Gene expression profiling in breast cancer. A link between biology and clinical decision making
Hannemann, J.

Citation for published version (APA):
Finally I want to thank a number of people who have contributed to this thesis in very different ways.

First of all my supervisor Prof. Dr. Marc van de Vijver: you gave me the opportunity to work on a translational project autonomously—a project I liked very much because of the close relation between basic research and clinical application. You taught me a lot of human breast pathology, something I didn't know much about when I joined your group.

Many thanks to my promoter Prof. Dr. Sjoerd Rodenhuis. Dear Sjoerd, you always made time whenever I thought I had a burning question I wanted to discuss with you. Your enthusiasm for clinical research and the discussions with you always reminded me of the clinical and patient's point of view to our projects—one important issue one should never forget in translational research.

I am very grateful to Cathy Bosch and Hans Halfwerk. Cathy, you helped me in performing the first larger series of microarrays and in setting up the first knock down experiments. We were facing a number of start up problems that are solved now. You were always very enthusiastic about the projects we were working on and gave a lot of intellectual input next to your excellent laboratory performance. Hans, you took over the work of Cathy and you had to process an enormous amount of samples and had to run a large series of arrays—you did this with excellence! And not to forget all the cell line experiments that had to be repeated a countless number of times to assure the quality and correctness of the results. Thanks a lot for all your work during the last years.

The rest of the ‘van de Vijver-groep’—I would like to thank you for the nice working sphere. Lennart, you joined our group to start up a new project with me and I really enjoy working together with you.

Many thanks also to Hans Peterse. He always found time for a “crash course pathology and pathological markers”, whenever Marc was not around. With his humour and subtle irony he often made things to appear in another light.

This work would not have been possible without all the helping hands from the pathology department. Donné, you always tried to satisfy my wishes as soon as possible: One extra immunohistochemical staining on this sample, two times about 700 extra stainings on those samples, testing another new antibody on another set of samples, cutting extra tissue slides every now and then (“Kan het misschien even tussendoor?”). I really appreciate your friendliness and helpfulness! And this appreciation also goes to all the people of the pathology department, who always tried to make time for my extras for the research setting next to their crowded daily schedules for diagnostic routines.

I would also like to say thank you to everyone from the microarray lab. During the years you put a lot of effort into the development of a robust microarray platform that we can now use with a reproducible quality. Very special thanks to Arno. Dear Arno, I am very grateful for all the hours you spent on analyzing my datasets in all different, all possible combinations.

Lodewyk and Martin—thank you for your endless efforts in analyzing all the microarray data and to discuss with me the possible interfaces between biology, clinical questions and bioinformatics.

Dear Tibor, let me say thank you for your altruistic friendship. You helped me through a very difficult period in my life after my mother died—you have been there for me with patience and time and a smile every now and then.

Sandro, thank you for spending hours and nights working on the inner layout of this thesis. You did a great job, you strove for the most perfect design of this thesis and found mistakes I would never have seen. Thanks a lot for all your efforts!

Very special thanks to Simon. I appreciate your patience and care with which you back me up whenever it is possible and your support in everyday’s life with all the thousand tiny little things that also have to be arranged and organized.

Ein liebevoller Dank geht an meine Eltern Monika und Klaus. You brought me up with love and care. You made me what I am, you have always been there, whenever I needed you. Ihr habt mir jeden Weg geebnet, den ich gehen wollte – dafür bin ich Euch unendlich dankbar. Mama, I miss you.

Last, but not least: my son Jannik—the sun in my life. Thank you for making me smile every day, for reminding me that there is much more than only research. I love you and enjoy every moment being with you.