Currently, I am conducting research in light of my PhD at the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands, supervised by professor F.L. Moll. My PhD focuses on uncomplicated type B aortic dissections as well as on developing measuring protocols to assess aortic dissections. To further investigate these matters, I spend the last six months at the Policlinico San Donato IRCCS, in San Donato Milanese, Italy. Here, I got the opportunity to work alongside professor Santi Trimarchi, M.D, Ph.D. Professor Trimarchi is a highly regarded surgeon in the field of aortic dissections, and he has particular interest in uncomplicated type B dissections. Especially the question whether or not all type B dissections should receive TEVAR, regardless of complicated or uncomplicated status is something he does much research in.

During my research time in Italy I worked on many different projects, not only my own research, but I also assisted other PhD candidates and physicians in their work. My personal biggest project was the development of a new measuring protocol for type B dissections. Using post-processing software available at the Policlinico San Donato IRCCS, I was able to produce a standardized protocol for CT-scans of type B dissection patients. This article is accepted for publication and will be published in the near future. This protocol could lead to better reporting and comparison of studies describing clinical outcome linked to anatomical dimensions of type B aortic dissections.

Also, I started gathering patient data and scans of uncomplicated type B aortic dissections, and I hope to analyze this data to see if clinical outcome can be predicted in these patients, e.g. if complications can be predicted.

Apart from the clinical side of work, I also helped and conducted some projects at a lab at the technical university of Pavia that is working together with the Policlinico. At this lab (called Beta-lab) I worked on some ex-vivo and in-silico studies, some of my own and some of others. These projects focused on the impact of stent grafts on the cardiovascular system and on performing computational flow analyses of different aortic diseases.

Furthermore, by observing prof. Trimarchi during his work (I was situated in his office), I learned important skills about conducting research in general, but also about decision making in vascular surgery. He often explained why and how he would treat certain patients, which was a great learning experience. Additionally, I was able to join him at some conferences, contributing even more to my knowledge in the vascular surgical field.

Therefore, I would like to thank prof. Trimarchi for his fantastic support and guidance over the past months, and I hope I will be able to continue to work with him on common research goals over the coming year. Lastly, I would like to thank the ESVS for supporting me with the travel grand, making this experience possible.

Sincerely,

Arnoud Kamman