Pathophysiology of thoracic irradiation
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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-
ated 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 cooooool☺

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.

Hans (Prof.dr. J.A. Langendijk), it took some time before i met you but worth waiting. Despite your busy calendar, once in a while you made some time for me and I always learnt a lot from our discussions. Your point of view in my work is very original. Although in my opinion complement and encouragement are most of the time missing in Dutch education system I always got very good feedback and encouragements during our meetings. That, I really appreciate. Thanks.
Acknowledgment

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.

Rolf (Prof.dr. R.M.F. Berger), meeting you for the first time I realized that through our collaboration I can learn a lot from you. That was indeed right. Above all the scientific parts, I am enormously thankful for the tabs on the shoulder and reassuring smiles you gave me at the very right time when I needed. It was a great pleasure working with you.

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Yamini, my lovely friend and paranymph, what an honest and charming creature you are. Apart from that, you are a great cook, yummy. We always had wonderful time together, lunches at work, dinners out and in and at those funny lady nights. You were
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always there for me and I could not thank you more for being such a sweet friend.

Gerward, you are really awesome, I never forget your unexpected visit a few days after Arwin’s birth, you brought me a loaf of traditional “krentenbrood”, butter and eggs believing this is what I need after all the hard work of delivery ☺ And guess what, after that I fell in love with butter (the kind that you brought for me). Thanks for being always nice and helpful.

Michael, apart from being a good friend I would like to thank you especially because of your patience in teaching me new things. I never forget working together with you at one of the weekends of Sep 2009 which by the way gave us the best results ever. Thanks for all the help and good tips for discussions.

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Now when I want to talk about people outside of work, first I come to you Golnar. It was a time I desperately needed somebody to talk, to share my secrets and to feel safe around. And there you came to my life at the very right time. You made your very first impression on me during our first conversation, seating next to Pharmaco lab, remember? What a relief when I found you. I shared the most difficult time of my life with you, and you were always there for me. Thanks for listening to me. This in fact was not everything. We started renovating our lives together by coming here. I don’t know what would have happened to our lives otherwise. Here, you are always a supportive friend by my side, which makes me feel secure. Thanks for all your help and love.

Here in Groningen I was completely gratified with endless love and support of nice friends:

Saeede, with you I never felt I don’t have a sister. That, I think expresses everything I have to tell about you. If I did not have your help especially with taking care of Arwin in the last couple of months, I don’t know if I could manage to finish up things on time.

Helia, thanks for being such an honest friend for us and lovely auntie for Arwin.

Mehrzad, when I should think of a trusted friend of ours the first one is you in my mind. Thanks for being a good listener and your supportive statements when I needed them.
Mohammad Reza, before you come here, I was always worried if you would appreciate my valuable friend, Saeede. No worries now. She could not have made a better choice. Thanks for all nice time and your help especially in writing Persian summary of this book.

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Outside of Groningen somewhere not very far I am very delighted to have my relatives: Mahin, Javad, Diba, Bita, Nima, Shahin, Sanaz, Mohammad, the other Sanaz, Sara, Saeed, Hassan, Foozie, Farhad and Farida. What a luxury for me having you all around. I do appreciate your endless support and love. Saeede, Mohammad and little Amitis, you guys are not apart from the circle of my big relatives in Hamburg, Thanks for unexpected calls and support when I desprately needed them.

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A lot of friends, colleagues and people were along on this road, at work or outside. I can only name few but will never forget how special even small help of each were to me.

Dear Maman and Baba, to thank you fully I definitely have to write a large book: One would say without the support of my parents I would not have been here now. Yes, that is very true but this is not what I am not going to say here. “Not being here” would have not been meant that you did not support me enough! Much more you both did for me. Just a tiny example: Some days ago when Arwin fell down on the ground and hurt himself, I only realized how much energy, care, time and effort takes to keep your baby safe and sound. You have to be all the time, 100% alert and “THIS” is what every each of parent does as a part of their routine along with thousands of other things. Now having me safe after all these years… I cannot say more.

Maman, your are THE symbol of emotions for me. If somebody should learn how
Acknowledgment

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.

Baba, the closest soul to me, from the first image I have of you in my childhood you always was my mighty HERO. With you I learnt how to be strong, independent and rational. You are the one I can always trust, rely on and never think about consequences. You are created to be like this and I am proud of you. I adore this attitude of you and that’s why I am always looking up to you. Thanks for being the hero of my life.

Amir, my dearest lovely brother (dadash koochooloo, Tiamat e bozorg ☺), you have every thing a brother should have. I feel you so close that cannot even find words to describe my feelings. So close that even distance between our homes never could make us feel the other way. I should tell you that your very individual talent fills my heart full of honor and pride. Keep up working hard to “The infinity and Beyond”! Thanks for always loving me in a very special way of yours.

Rana, the prettiest creature I’ve ever seen, it’s not a long time you joined our small family but I feel I know you for a very long time. Thanks for being such a sweet partner for Amir. You know I feel so relieved now that you are around of my parents. You are a real daughter of them I believe, which for sure would make them missing me less ☺. Thanks for all the effort, talent and art you and Amir put on visualizing my ideas of the cover of this book. You are gifted and I am proud of you and Amir.

I chose to start a long travel along with you, Emad. That was not just because you are my beautiful love. You understand who I am and this gives me a good feeling of relief and reassurance when you are around. From our very first dates, aside from butterflies in my tummy, I felt like this. And what I wanted more than a peaceful life next to somebody I love. You are always here and there for me, even now that you are busy with revising the Persian summary of this book. I also support you: bringing fresh tea for you every hour ☻ and like this you are happy, very simple life is. Let me tell you a story: Once before
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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.

Arwin, my cutest little angel, now mama comes to you. This way I am looking into future because I learnt from my supervisor, Rob: “Sparen voor Later”. It would take you few years to be able to read this part and understand how much mama is proud of you. It should not be easy to have a busy mom, I know. But you little boy are SO patient. Thanks, for putting a big small on my face every single morning and giving me the energy I need to keep up going. Love you so much.

Ghazale
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