The clinical, microbiological and systemic characteristics of periodontitis and their changes after periodontal therapy

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CHAPTER 11

Acknowledgments
When in 2003 I completed my thesis for the MSc program in Periodontology, the stress accumulated in the last month before the deadline was so big, that I promised myself not to go on with research anymore. I had my experience with research and that was it.

Then Ubele asked me to work full time at the department of Periodontology: “you do have to do some research though” he told me “but just try and see”. Then Bruno pushed me to work more on the article of the MSc thesis in order to publish it. A couple of years later, the article was published, I started giving presentations at congresses and the article won the NVvP research prize. During one functionersgesprek (assessment interview), after talking about work, and a bit about music as well, Ubele convinced me to start with a PhD. The first article was already there. Since then, many years, articles, patients, posters, presentations have gone by, thanks to the help of people, whose role has been essential.

Thanks to my promotor Bruno: with you I have learned how to do research in many different aspects. I admire especially your eclectic view in considering any different subject as interesting and worthwhile and your eye for the details still surprises me. Thanks not only for your professional support, but also for your human support in few very difficult moments of these past 7 years.

Thanks to my (co)promotor Ubele: you taught me how to be critical and especially to “understand”, at 360 degrees. Your teaching has influenced me in every aspect of my profession: as a teacher, as a researcher and as a clinician.

Thanks to all members of the Committee: Frank Abbas, Jan de Lange, Fred Rozema, Fridus van der Weijden en Arie Jan van Winkelhoff, to have reserved (extra) time in reviewing this thesis and to have, at the end, allowed me to get to the end of this work. A special thanks to the department of oral microbiology: Wim Crielaard, with an apparent very simple idea, you have opened to me a new fascinating world in the microbiology; Egija Zaura, working with you is an amazing experience. Your passion for the bugs is literally contagious. Thanks also to Mark Buijs and Berndt Brandt, to have helped me in fields where I am still a lot ignorant. Thanks to the rest of the 13th floor of Acta, especially to have opened me the doors of the lab (physically) every time I had to bring bacterial samples or print labels for the research.

Thanks to Marja Laine and Elena Nicu: we started together by chance because I needed some help in statistics or some data; then our collaboration has been growing up. It is a real pleasure to work with you both.
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Thanks to Wijnand Teeuw: when I started in 2003 as a docent you were one of my first students. Then, you started helping me with the blood samples, and we start talking more about research, sometimes with a plate of shoarma in the lunch break. Now you are my boss in the clinic. I have a total respect for your huge talent.

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Alfonso e Franca: la moglie si sceglie, ma i suoceri capitano. Non potevo desiderare suoceri migliori di voi.

Elena, la mia perfetta metà: incontrarti è stata un cataclisma nella mia vita. E il risultato di quel cataclisma diventa ogni anno più bello. Grazie per essere diventata mia moglie, la scelta più giusta della mia vita. Il resto te lo dico in privato....

Marco e Alessandro: le gioie della mia vita. A volte mi chiedo come siano usciti due figli così belli da me. Spero che un giorno siate fieri del vostro papà come lo sono io di voi.

Papà: la prima e l’ultima dedica di questo libro sono per te. La vita ha deciso che non avresti visto con i tuoi occhi questo libro e Dio solo sa quanto manchi a me e a tutti noi. Ma sono sicuro che da lassù mi guardi con gli occhi pieni di orgoglio.

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