

PhD position | Examining adaptive and maladaptive emotions in patients with cancer (36,0 hrs)

Psychiatry & Medical Oncology

What will you do

The diagnosis of cancer leads to a wide range of emotions. In the field of mental health, it is generally acknowledged that a distinction needs to be made between normal and adaptive emotions versus maladaptive and psychopathological emotions. Current measurement instruments fail to make this distinction. The project aims to identify indicators distinguishing between adaptive and maladaptive emotions in patients with cancer.

Patients with colorectal cancer are categorized as having 'adaptive emotions' or 'maladaptive emotions', using a professional interview. In all patients, we assess emotional symptoms, cancer-treatment related symptoms, and interference with activities, via mobile phone (ecological momentary assessment, EMA); patients are followed for two weeks. The data is used to test a series of hypotheses on indicators distinguishing between adaptive and maladaptive emotions in patients with cancer; these hypotheses have been derived from recent innovative developments in the field of mental health (specifically the network theory on mental disorders, emotion dynamics, and life goals theory).

As a PhD student your main tasks will be:

- Development of the test protocol (EMA, interviews)
- Arranging the recruitment of patients
- Data gathering, processing, and analyses
- Writing of 4 empirical papers and 1 theoretical review paper in international peer-reviewed journals
- Writing a PhD thesis based on high-quality internationally peer reviewed publications.
- Training in essential research skills is part of the appointment as a PhD student
- Presentation of findings at (inter)national conferences.

What do we expect

We are looking for an ambitious, accurate and well organized PhD student with an independent and pro-active attitude who likes to have a wide range of task and responsibilities within the project.

You also have the following qualifications:

- A completed (research) master in medicine, psychology, health science, or a related discipline
- Interested in the interface between research and clinical practice, and between mental and somatic health
- Affinity or experience with statistical data-analysis
- Dutch as native language; excellent communication skills in English
- Demonstrable organization skills and experience with working in multi-disciplinary project team is a plus.

Your working environment

The project involves close collaboration between the departments of Psychiatry and Medical Oncology, Amsterdam UMC (location VUmc). Both departments are conducting research, education and academic patient care. The main focus of the department of Psychiatry is on depression and anxiety disorders, two common psychiatric disorders with high public health impact. The department of Medical Oncology is focusing on new chemotherapies and new strategies of anticancer treatment, as well as palliative care. The department of Medical Oncology at Radboud UMC and other hospitals are also involved. The close collaboration between these various departments results in a highly interesting, multidisciplinary PhD project, at the interface between mental and somatic health.

VACANCY

What we offer

Salary scale: OIO (2357 tot 3020 euro based on a 36 hour week), depending on qualifications and experience.

In addition we give a bonus of 8,3% of the year's salary at the end of the year and 8% of the year's salary as holiday bonus. VUmc employees can profit from a advantageous health care insurance and other benefits. For more information see our [website](#).

For Dutch citizens it is mandatory to provide a VOG (a declaration of good behaviour).

Further information

- Deadline for applications: 1 March 2019
- Date for interviews: Monday 18 or Tuesday 19 March 2019
- Starting date: May 2019
- The project is funded by KWF Kanker Bestrijding/Dutch Cancer Society.

Let's meet up

For more information about this position, you can contact prof.dr. Joost Dekker (psychologist), via telephone number: 020-444 0763, or with prof. dr. Henk Verheul (medical oncologist), via telephone number: 020-444 4321.

For more information about the application procedure, you can contact Brend de Jong, corporate recruiter, via telephone number: 020-444 5635.