# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**Introduction** 7

**Part 1: Pathogens in the vaginal tract and their interaction with the immune system**

**Chapter 1** Effect of cytokine level variations in individuals on the progression and outcome of bacterial urogenital infections – a meta-analysis 27

**Chapter 2** CpG DNA analysis of bacterial STDs 49

**Chapter 3** Host polymorphisms in TLR9 and IL10 are associated with the outcomes of experimental Haemophilus ducreyi infection in human volunteers 67

**Part 2: The interaction between the vaginal microbiota and host reproductive health**

**Chapter 4** The two-sided role of the vaginal microbiome in Chlamydia trachomatis and Mycoplasma genitalium pathogenesis 87

**Chapter 5** The relation of the vaginal microbiota to early pregnancy development during In Vitro Fertilization treatment – A meta-analysis 107

**Chapter 6** The ReceptIVFity cohort study protocol to validate the urogenital microbiome as predictor for IVF or IVF/ICSI outcome 125

**Chapter 7** The vaginal microbiome as a predictor for outcome of in-vitro fertilization with or without intracytoplasmic sperm injection: a prospective study 143

**Chapter 8** The profiling of microbiota in vaginal and urine samples using 16s rRNA gene sequencing and IS-pro analysis 171

**Discussion** 193

**Summary** 218

**Samenvatting** 226

**About the author** 231

**Dankwoord** 235