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Addressing liver fibrosis with lipid-based drug carriers targeted to hepatic stellate cells

Adrian, Joanna Ewa

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Acknowledgement

I think the idea of studying abroad was born when I attended secondary school. I was fascinated by the fact of living abroad, getting to know new people and new culture. I thought this would be an exciting experience and definitely more challenging than studying in my own country. Although I had Germany or Great Britain in my mind as a destination, fate brought me to a place in between these countries, to the Netherlands. And now, years after my secondary school time, as I'm finishing Ph.D. studies, I can say that these four years indeed were exciting and challenging. I learnt how is to be a researcher and gained experience in doing laboratory work, had the privilege of living in the lovely town of Groningen and met a lot of people without whom I wouldn't be here and completing this thesis wouldn't have been possible. To all of you, being close and far I'm endlessly thankful. However, let me mention some people by name.

First of all, I would like to express my gratitude to Prof. Gerrit Scherphof. I came to Groningen because you obtained an Ubbo Emmius grant for me. I'm very grateful, not only for your guidance in scientific matters, our discussions and your comments on my manuscripts, but also for your friendliness and concern about things not related to experiments. You kept my spirits up while I was waiting endlessly for my visa to come in, arranged for me to participate in the Liposomal Workshop in Oberjoch even when I was not yet appointed as a Ph.D. student and helped me organise my visit to the laboratory of Prof. Kaneda at the Osaka University. For all of this and more, thank you!

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Because of my working in two different departments (the department of Pharmacokinetics and Drug Delivery and the section Medical Biology of the department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine), situated in two different buildings, my Ph.D. time could be considered somewhat exceptional. Two offices and many labs meant running back and forth remembering where I left what all day and, often causing quite a bit of frustration.

Fortunately, there is always another side of the medal, since being in two groups meant twice the amount of birthday cakes and “Lab-days” twice a year.

From Department of Pharmacokinetics and Drug Delivery, I obviously wish to thank Catharina first of all, not only for the isolation of the cells, but also for your help with the synthesis of modified albumin, animal experiments, stainings and hundreds of other small things which I bothered you for during these four years. Annemiek, how would I perform animal experiments without you? I’m very grateful for your flexibility, sometimes even coming to the lab during the weekends. Alie, many thanks for the helpful hand whenever I needed it. It was always good to be around you, because of your smile and the positive attitude you radiate. Jai and Alie, I shared my office with you with pleasure. Jai, you were my company for work in the evenings and weekends. I enjoyed our discussions about science and many other subjects, as well as your stories about India – I hope I will soon visit this fascinating country. Teresa, Teresita my friend and my “sister-in-arms” during the last four years. Thank you for all your support, your care and your optimism inside and outside of the lab. Heni, my starting out in this department wouldn’t have been so easy without you. Teresa, Jai, Rick, Werner, Marja, Annemarie, Ester, Kai, Adriana, Janja, Anshar: it was fun to share the experience of being a Ph.D. student with you, not only within the walls of faculty building, but also on conferences, in pubs and at the bowling centre.

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When I started my Ph.D., the Liposome Research group belonged to the department of Cell Biology. I enjoyed my time on the 6th floor of the FMW building with Xuedong, Martin, Alida, Ewa and Ingrid a lot; thank you all for a warm and friendly working environment. I also wish to express my gratitude to Gerry Hoogenberg. Thanks to you, the pile of formalities which needed to be arranged after moving to this new country did not turn into nightmare. Dear Ph.D. students from the 10th floor: Kacper, Luc, Delphine and Zuzana, the chatting and gossiping, mostly somewhere in the corridors, always provided great amusement.

In December 2003, the Liposome Research group joined with the Endothelial Biomedicine and Vascular Drug Targeting group in the Medical Biology section. Within this context, I’m grateful to Prof. Ingrid Molema for her interest, our discussions and her support, especially during the final period of my Ph.D. Her inspiring enthusiasm and valuable comments are close to being famous. Henriëtte, hartstikke bedankt voor je hulp met de bereiding van liposomen, de isolatie van cellen en voor alle andere dingen die je voor mij hebt gedaan. Het delen van een werkbank met jou was erg plezierig. Maar ik wil je vooral bedanken voor het geduld waarmee je steeds Nederlands met mij wilde praten.

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□ Adriana, it is only with you that I travelled first class back to Poland. Monika, I could

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Asia

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