Acknowledgements
Acknowledgements

A PhD thesis is never a solo endeavor, and mine is no exception. Here, I would like to thank all the people that made the writing of this thesis possible.

If I consider the people who have invested the most time in this thesis, two come to mind: my promotor Sven van IJzendoorn, with regard to data analysis and interpretation, and Karin Klappe with regard to practical work. And I’m sorry Sven, but I think Karin probably wins in terms of total hours spent on this thesis (there really were a lot of HepG2 lines to culture). Karin, thank you so much for all your help in the lab. I would overwhelmed myself by trying to culture way too much different cell lines a long time ago if it weren’t for you. And I would probably still be working on some of the chapters right now in the lab, messing up some western blot. Sven, thank you for all the work that has gone into interpreting data, your help with writing, and getting manuscripts ready for publications. In addition, thank you for all the engaging scientific discussions, and for setting my internship in San Francisco and the period of research in Ann Arbor. Both those two trips to the US have helped me grow a lot scientifically.

Next I’d like to thank my parents. As a child they enabled that I could play next to the pond in front of our house, catching frogs and other critters. They took me to the forests of Bennekom, where I trotted from fallen log to fallen log, lifting them up to inspect all the interesting insects that crawled underneath. My mother brought home numerous books about nature and animals, which I read relentlessly. Who knows, if it weren’t for these things, my interest in biology would not have been nurtured enough for me to end up doing a PhD in cell biology in the first place. I would also like to thank them for always asking how things are going with my PhD, even though I could never really satisfyingly explain exactly what I was doing. Also a big thanks to my sister Hannah for her support.

I’m grateful to Jenny, Chris and Herschel, whom I asked a lot of questions when I just started out as a lab newbie. I’d like to thank my students Just, Marines, Pieter and Chantal, for helping me with gathering interesting data and unknowingly aiding me in developing my teaching skills. Edwin and Isabelle thank you for being a great office-mates, we had a good blend of nice conversations and good work environment. Jody and Lavinja, even though you were not in the office as long as the other two, you were a great addition for the final months and livened
up our office. Bhagyashree, thank you for nice discussions in the lab on topics varying from molecular cloning, to India, to podcasts, to all the things I can’t remember right now. Thank you Dennis, for the memes. Inge, thanks for looking at my upside down ok symbol frequently, it gave me joy. Jacomien, thanks for being the one who got the most of my obscure references. Pauline, thanks for humoring my pretentious philosophical ramblings, and for gifting the world Omo, a character with more depth than many in GOT. Thank you Frank, for proofreading this thesis. To all other current and past colleagues of the 10th floor (Changsen, Wendy, Rianne, Yue, Qinghong, Leon, Charlotte, Hande): Thank you for making work more fun through all the social activities such as Friday and holiday drinks, Lunches and Sinterklaas celebrations (especially your beautiful poem, Yue).

I want to thank my colleagues from Sjef Copray’s lab, Arun and Koen, who helped me setting up the iPS culture. Many thanks to David for supervising me during my Master project in San Francisco. I learned a lot from him about doing science and the scientific world in general. Likewise, I’m appreciative of Jason for allowing me to come work in his lab for a few months, and all the other people in Ann Arbor who were very welcoming. Then there are a number of scientific collaborators, some of whom I’ve never met in real-life before, that were essential for certain chapters in this thesis: Silvia Parisi, Petra Klöters-Planchy, Fernando Cartón-García, Diego Arango and Karl Heinz Weiss.

Lastly, I want to thank all my close friends for all their support during the entire PhD period.