Dengue: a trilogy of people, mosquitoes and the virus. Current epidemiology and pathogenesis in (non-)endemic settings
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Dengue consists of a spectrum of disease manifestations caused by four serotypes of Dengue virus, the most prevalent arthropod-borne virus affecting humans in the tropics and subtropics. The incidence of dengue and its geographical distribution have increased dramatically in the past 6 decades. While the majority of patients recover following a self-limiting non-severe clinical course, a small proportion progresses to severe, potentially fatal disease. The disease burden is high; the economic impact of dengue is considerable in terms of medical care, mosquito control measures and the loss of working hours. Due to the increase of population sizes, uncontrolled urbanization, migration and mobility of the human host, proliferation of vector breeding sites, unsuccessful vector control and the current lack of an effective vaccine, it is likely that dengue will continue to represent an important public health problem for many years to come. This thesis consists of a series of investigations into the aspects of the human, mosquito and viral factors that contribute to the epidemiology, persistence and pathogenesis of endemic dengue in Vietnam.

Khoa T.D. Thai was born on April 25th, 1980 in Can Tho City, Vietnam. Due to the political and economic instability after the Vietnam war, his family fled Vietnam (1983) and arrived in the Netherlands in 1986. Khoa obtained his atheneum diploma at the Willem Blaeu College in Alkmaar in 1999, after which he studied medicine at the Academic Medical Center - University of Amsterdam. During his medical study, he participated in a research project from 2005 to 2007, which was funded by the Netherlands Foundation for the Advancement of Tropical Research (WOTRO). He worked as a medical intern in Tanzania and received his medical degree in May 2007. Khoa was awarded a Mozaïek fellowship by the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO) in 2007 and conducted parts of this thesis in the Oxford Clinical Research Unit (OUCRU), Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Khoa Thai is married to Thi Ngoc Nu, Huynh (2007) and they have a son, Hoang Minh, Thai.