

University of Groningen

## Exploring the regeneration potential of salivary glands using organoids as a model

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1. The intrinsic plasticity of ductal salivary glands cells that characterize the injury response can be recapitulated in vitro using organoids as a model. [this thesis]
2. Characterizing the cellular state instead of looking exclusively at the cell type identity is fundamental to assess mechanisms promoting regeneration in salivary glands. [this thesis]
3. The priming of tissue prior transplantation of cells, owning long-term regeneration potential and paracrine function able to stimulate the receptive niche, could represent the most optimal strategy to rescue radiation-induced hyposalivation. [this thesis]
4. When they asked me how I stay motivated during my PhD my answer was always “I don’t; I stay committed, committed to the research goal, to my beliefs and most of all to myself.”
5. Pursuing a PhD, from performing experiment to writing the PhD dissertation, can be described using Nelson Mandela’s words: “It always seem impossible until is done”.
6. The high level of collaboration on a global scale, the sharing of knowledge and ideas, the support rather than the competition between groups that we have witnessed during this pandemic and that brought researchers to an unprecedented speed of discovery, should be embraced and implemented by all researchers and in all research fields.
7. A long-term investment in gender equality in academia that is not only limited to increase the number of women in STEM but also to support their development, is necessary to guarantee the diversity of perspectives needed for scientific excellence.
8. The increasing degree of complexity of organoids and their versatility can be used to visualize the collective cellular response to injury, the ultimate goal of regenerative medicine.
9. Moving countries to pursue a scientific career is enriching under many aspects, but it also comes at a cost.
10. All Italians moving to the north of Europe should embrace the Danish ideology “There is no bad weather; there are only bad clothes”.