New insights into photodynamic therapy of the head and neck
Karakullukçu, Barış

Citation for published version (APA):

General rights
It is not permitted to download or to forward/distribute the text or part of it without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), other than for strictly personal, individual use, unless the work is under an open content license (like Creative Commons).

Disclaimer/Complaints regulations
If you believe that digital publication of certain material infringes any of your rights or (privacy) interests, please let the Library know, stating your reasons. In case of a legitimate complaint, the Library will make the material inaccessible and/or remove it from the website. Please Ask the Library: http://uba.uva.nl/en/contact, or a letter to: Library of the University of Amsterdam, Secretariat, Singel 425, 1012 WP Amsterdam, The Netherlands. You will be contacted as soon as possible.
Acknowledgements
The story of how this thesis is produced is quiet long, spans three countries and several important people who shaped me into who I am and led me to where I am now. The most important person who helped me produce this thesis but more importantly helped me build up my life in the Netherlands is Prof. Dr. I. Bing Tan. Thank you Bing for everything you have done for me. Our story begins with you picking up my open solicitation mail as worthy of attention among a gigantic heap of mails he gets every day. I might have struck a sensitive point in your heart by my interest in photodynamic therapy. Even as early as after my first visit to Amsterdam our relationship found its base on friendship, on top of a professor/student relationship. I have always got unconditional support and optimism from you. You made me believe that I will be integrating and setting up a life in the Netherlands. The confidence I got from you and your enormous help has led to my current happy life. When you said that I should get my PhD, I had no idea where and how. With you taking the lead everything was arranged just like that. Like you always say: If you persist it happens. Thank you for your support, guidance and most important of all for your friendship.

I would like to thank Prof. Dr. Ton van Leeuwen for offering me a helping hand in my hour of need and agreeing to act as my PhD supervisor. Your support and guidance and understanding flexibility has made this thesis possible.

Prof. Dr. Dick Sterenborg, together with Bing, was my original supervisor. Dick, thank you for accepting me as a PhD student and including me in the cozy family of Center of Optical Diagnosis and Therapy at Erasmus University. I was impressed from the beginning at the level of knowledge, enthusiasm and innovation at this exceptional center. All the fruitful discussions about what direction PDT research should take helped substantially to form this thesis.

There are two equally important physicists who have helped me enormously with the production of this thesis: Dominic Robinson and Robert van Veen. Thank you Dominic for dragging me through the incredibly complex physics of spectroscopy. You were very patient with this ignorant surgeon and his high school level knowledge of physics. You never grew tired of answering all my questions. You were also my supervisor behind the curtains, constructively thinking how this thesis can take shape.

I cannot thank you, Robert, enough for his contribution to this thesis. You were present from the beginning to the end, at every stage of this thesis. Every stage includes also being present at the operating theater for every single patient treated with PDT! Your constructive thinking has made possible all of the achievement with interstitial PDT, ranging from the simple guidewires to complex planning software. Thank you very much for all your help and agreeing to be my paranymph.
I would like to thank Dr. Chad Kanick for thoroughly editing the physics sections of this thesis and correcting all of my “misunderstandings”. Chad and Jan Bonne Aans have performed all the spectroscopy in this thesis. Thanks Jan Bonne, and we will be producing much more together.

I would like to thank the members of the PhD commission: Prof. Dr. Coen Rasch, Prof Dr. Rob Baatenburg-de Jong, Prof Dr. Ludi Smeele, Prof Dr. Paul Baas, Prof Dr. Arnold Vulto, for kindly creating time in their busy schedules to review my thesis.

Thank you Renske (Fles) for being my friend and publisher. With you I have always felt safe with everything we have set out to do. Since you are my paranimph my dissertation cannot go wrong either.

I would like to thank Prof Dr. Frans Hilgers for helping me out with my carrier in the Netherlands. Dear Frans, you have always believed in me from the day I set foot in Amsterdam. Thank you for all your support and motivation by regularly asking when I will be getting my PhD.

Dear Michiel (van den Brekel), it would have taken me 5 more years to finish this thesis if you did not understandingly created time off for me to write. Thank you. Thank you Lotje (Zuur) for asking me regularly if you can help create time for me to write. Thanks Martin (Klop) for sarcastically asking if I was working on my thesis every time I took off early from work. I know this was your way of supporting me. I would like to thank all my colleagues for creating the best collaboration atmosphere I worked in: Fons Balm, Ludi Smeele, Peter Lohuis.

I would like to thank the radiation oncologists Frank Hoebers and Olga Hamming. Dear Olga and Frank, thank you for all your collaboration and creating time for and believing in PDT. Especially Olga; thanks for the HammingWay technique which is the eighth chapter of this thesis.

I would like to thank all of the current and former members of the PDT group: Hannah Tefsen, Sharon Stoker, Joan Birkhoff, Josselyn Oldewarris, Ellen Passchier and Ferrie van den Boom. Thanks for all your support. Without you guys there would be no PDT in NKI/AVL.

I would like to thank my professors at Istanbul University Cerrahpasa Hospital, who trained me well so that I can feel sufficiently capable everwhere I worked. I would like to mention Ferhan Öz and Asım Kaytaz who always supported me to broaden my horizons beyond Turkey.
Fransisco Civantos has played and important role in this thesis. Thank you for excepting me as a fellow in Miami which started the whole tract. You got me going with PDT, which eventually turned into this thesis.

I shared the experience of having the same PhD supervisor with Maarten (Wildeman). Thanks Maarten, for sharing the experience and being my friend.

All the medical and support staff of the policlinic, operation theater, 5th floor ward, dentistry and speech therapy deserve special acknowledgement. You were very patient with all the complicated requests I head with my PDTs.

I would also like to mention Remco de Bree and René Leemans, who were kind enough to trust to give me a staff position at Free University Medical Center. This helped me boost my feeling of belonging here in the Netherlands.

I would like to thank all of my newly found friends who made me feel at home in NKI/AVL. I do not dare to mention all the names here in fear of missing one and offending a friend. You know who you are. I am talking about you 😊. So many memories with borrels, dinners, conferences, trips biking, etc,etc.

I would like to thank my mother, father, grandmother and grandfather for bringing me up to believe anything is possible in life.

Dear Brigitte, my lovely wife, thank you for all your understanding attention and my wonderful life. You are not the only PhD at home now. My dear daughters Serra and Lili, you don’t understand now but maybe later you will be proud of your ‘baba’ for writing a thesis when you girls were sabotaging by crying in the middle of the night 😊.