



Hello AFNORTH,

Thank you very much!

THANKS

Dear students and staff of AFNORTH international school. Thank you very much for your commitment and donation to the Kankeronderzoekfonds Limburg. We would like to tell you what happens with your donation.



**Kankeronderzoekfonds
LIMBURG**



Health
Foundation
Limburg



WHO WE ARE
Kankeronderzoekfonds
Limburg is a regional fund.
Your donation will go to
research in the Maastricht
UMC+ and partner hospitals in
Limburg where doctors and
researchers are working hard
for a world in which cancer can
be treated better and better.



**Kankeronderzoekfonds
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KWF
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WHY WE EXIST

Cancer is the number one cause of death in the Netherlands. In 2019, 45,000 people died as a result of this disease. Funding for research focused on prevention and treatment is therefore literally vital.



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OUR RESEARCH

Kankeronderzoekfonds Limburg finances pioneering and promising research projects on cancer in the Maastricht UMC+ and Limburg partner hospitals. We are currently contributing to 6 different research projects.



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Project 1: Recovery of feeling in the reconstructed breast

Breast amputation is often a far-reaching experience for women. Nowadays, 'for the eye', very nice results can be achieved with breast reconstructions. Only the feeling in the breast is missing in the traditional procedure and this is an extra loss for many women. Doctors at the Maastricht UMC+ have developed a way of preserving the feeling in the new breast. This seems to have a major impact on the quality of life. The doctors would like to further improve the technique and scientifically demonstrate exactly what the positive effect means.



"At one point our medical tattoo artist came to me and she said to me: "I don't know what you do wrong with your patients, but specifically your patients feel pain when I put a tattoo on them", and then I thought to myself: "Yes! Pain is wet"

Dr. Stefania Tuinder

Project 2: Killer cell: the soldier who cleans up cancer cells

You can see them as soldiers in your body, eliminating the 'bad guys'. The 'bad guys' in this case are cancer cells. Killer cells are an important part of our immune system, which prevents us from becoming ill. But sometimes cancer cells manage to bypass these killer cells. Researchers in Maastricht therefore make extra strong killer cells in the laboratory. The aim is to give them to patients whose own killer cells do not work properly in the future. In this way, the treatment of first bone marrow and breast cancer, but later also other forms of cancer, can be improved.



"An activated immune system can fight cancer in the near future!"

Prof. dr. Gerard Bos

Project 3: A scan instead of breast cancer surgery

If you turn out to have breast cancer, the next question is: are there any metastases? To be able to say that, the armpit gland is removed: the 'sentinel gland operation'. Unfortunately, this operation leaves many women with long-term complaints. While after eight out of ten operations it turns out that the lymph nodes are clean. A group of Maastricht researchers thought that there must be something to be done about this. They are the only ones in the world to look at whether the sentinel gland operation can be replaced by a PET-MRI scan. And that seems to be the case.



"We hope to be able to contribute to improving treatment methods and improving the quality of life of breast cancer patients, both in the short and long term"

Prof. dr. Marjolein Smidt

Project 4: Recognizing kidney cancer by urine biomarkers

Kidney cancer is currently the 9th most common cancer in men and the 10th most common cancer in women. Almost 3,000 new cases of kidney cancer are diagnosed in the Netherlands every year. About half of people with kidney cancer experience no symptoms, and often tumours are diagnosed by chance during imaging for other symptoms or only at a late stage, when symptoms do occur. Kidney cancer in an advanced stage, with metastases, is associated with low survival rates. To improve the outlook for kidney cancer, it is important to improve the diagnosis of kidney cancer and to recognise kidney cancer with an unfavourable course at an earlier stage.



"Early detection of cancer is very important; patient-friendly biomarkers play a major role in this"

Dr. Kim Smits

Project 5: Therapycombie for lung cancer

If you have lung cancer, you often get a combination of treatments. Radiotherapy (radiotherapy) is an important component, alongside chemotherapy and immunotherapy, for example. However, not much is known about which combination, in which dose, for which form of lung cancer is best. A group of Maastricht researchers is leading the first study into this. With an important role for "mini organs".



"We are investigating how we can ensure that, together with the patient, we can achieve maximum function retention and at the same time generate our own defence against cancer"

Prof. dr. Dirk de Ruyscher

Project 6: Energetic life after colorectal cancer: #hat?

More and more people survive colorectal cancer, partly thanks to improved treatments. Unfortunately, after that they often suffer from physical complaints and are chronically tired. This has a major impact on their quality of life. Scientists in Maastricht are investigating whether eating and exercising differently can play a positive role in this. So that ex-patients have more energy for the rest of their lives. The study is called EnCoRe, which stands for: 'Energy for life after ColoRectal cancer'. Because if you survive cancer, you really want to be able to enjoy it.



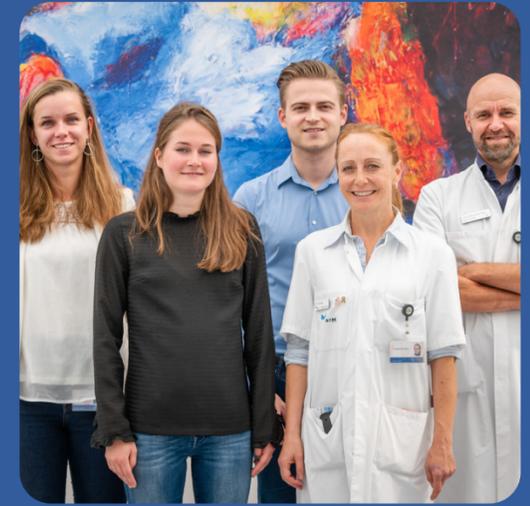
"Money is needed to ensure that my colleagues and I can continue our work. More money also means more research resulting in better cancer treatment"

Prof. Dr. Manon van Engeland



On behalf of these...





..and these researchers and many more.

Thank you very much!



And hopefully until next year!



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