

*The Mayan calendar ends on December 21<sup>st</sup> 2012.  
This date is by many considered to mark the end of the world.  
However, I see it as the start of a new era... one where I have a PhD ;)*

## **Acknowledgements**

The road to this PhD was quite an adventure. It all started in June 2006 when I applied for a PhD in Microarray R&D at the University of Amsterdam. Since I worked at that time in Greece, my first contact with Floyd was from a phone booth on the sunny, though noisy, promenade of Igoumenitsa. Two weeks later I was on board a Boeing 737 flying to Amsterdam for an interview. While this did not result in a PhD, it did lay the basis for a fruitful cooperation. Months of writing, rewriting and defending of my Mozaïek proposal resulted in January 2008 in the current PhD. I would like to thank Timo, Floyd, Martijs, Michiel and Wim for their commitment, support and positive energy during these nerve breaking months, as well as the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research NWO for honouring my proposal.

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