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## Modular Approaches in PET-tracer Development

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# *Chapter 9*

Acknowledgements

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“I was taught that the way of progress was neither swift nor easy”

Marie Skłodowska-Curie

It has been 10 years since I have started my academic journey. Back then I never had dreamt about the possibility to finish a PhD in radiochemistry in Groningen. My biggest concern was to survive my first year studying in a different country with a familiar but still new language.

It is almost five years ago, that I have accepted the challenge of starting a PhD project in Groningen. Although I already moved away from Groningen, it is still very hard for me to believe, that with this thesis I am finishing this phase of my life. But I am very curious about all the adventures, hurdles and challenges that are now lying in front of me.

*“You cannot teach a man anything: you can only help him find it within himself.”*

Galileo Galilei

Although I want to rephrase this for ‘woman’, the meaning of this quote remains the same. And with this, I would like to thank my promotors **Prof. Philip Elsinga**, **Prof. Ben Feringa** and **Prof. Wiktor Szymanski** for providing me the basement, on which I could build my knowledge during the last years. When I am thinking back, you exactly followed this quote – you gave me the freedom to perform experiments even when they were most likely to fail – you told me to restart, when I was navigating my research to a dead end – you helped me when I didn’t know how to continue – and you never let me give up. Thank you for guiding and supporting me during the last years.

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*“Nature uses as little as possible of anything.”*

Johannes Kepler

Working as a radiochemist is not the safest job and it need in my opinion a lot of courage to start a student project in this versatile field. I had the luck to supervise in total 4 students, **Chantal Mulder**, **Elisa Mendoza Zamarippa**, **Keimpe-Oeds van den Berg** and **Martin Mühlbauer**. Chantal, you were the first student that I ever supervised and I am so happy that I was able to see, how you continued your studies and graduated earlier this year in the SzymanskiLab. Keimpe-Oeds, thank you for the progress you made and I wish you a great time in the SzymanskiLab! I don't know what I would have done without you two. Elisa, my Twente student! Thanks for the talks and laughter we had. Martin, thank you for your help with all the cell experiments which unfortunately not really worked out...

*“The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existing.”*

Albert Einstein

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When I am talking about my academic journey, I somehow always start to think on myvery first supervisor, **Dr. Jos Paulusse**, although in the end our collaboration was not as fruitful as we hoped 5 years ago, I am still thinking I would have not dared to do a PhD without your support. And I would like to use this opportunity to thank everyone who was involved in our original PET/MRI project: **Rachel Elzes** and **Jan-Willem Paats**. Jan-Willem I am still very sorry that we could not finish our project together, but nobody could have expected last year that Researchers all over the world would not be able to not work in their laboratories anymore.

*“Science knows no country, because knowledge belongs to humanity, and is the torch which illuminates the world.”*

Luois Pasteur

During the last five years, I had the honour to meet great people and scientists in Groningen. I would like to start to thank the **department of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging** and its head, **Rudi Dierckx**, for the nice work environment. **Erik de Vries**, **Gert Luurstema** and **Antoon Willemsen**, thank you for all your helpful advices you gave me during meetings, in the lab or in the halways. **Rolf Zijlma** en **Bram Maas** for always being there when I had problems - either with the HPLCs, the FlowSafe or how to get radioactivity. Thank you both for always making me smile, even when I was completely stressed again! **Chantal Kwizera**, I am really missing working with you! I know that I can always rely on you as a person and as a colleague. Thank you for all your supportive words and your ear when things were not working as we expected! **Ines Farinha Antunes**, I think without you and your convincing words that I

should believe more in myself I wouldn't have been able to finish. Thank you for teaching me so many things and helping me to figure out problems. **Aren van Waarde**, thank you for your help with the cell experiments and its underlying statistics when I could not figure it out by myself. **Jürgen Sijbesma**, thank you for teaching me how to perform animal studies. I would like to thank the GMP and QC crew (**Hilde Dekens, Astrid Niesink, Michel de Vries, Janet Hessels-Schepers, Gina van der Woude, Rianne Bakker, Derk Grofschmied, Chantal Kwizera, Stefan Zijlstra, Bram Maas and Rolf Zijlma**) for helping me out when I needed again one of the PSMA tracers. Thank you **Marianne Schepers** for organizing all my orders and making all the required calls to get my iodine-tracer to the Hospital as fast as possible!

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*“Many people will walk in and out of your life, but only true friends will leave footprints in your heart.”*

Eleanor Roosevelt

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*“Was man mühelos erreichen kann, ist gewöhnlich nicht der Mühe wert, erreicht zu werden.”*  
Sophokles

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*Thank you!*



# Curriculum Vitae



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