## Contents

### INTRODUCTION

**Rheumatoid arthritis: The link between thyroid dysfunction, cardiovascular disease and B cell targeting**

### SECTION 1

**Thyroid dysfunction and rheumatoid arthritis: more than comorbidity**

#### Chapter 1.1

**Hypothyroidism and cardiovascular diseases in rheumatoid arthritis**

A  Rheumatoid arthritis is associated with a high prevalence of hypothyroidism that amplifies its cardiovascular risk

*Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases 2008 Feb; 67(2):229-32*

B  Coexistence of hypothyroidism with inflammatory arthritis is associated with cardiovascular disease in women

*Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases 2012 Jul;71(7):1216-8*

#### Chapter 1.2

**The metabolic syndrome is amplified in hypothyroid rheumatoid arthritis patients: a cross-sectional study**

*Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases 2010 Jan;69(1):39-42*

#### Chapter 1.3

**Thyroid peroxidase antibodies in rheumatoid arthritis**

A  Increased prevalence of antithyroid antibodies in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients with a low prevalence of hormonal alterations

*Autoimmunity 2008 Aug;41(5):337*

B  Increased progression of carotid intima media thickness in thyroid peroxidase antibodies positive rheumatoid arthritis patients

*Submitted*

#### Chapter 1.4

**Thyroid function upon biological treatment in rheumatoid arthritis**

A  Improvement of thyroid function in hypothyroid patients with rheumatoid arthritis after 6 months of adalimumab treatment: a pilot study.

*Journal of rheumatology 2011 Feb;38(2):247-51*

B  Rituximab and thyroid function

*Archives of internal Medicine 2009 Jun 8;169(11):1073-4*
SECTION 2  
Rituximab in rheumatoid arthritis: more than B cell depletion

Chapter 2.1  
HDL protein composition alters from proatherogenic into less atherogenic and proinflammatory in rheumatoid arthritis patients responding to rituximab  

Chapter 2.2  
Pharmacogenomics in rituximab treated rheumatoid arthritis patients

A  
Pharmacological induction of interferon type I activity following treatment with rituximab determines clinical response in rheumatoid arthritis  

B  
Interferon type I signature may predict non response upon rituximab in rheumatoid arthritis patients  
*Arthritis Research and Therapy* 2012 Apr 27;14(2):R95

SUMMARY & DISCUSSION

DutchSummary  
(Nederlandse Samenvatting)

Acknowledgements  
(Dankwoord)

About the Author