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CHAPTER 10

Acknowledgements

Achieving a PhD degree is not easy, and it would have been worse without the help of some people. I would like to dedicate this chapter to everyone that helped me, at some point, to get to end. Despite being an avid reader, I have some difficulties with writing, and I am even worse at openly expressing my feelings. I hope I can do justice to all who have been there for me. If you feel like I was unfair, a cheesecake can be negotiated.

2016 was turbulent year and, amid all the chaos, I realized that maybe Theoretical Physics was not exactly what I wanted to pursue as a researcher. So, I started reading about the applications of Physics in Medicine and applying for PhD positions that seemed interesting. I turned out to be quite lucky with this change as I was called for an interview, and later to fulfil the position, for the second application I sent. It still puzzles me who I actually managed to convince **Ronald Boellaard** that I would be up for the task since I had no background in the area, but I am glad you believed I could and gave me this opportunity. I will always be grateful for all the knowledge you shared with me, for all the opportunities you provided, for your patience, for your assistance in whatever was needed, and for always giving me time and space to pursue whatever I thought I needed to learn to accomplish this PhD.

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I will not be the last. Your talent as a mentor should never go to waste, and anyone should be lucky to have a supervisor like you. Thank you for all.

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When I first arrived in Groningen, I was alone and a bit scared. But I was quickly welcomed by the other students in the basement offices. **Rodrigo** was the active party, always insisting that I joined the group for drinks and dinner, making sure I was ok, and carrying me on his bike so that I would not be left behind. My lovely office girls since the beginning: **Lara, Andrea**, and **Verena**. Thanks for the talks, drinks, and fun. Lara, mi Guapa, I loved sharing the office with you and I miss having you around. Thank you for being such a good company. I would like to thank Rodrigo, the girls, and all the other students that passed by the basement (and later, by the Meditech building) for the laughs, company, Friday shots, dinners, and drinks: **Nafiseh, Paula, Luis, Carlos, Anna, Elli, Bart, Daniel, Kars, Pascalle, Kavya, Dik**,

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As the current situation for working with research in Brazil is not the best, my fun group of Jamais ended up scattered around the world. But I am glad to still call you all my friends and I am grateful for your support and for being up for visiting me. **Isa**, you not only showed me a whole new area of physics, that combined my studies with an interest in medicine, but you also put Groningen in the map for me. I will never be able to thank you enough for that. **Arthur Eduardo**, your support since our bachelor's studies was very important to me. **Ingrid**, your support from the beginning of the university until today, and especially during the 2016 chaos, was very important for me to get where I am today. **Augusto**, your help also since the beginning of the university since today has also helped me to be here today. Anyway, thank you all for the support and mostly to our parties and hangovers, always together. "Nobody should feel like a pointless little weird alone." (Solutions and other problems, Allie Brosh, 2020) And with you, I never felt alone.

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