HIV-2 in West Africa. Epidemiological studies
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Acknowledgements

Writing a thesis is as much about cutting words as about writing them. First drafts were usually short, second and third drafts very long, and the hard work on draft four onwards was to reduce the word count. It is painful to delete wonderful phrases that were formulated after many days of pondering, but it helps to focus the paper, and, perhaps as a welcome by-product, the mind of the writer.

This thesis has been slightly long in coming. When I started doing research in 1995, I thought, naively, that science was done in quietness, without haste, and with time for endless tinkering until perfection. I have learned since that the research world is full of buzz, hurry, and deadlines. This thesis is a compromise of these two approaches; I would have preferred to tinker for a few more years, but I was advised it was time to hand in. I hope it shows more signs of perfection than of haste.

Many people have contributed to the work described in this thesis, and I would like to thank them.

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Hilton Whittle once introduced himself to a group of visiting scientists as someone being "interested in viruses and humans", and I have learned many things from Hilton about both. Hilton has supervised this project from its inception in 1997, and has been central to its success. I thank him for his stable and enduring support. This thesis is as much a product of his guidance as of my work.
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