Acknowledgements

The completion of a journey such as a PhD inevitably requires some words of thanks.

First, my sincere gratitude goes to my supervisors Mireille van Eechoud, for her support, patience and calmness, and Tarlach McGonagle, for his encouragement and sharing his wisdom of all things academia.

Thanks are also due to Bernt Hugenholtz, for his interest in the topic from early on and the supervision of my research master thesis on the subject, and Nico van Eijk, for providing the hospitable environment at IViR to finish the project during the final months. A word of thanks also goes to Peter Jaszi, Lionel Bently and Susy Frankel, for taking the time during their stays at IViR to talk to me about my project and sharing their vast knowledge in the very early, middle and final stages of my PhD, respectively. This has been enormously helpful. And I would like to thank the members of my doctoral committee not yet mentioned: Daniel Gervais, Yvonne Donders, Eva Brems and Federico Lenzerini.

Thanks to fellow IViR PhDs Manon Oostveen, João Pedro Quintais and Bart van der Sloot, for being sounding boards for the myriad of details that a PhD confronts you with. Special thanks also goes to João, and to Ronan Fahy, Joost Poort and Gerard Mom, for proofreading and commenting on early – and fairly long – drafts of the legal framework chapters and the Dutch summary, respectively. Many thanks also to Sara Moran for her competent editing of the manuscript. Thank you to Anja Dobbelsteen, Margriet Pauws-Huisink and Rosanne van der Waal, for their knowledge of all practical aspects that a PhD project brings with it and for the sourcing of literature from all over the Netherlands. And finally, thanks to all other IViR colleagues for friendly talks, shared jokes and words of encouragement throughout the process.

All of this could not have been achieved without the endless love and support of the most important people in my life, my loving parents and amazingly talented and wonderful sisters, to whom I dedicate my work.