1 **Introduction**  
   1.1 Variability in Biology  
   1.2 Chemotaxis in *E. coli*  
   1.3 Förster Resonance Energy Transfer  
   1.4 This Thesis  

2 **Measuring FRET in single bacteria**  
   2.1 Introduction  
   2.2 Developing a single-cell FRET protocol  
   2.3 Summary  
   2.4 Strains and Plasmids  

3 **Generation and attenuation of phenotypic diversity**  
   3.1 Introduction  
   3.2 Single-cell FRET reveals strong variation in signaling parameters  
   3.3 Modulation of ligand response diversity during population growth  
   3.4 CheB phosphorylation feedback attenuates cell-to-cell variation  
   3.5 Discussion  
   3.6 Materials and Methods  

4 **Direct observation of temporal signaling variability in single bacteria**  
   4.1 Introduction  
   4.2 Results  
   4.3 Discussion  
   4.4 Materials and Methods  

---
**Contents**

4.5 Appendix 107

5 Stochastic two-state switching in chemoreceptor activity 111
   5.1 Introduction 112
   5.2 Results 113
   5.3 Discussion 124
   5.4 Materials and Methods 127

6 The Molecular Origins of Signal Amplification 129
   6.1 Introduction 130
   6.2 The necessity of single-cell measurement techniques 132
   6.3 Cooperativity defects in single-cell ligand sensing 133
   6.4 Signalling response dynamics of chemoreceptor arrays 137
   6.5 Discussion 146
   6.6 Methods 149

References 151

Summary 169

Samenvatting 171

About the author 173

Acknowledgements 175