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On the cause of multiple sclerosis

Bijlard, Marjolein

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Stellingen behorende bij het proefschrift

On the cause of multiple sclerosis:
Molecular mechanisms regulating myelin biogenesis

Marjolein Bijlard

1. Understanding the molecular mechanism of myelin biogenesis will not only advance potential therapeutic treatment of MS, but will also improve our understanding of mental illnesses, such as Alzheimer's disease and schizophrenia. (Haroutunian et al. 2014)
2. Although closely related proteins oftentimes can takeover functions of each other, this does not happen for syntaxin 4 in oligodendrocytes. (Day et al. 2011, this thesis)
3. Multiplexing of mRNA transport might seem efficient and elegant, but much like carpooling, appears to be overlooked for individual transport of mRNAs. (Carson et al. 2008, this thesis)
4. The characterization of proteins as 'intrinsically disordered', like MBP, is misleading, since these proteins might have different conformations in different environments, but are not at all 'chaotic' as the name might suggest. (Dunker et al. 2001)
5. The accuracy of the current definition of 'cell polarity' requires reconsideration, since all cells display a nonhomogeneous distribution of cell contents, and might therefore be considered as 'polarized cells'.
6. Just because you cannot find it, does not mean it is not there.
7. Modern day medicine has changed the concept of evolution from 'survival of the fittest' to 'survival of the sickest'.
8. Iedere wetenschapper zou een wijsheid uit Groningen moeten kennen als experimenten falen: 'Nait soezen, deurbroezen'.

There was a single act of creation... everything since has been assembly. - Lincoln Kirstein, then Artistic Director of the NYC Ballet, overheard at a cocktail party in 1972.