

University of Groningen

New avenues in PET imaging of multiple sclerosis

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Document Version

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Publication date:

2014

[Link to publication in University of Groningen/UMCG research database](#)

Citation for published version (APA):

Paula Faria, D. D. (2014). *New avenues in PET imaging of multiple sclerosis*. s.n.

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Stellingen behorende bij het proefschrift

1. Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a challenging disease, for which no cure has been found so far. However, the statement “A not very distant future may bring us face to face with a rational and more hopeful means of dealing with so intractable a disease” by *Risien Russel in 1899*, may finally become reality in the near future.
2. Imaging techniques are essential to obtain a better understanding of the central nervous system in its “normal” and “abnormal” state.
3. Magnetic Resonance Imaging is a helpful tool to confirm the diagnosis of MS, when clinical symptoms are present. However, the lack of specificity of this imaging technique is a major limitation for its use as a tool to monitor gradual changes at lesion sites in MS patients at different stages of the disease.
4. New PET tracers for specific characteristics of MS are required to establish PET imaging as a valuable tool for monitoring disease progression and evaluation of the efficacy of the new treatments for this disease (*this thesis*).
5. [¹¹C]MeDAS is a promising PET tracer to monitor myelin changes in the central nervous system (*this thesis*). However, much clinical research is still required before the word “promising” can be taken out of this statement.
6. “Physiological experiment on animals is justifiable for real investigation, but not for mere damnable and detestable curiosity” (*Charles Darwin*). Real investigation *per se*, however, does not justify all kind of animal research; its predictive value for human translation has to be considered as well.
7. “Radioactivity” is a scary word that represents danger for many people. At the same time, the conscious and professional use of radioactivity provides a tool for the diagnosis and treatment of the diseases of many of these “scared” people.
8. It is interesting to hear and read about different cultures in foreign countries, but to actually live there and being exposed to it for a longer period of time, is an unforgettable experience for life.
9. High consumption of milk, even during lunch, can be the secret of the Dutch people for growing so tall (*Schönbeck et al, 2013*) that the foreigners have to use a stair for work.
10. Everything new in life is challenging and scary at the same time. The same feeling can occur, when you go back to something that was part of your past.
11. So many things to protest against in a country still in development... Only protesting in a rational and peaceful manner may facilitate the transition to become a country of the 1st world.