**Geriatric Oncology in the Netherlands   
2013-2015**

***GeriOnNe***

*GeriOnNe (Geriatric Oncology Netherlands) is a foundation established in 2004 addressing specific problems of elderly cancer patients in the Netherlands. Over 40% of all cancer patients are older than 70. In order to improve the care of this constantly growing population, GeriOnNe has set up working groups on Research, Education and Care - which include medical and paramedical professionals.*

**Research**

For elderly patients with breast cancer, lung cancer and colorectal cancer national RCT's and cohort studies have been initiated in the past years (Climb-, Elder-, Aspirine-, Eldapt study).

An increasing number of publications have been generated from the national cancer registries on the subject of elderly patients with cancer.

The national cancer registry (IKNL) has initiated "experimental (research) gardens" for geriatric oncology in 4 academic and teaching hospitals to establish elderly specific registries for cancer. Partnership has been established with the breast cancer study group (BOOG), that recently founded the TOP consortium for breast cancer research in the elderly.

**Education**

November 2015: the 6th National Symposium on Geriatric Oncology will be held for 300 doctors and nurses participating.

GeriOnNe has yearly large contributions to the program of the national congress for oncology nurses.

An online tool was developed in collaboration with the IKNL organisation to educate nurses and oncology fellows on the subject of geriatric oncology.

**Care**

In several academic and teaching hospitals, geriatric screening and assessment have been introduced as standard care for patients >70 years and geriatric teams increasingly contribute in the multidisciplinary oncology teams.

Geriatric oncology gains popularity among oncology nurses. In collaboration with GeriOnNe, KWF (Koningin Wilhelmina Fonds = Largest cancer research funding partner in the Netherlands) has funded about 20 projects to improve care for elderly patients with cancer. Examples of project topics:

* Improving palliative care
* Communication and online tools
* E-learning for oncologists
* Self management
* Treatment decisions for frail elderly
* Patient preferences

**Guidelines**

The Dutch scientific societies of geriatrics and internal medicine are developing a tool to make guidelines "elderly-proof".