Brain structure and function in velo-cardio-facial syndrome with and without psychosis
van Amelsvoort, T.A.M.J.

Citation for published version (APA):
Acknowledgements

There are so many people who have contributed in one way or the other to the development of this thesis, that it would have been an impossible task to mention all their names.

Firstly, I am very grateful for having had the opportunity to train & work in the unique environment of the joint Maudsley & Bethlem Royal Hospitals and the Institute of Psychiatry in London.

My supervisor, Professor Declan Murphy; Dear Declan, thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to come and work in your department as a clinical researcher. You have made me enthusiastic about research, and neuroimaging in particular. Your loyalty and support at crucial times in my life are also greatly acknowledged here. Thank you also for being my promotor here in Amsterdam. Professor Robin Murray’s support in the background is greatly acknowledged here. Professors Michael Owen and Kieran Murphy; thank you for the pleasant collaboration and for introducing me into the research of velo-cardio-facial syndrome. A special thanks to all the people who kindly volunteered to participate in the research studies which led to this thesis.

My research colleagues, the original ‘Gang’ Eileen Daly, Dene Robertson, Hugo Critchley, Kiriakos Xenitides, our tiny office and its propinquity ensured that we bonded immediately which guaranteed a smooth, efficient and lasting collaboration (e.g. filling scanning slots at the very last minute!). Thank you so much for the support and friendship. Eileen, a BIG thanks to you for your patience in teaching me how to analyse brains and put up with all the deadlines! The newer ‘Gang’, Nicole Schmitz, thank you so much for your help with the fMRI analysis but particularly for moving to Holland as well, and for being such a wonderful friend. Caroline Moore and Grainne McAlonan thanks for all your wise advice always leavened with your wonderful British/Irish humour. Jayne Henry & Sally Mullender thanks for accompanying me to some of the most remote (sometimes almost spooky) places throughout the UK to carry out the neuropsychological testing. Ginny Ng thank you for looking at all the scans.

Emigrating has been one of the most challenging, but also most enriching experiences of my life. Some dear friends, have been crucial in making it so rewarding: Marina. I’ll never forget your contagious laugh; thanks for being a fantastic flatmate. Bruce, Bea, Annalisa, Elly, Ileana, Mima, Ilja, Sander, Robert, Jari, Soni, Rika; thanks. Bill Jongeneel, thanks for everything.

Thanks to professor Don Linszen, professor Berthold Gersons and Hans Vermeulen for giving me the possibility to come and work in the AMC. Dear Don, thank you for giving me time and space to finish this thesis and for being prepared to act as my promotor. Thanks also to my fantastic Dutch colleagues, Lieuwe de Haan and all the wonderful staff of the Adolescents Clinic in particular, who made me feel
very welcome and who put up with my Anglo-Dutch without complaining (at least I did not notice it). Esther Wolters thanks for helping me with the organisational / administrative aspects of this thesis.

Going back to my roots without good friends to welcome me back would have been a recipe for disaster: Sharon Brandon, Alky Papanikolau, Monica Szachnowski, Frederik Rubens, Karen Sundermann, and of course my dear paronymphs Ariane Cats and Bart Groen: thanks a million. Jan Schuttet, thanks for being there for me during the last phases of writing up. Finally, my dear parents and brothers, papa, mama, Marc and Jeroen, without you I would never have become the person I am now. Lydia van Beek, thank you for all your support. Dear papa, unfortunately you didn’t live long enough to witness my new life in Holland: I know you would have been very proud of me.