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Stellingen

behorend bij het proefschrift

***Staphylococcus aureus* in patients with Buruli ulcer and burns in Ghana**

- 1 Buruli ulcer and burn wounds are colonized with different *Staphylococcus aureus* genotypes that change over time during treatment (*this thesis*).
- 2 Poor wound hygiene is the likely cause for colonization of Buruli ulcers and burn lesions by *Staphylococcus aureus* in Ghana (*this thesis*).
- 3 Nosocomial transmission events of *Staphylococcus aureus* in health care settings in Ghana should be investigated using advanced molecular technology, especially whole genome sequencing, to verify that the bacterial isolates from different patients belong to the same genotype (*Chapters 3 and 6 of this thesis*).
- 4 Despite the potent toxin produced by *Mycobacterium ulcerans*, *Staphylococcus aureus* survives and persists in Buruli ulcers, where it may prolong the duration of wound healing (*Chapters 2, 3 and 4 of this thesis*).
- 5 The evidence emerging from the genetic analysis of *Staphylococcus aureus* in health care settings in Ghana should primarily be used for training and education of healthcare workers to improve infection prevention measures (*this thesis*).
- 6 Collecting information on methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) transmission events amongst patients and healthcare workers in healthcare settings in Ghana is challenging and culturally sensitive (*this thesis*).
- 7 The mere presence of potentially pathogenic *Staphylococcus aureus* in wounds of Buruli ulcer and burn patients does not necessarily qualify as a diagnosis of secondary infection (*this thesis*).
- 8 Nothing in biology makes sense except in the light of evolution (*Theodosius Dobzhansky*).
- 9 Imagination is more important than knowledge (*Albert Einstein*).
- 10 Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less (*Marie Skłodowska-Curie*).
- 11 The definition of a healthy lifestyle differs in Ghana and the Netherlands: in Ghana, this would be driving four-wheel drive cars and eating fufu and chicken soup for lunch, while in the Netherlands it would rather be riding bicycles and eating a sandwich and an apple or banana for lunch.

Nana Ama Amissah, 22 november 2017