Chapter 10. Acknowledgments

My supervisors

First of all, I wish to thank my supervisors, Profs. Rudi Dierckx, Peter Paul De Deyn, Ronald Boellaard and Dr. Antoon Willemsen, for their support, constructive feedback and trust in me. Prof. Dierckx. Maybe I would not have had the courage to undertake this project without your confidence and guidance. Despite a daily busy schedule and all responsibilities, you still had time to ask me many excellent questions and to offer critical and constructive comments. With your extensive knowledge of Nuclear Medicine, you have contributed significantly to my thesis and future work.

Prof. De Deyn. I thank you very much for your useful comments, suggestions and feedback, based on your deep knowledge of the complex world of clinical neuroscience. This proved to be decisive in the development of my thesis. I also thank you to help me feeling at home in Groningen.

Prof. Boellaard. I always learned something new in my meetings with you. Your scientific talks during my stay at the UMCG have been very nourishing. You have been an example of constant search for scientific excellence.

Dr. Willemsen. It has been a privilege to enjoy your weekly direct supervision. Your peculiar way of judging scientific work has been crucial for me to move forward. Your help in reading and suggesting corrections of almost everything I wrote during this time has been invaluable. Although you may not have noticed it, you have also been my window to Dutch culture and the way of thinking in the Netherlands. I must admit that the taste we both share for the “Son Cubano” made everything easier.

My colleagues and friends

I am very grateful to colleagues in the department. Those I met upon arriving at UMCG, David, Luis, Hans, Ines, Andrea, Isadora, Mayke, Paula, Verena, Xiaoyun, and Heli for their
friendship, the atmosphere they all create for carrying out work and the fruitful discussions during the Monday and Tuesday scientific meetings. David, Luis, Isadora, Andrea, Ines, Bram, and Hans deserve special recognition. David, Isadora, and Luis have always been helping everyone, by their constructive scientific criticism and timely comments. Luis had an important contribution to Chapter 4 of my thesis. Thank you very much for that. I also thank him and Andrea for treating me as an old friend as Latin Americans do. I thank Ines and Bram for their affection, always supportive of my work. I thank Hans for his friendship, scientific suggestions and interesting discussions about neuroscience.

My thanks also to those that arrived after me: Elisabeth, Lara, Débora, Guilherme, Bruno, Rodrigo, Mingzhang, Gonçalo, Anna, Kars, Felipe, Alfred, Bart, and Wejdan. Thank you very much for your friendship and contribution to a favorable environment for scientific work.

The help of Sarita Ivette and Gerda has also been very important. In a way, they remind me of family because they are always helping everyone with important basic needs, including the administrative paperwork involved in the thesis. Thank you very much you for that. In particular, I am also honored that Gerda has agreed to be one of my paranymphs. I also want to thank Sven, Jürgen, Professors Pruim and Luurtsema and other colleagues of the department for their cordiality at the coffee room.

_Mis colegas y amigos Cubanos_

Mi especial gratitud a todos mis colegas y amigos cubanos, coautores de los artículos que forman mi tesis. En particular, Pedro, Lester, Yasser, Angel, Cabrera, Bosh, Lídice y William, sin ellos hubiera sido más difícil seguir adelante. Muchas gracias a todos por su contribución y amistad.
My old and new friends

Mi agradecimiento a mis queridos amigos de muchos años en Cuba: Lochy, Roly, Tahimi, Galvizu y Carlos, siempre apoyándome sin reservas. A mis amigos del barrio, Luis Enrique, Jesus, Crespo y Roberto. Cada día les recuerdo con mucho afecto.

Thanks to my old friends in Europe: Boris Shapiro, from the Netherlands, and Lulia and Frank, from Germany. Also to my new friends and neighbors for over a year in Groningen, Severine, from Poland, and Yonas, from Germany, who, in addition to visiting me in Groningen, have always been stimulating me and supporting my work.

También estoy muy agradecido por el constante apoyo recibido de mis nuevos amigos cubanos que he conocido en Groningen, especialmente mi amigo Jorge Gómez, profesor de bailes cubanos, su hijo Jorgito y su madre Margarita, Michel y Francis el dominicano.

Siempre alegres y generosos, me han ayudado a "recargar pilas" la mayoría de los fines de semana con la música y la atmósfera de mi país. Muchas gracias por el afecto y recordarme el estribillo del son de nuestro insigne músico Ignacio Piñeiro: “El son es lo más sublime para el alma divertir”.

Mi familia

Finalmente, muchas gracias a mí querida familia: a mi Padre, que en paz descanse, y a mi Madre que con mucho amor contribuyeron a mi formación. Igualmente a mi hermano Luis, mi Abuela y mi tíos Carlos y María del Carmen, que también descansen en paz. Mi agradecimiento a mi querido hijo Carlos, estudiando y preparándose para el futuro, y a su Mamá por cuidar de él mientras he estado aquí. Muchas gracias a mis hermanas Adelaida y Carmen que cuidan de mi Madre. Igualmente estoy muy agradecido de mi hermano Raúl, en España, de mi sobrino Manuel, en los Países Bajos, y de sus familias, por ayudarme y estar atento a mí desde que llegué a Groningen. No puedo olvidar a mis queridas primas Varna y
Cecilia, siempre atentas a mi vida aquí. Mi amor y agradecimiento para toda mi familia que aunque lejos siempre me tiene presente, tal como yo la llevo en mi corazón.