Early stages of thyroid autoimmunity: follow-up studies in the Amsterdam AITD cohort

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I actually embarked on the Ph.D. journey in January 2007. At that time I was resident doctor in Greece and I took the decision to spend a period of my residency abroad. Thereby, I sent an email to Prof. Wiersinga asking him to accept me as a fellow member in the Department of Endocrinology and Metabolism and after a few months he was welcoming me in his office with his warm and approachable way. That day is deeply rooted in my mind not only as my first day in the AMC but also as the day I had the very first broodje kroket, offered by Prof. Wiersinga. A couple of weeks later he invited me in his office and he proposed to carry out a research. At that moment I was completely unaware that I was allowing SPSS to become such a big part of my life in the following years!

Completing this Ph.D. thesis is probably the most challenging activity of my life. Throughout this process there have been numerous people who have offered their thoughts, assistance, advice and support, to only some of whom it is possible to give particular mention here.

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—Ithaka gaf je de mooie reis.
Was het er niet, dan was je nooit vertrokken,
verder heeft het je niets te bieden meer.

En vind je het er wat pover, Ithaka bedroog je niet.
Zo wijs geworden, met zoveel ervaring, zul je al
begrepen hebben wat Ithaka’s beduiden.

K.P. Kavafis
vertaald uit het Grieks: Hans Warren en Mario Molengraaf,