ACKNOWLEDGMENT

It took me 5 years to accomplish this work, how on earth can i in few pages acknowledge people who helped me through? This definitely is harder than writing a 150 word abstract. I try my best:

Once upon a time on a cold gloomy day of winter 2006, thinking far far ahead, a purple poster on the boring board of the medical faculty shined up to me!

A student congress in Groningen, ISCOMS!

What a difficult name? Groningen, where on this earth it is located really? On the website of ISCOMS, figured it out that Groningen is actually somewhere in Holland. “Oh, what a luxury” I thought.

Back to lab, shared the idea with Golnar (Hey, your name came up first, but I am not going to thank you now ☺). She liked the idea, I could not imagine not. We were into adventure. Okay then let’s submit an abstract and BINGO it got accepted. We did not think this far, how we gonna go there? It needed a lot of money and we were just students. It was too much to ask from our parents we thought.

Decided to only score it on our CV sheets.

It was already March, and for us March means starting a new year, a new life and maybe new adventures… Only some days left to the deadline of the registration, on a way to the lab, innocent eyes of a kid on the street tempted me to buy one of his letters of fortune telling. And guess what was written on the letter: “Do not hesitate, Make a move and follow your destiny, Decide for your future.”

Showed the letter to Golnar, we both laughed a lot, made fun of each sentence, even teased each other that if we don’t go we lose the chance of being the head of the university of Groningen ☺. After all, we decided to go, our parents generously supported us and that was how I started this road.

Harry (Prof. dr. H.H. Kampinga), (maybe you do not expect to be the first one on my list), you were the first Dutch professor I met at ISCOMS. I remember that I was searching for somebody “Professor like” who may be interested in my work. You were passing by and a medical student told me: “go get him, he is the one” and I don’t forget how surprised I was with your look! You had your long hair still. You showed an exagger-
ferred interest in my work, which flattered me a lot but at the same time was the best thing happened to me there. I got the confident I needed. You were so nice, no let’s reformulate it, “cool” is a better word. My conclusion after our conversation: Dutch professors are coooooool 😊

You gave the contact of Rob to me and there I come to Rob.

Rob (Prof. dr. R.P. Coppes), you did not change my impression of cool Dutch professors when you rapidly answered my email calling only my first name. When I met you for the first time in Sep 2007 however you did not look like Harry to me 😊 I learnt a lot from you in these years: How to be direct? How to be efficient and think simpler? How to see thing from above?

You were always available for discussions despite your busy calendar. This was so precious for me. Finally I should say that I learnt from you to always ask myself “What is the biology behind it?” 😊 ... And I would definitely not forget your motto: “Kennis sparen voor later!”

Peter (Dr. P van Luijk), without you I could definitely not manage to accomplish this work. You were the first one I met when I started my work. I remember your welcoming smile which made me confident. The first few weeks you followed me in each steps even coming to the bank to open an account. That helped a lot. You always cared and this care and understanding meant a lot to me especially when things were not going smoothly (remember my pregnancy period). When it comes to supervision you are a real daily supervisor and with daily I really mean every day. This was of enormous help to get me started especially in the first year. You taught me a lot: How to write a scientific paper? How to design an experiment? How to look further from my results? How to be organized? And another thousands of Hows! Thanks.

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Hette, you were the first one I met at work after Rob and Peter. Remember, Peter brought me to the old CDP where you were measuring breathing rate of the rats. It surprised me how gently you were handling the rats. I told myself he is THE expert. Next to our nice chitchats during labwork, I learnt a lot from you. You were always precise and efficient. You are a kind of person that I always feel relax with, very easy is working with you. This attitude of you gave me confidence though I was completely unfamiliar with working in a lab. I appreciate each and every help of you and it is too much to write it down here.

Sonja, my dearest friend and paranymph, meeting you in Oct 2009 and having you as a colleague and friend was one of the best things could have happened to me in Holland. If I should talk about you and our friendship and want to thank for your help I have to write pages. At work when you are around, I am always feeling relax, joyful and more confident. Our chitchats during work were so much relieving especially when things were not going smoothly. We are a real team together! Aren’t we? I gonna miss working with you Ms purple 😊. You are a kind of friend that everyone needs to have, a trustworthy, lovely, caring friend who is at the same time a good listener and a “gezellig” company. You have a special place in my heart which I would carry all my life.

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always there for me and I could not thank you more for being such a sweet friend.

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Maman, your are THE symbol of emotions for me. If somebody should learn how
to express love, joy, sorrow, fear and … should definitely be raised by you. Remember what happened to you the first time you figured it out I have my OWN plans of going abroad. I know you NEVER wanted us to go even one inch further from where you and Baba live. I know how much faith it needs leaving your university studies unfinished because of your little helpless girl. Thanks for showing me all your emotions and trying to control them for the sake of my freedom. "I love you" that is what I learnt from you.

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I met you I was reading a novel about a single and successful women in her 40ish who met another single and successful man in his 50ish. Along the story, they fell in love and once while they were having tea together the woman asked the man: “you are such a sweet company, how on earth you could not find a partner till now?” And guess what the man answered: he said “It took me long to realize that life is nothing more than enjoying your time while having a tea with somebody you love, this much simple life is.” This says everything; I should not try to say more about you. Thanks for being the only reason for me to bring Arwin to this world.

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Ghazale
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