

# PhD student - perspectives in the optimization of individualized (breast) cancer follow-up

The department for Health Technology and Services Research (HTSR) researches the effectiveness of new medical technology, facilities and forms of care. Research involves specialist medical fields, including laboratory diagnostics, acute care, oncology and youth health care. The research group maintains close contacts with various health care institutions, such as academic and large teaching hospitals. The Health Services group is also responsible for tertiary courses and educational programmes in health care sciences, biomedical technology and technical medicine. More information about HTSR, see [www.mb.utwente.nl/htsr](http://www.mb.utwente.nl/htsr).

## De uitdaging / The challenge

Cancer will become a tremendous burden in the coming years, as in 2020 it is expected that more than 160,000 new cancer cases will be diagnosed of which about 20,000 new breast cancer cases. Due to earlier detection (screening) and better treatment the survival increases, which increases the number of cancer survivors in follow-up. This follow-up aims to detect loco regional recurrences at an early stage but is subject of controversy and conflicting expectations. Whereas the clinical value of a long-follow up (e.g. 5 years) is not obvious in terms of the probability of detecting a tumour recurrence, cancer survivors generally do prefer this long follow-ups. Previous work, based on data from the Netherlands Cancer Registry (NCR), has shown that it is possible to discriminate patients with a high and low recurrence risk. Based on these different risk profiles it is possible to design personalized follow-up schemes. The present study is designed to answer three questions related to the optimization of follow-up schemes, i.e. (1) what is the risk patients perceive, (2) what is the preference of patients for a predefined follow-up scheme and (3) what is the optimal personalized follow-up scheme based on the resources required to carry out the follow-up, the specific detection methods used (e.g. MRI) and the preference toward a specific follow-up strategy.

## Ons aanbod / Our offer

We offer a full-time appointment (38 hours a week), for a period of four years. Our PhD students have opportunities to broaden their knowledge by joining international exchange programs, by participating in national and international conferences and workshops, and by visiting other research institutes and universities worldwide. The monthly salary of a PhD student, in accordance with the Dutch universities collective labour agreement, ranges from € 2042,- gross per month in the first year to € 2612,- gross per month in the fourth year.

## Information and application

The project is a part of an ongoing collaboration between the Netherlands Cancer Registry and University of Twente. For more information on this position you can contact Dr. Sabine Siesling, e-mail: [s.siesling@utwente.nl](mailto:s.siesling@utwente.nl) dr. Ingrid Vliegen, [i.h.m.vliegen@utwente.nl](mailto:i.h.m.vliegen@utwente.nl) or Prof.dr. Maarten IJzerman, [m.j.ijzerman@utwente.nl](mailto:m.j.ijzerman@utwente.nl) (phone: +31 53 4895410).

To apply for this position, please fill in the application form including your resume and list of publications on the application link below before 1 November 2012.

**WEBSITE:** <http://www.utwente.nl/vacatures/en/>

### **Uw profiel / Your profile**

We are searching for an ambitious person with a MSc in health sciences/epidemiology or (health) operations research. The PhD position is open to persons with strong quantitative skills (statistical modeling and simulation) and a clear interest to combine clinical and patient perspectives in the modeling work. It is important to work in a multidisciplinary team involving patients, clinicians and academics. You should be able to communicate in writing and oral about your work. You will also be given the opportunity to acquire some teaching experience.

### **De organisatie / The organisation**

**The University of Twente.** We stand for life sciences and technology. High tech and human touch. Education and research that matter. New technology which drives change, innovation and progress in society. The University of Twente is the only campus university in the Netherlands; divided over six faculties we provide more than fifty educational programmes. The University of Twente has a strong focus on personal development and talented researchers are given scope for carrying out pioneering research.

**The School of Management and Governance (SMG)** strives to hold a leading position in the field of business and social sciences and to do joint education and research with the technical schools of the University of Twente. The school focuses on management, governance, innovation, technology and entrepreneurship. In all these fields, the school provides bachelor, master and professional development programmes. In addition, scientific and applied research is carried out in various branches, such as health care, higher education, banking, and services business. Research is accommodated within the university research institutes: The Institute for Governance Studies (IGS), and the Centre for Telematics and Information Technology (CTIT). The school has approximately 350 staff and 2,200 students