Progress toward understanding vascular malformations
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Addenda
Writing a thesis is a group effort and involves many people, although only one name appears on the front cover. Although it is impossible to be complete, I want to thank some people in particular.

I want to start with the most important person in my life. My dearest Darinka, you are my rock in my life. Thank you for all the effort and your unconditional support. This is not only my thesis, but ours. You where there from start to finish. From the time when you took the blood from the patients in chapter 3 for DNA sampling, to helping write letters to the sponsors and helping with the lay-out of this book. Thank you for also allowing me to continue with my other "crazy" things like my triathlons and my running. You are not only an incredible wife, but also an amazing mother and friend. I hope that together many memorable times will still follow.

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This thesis would not have been possible without the assistance of patients and families of patients with vascular malformations.

I also want to thank all members of the reading committee for taking the time to evaluate this thesis.

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In the end I want to thank all my family and especially my parents for giving me the opportunity to study medicine. Although I am fully aware you did not understand everything, a word of comfort and motivation was often enough. Thank you!
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The birth of my daughter in March of this year was again a confirmation to me of how beautiful the human body is designed by God. Although we are beginning to understand something about the incredibly complicated construction of the human body, this study on vascular anomalies has indicated to me that our knowledge is still only reaching the tip of the iceberg.

In 1925 M.R. Reid stated the following assertion which is still applicable today:

"In view of the common development on each side of the vascular tree, and in view of the enormous constructive and destructive changes necessary before the final pattern of the vascular tree is reached, it is a marvel not that abnormal congenital communications occasionally, or rarely, occur, but that they do not occur more often".

I hope that this thesis will provide an impetus for further scientific research.