CONTENTS

Chapter 1 General introduction 1
Chapter 2 Associations between salivary cortisol and sociodemographic, sampling and health factors 17
Chapter 3 Major depressive disorder and hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis activity 43
Chapter 4 Anxiety disorders and hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis activity 67
Chapter 5 Parental history of depression or anxiety and the cortisol awakening response 85
Chapter 6 Psychological traits and the cortisol awakening response 101
Chapter 7 Does hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis activity predict the two-year course of depression and anxiety disorders? 121
Chapter 8 Are hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal-axis activity and autonomic nervous system activity associated with metabolic abnormalities? 139
Chapter 9 General discussion 159
Summary 185
Samenvatting 191
Dankwoord 197
Curriculum Vitae 201
Publications and dissertation series 205