki no i oczywiście najlepsze grzyby na świecie!

Na koniec chciałem złożyć najserdeczniejsze podziękowania dla moich wspaniałych rodziców, za wsparcie i pomoc, i poczucie humoru, w ciągu tych paru lat, i nie tylko.

Dziękuję!