

Jury report RIHS Societal Impact Award 2016

The RIHS Societal Impact Award is awarded to a RIHS research product with a high impact on society in 2016. The product should be based on a RIHS project and can have many forms. The nominated researcher(s)/group should have played a significant part in the development of the product and this must be part of his/her RIHS work activities.

According to the set procedure, all RIHS researchers received a request to nominate products for the Societal Impact Award 2016. In total, 4 products were nominated.

These nominated products were judged by the jury, consisting of Dr Carla van Herpen (chair), Prof. Nicole Blijlevens and Prof. Rob Baltussen and, according to the following criteria:

- Societal relevance
- Media attention
- Innovative aspect

Use in guidelines or policy documents and demonstrable implementation in healthcare market were also assessed.

After careful consideration, the jury unanimously came to the following view:

The **winner** of the RIHS Societal Impact Award 2016 is **the PhD thesis “Decision making by relatives of eligible brain dead organ donors” of Jack de Groot**. As a spiritual caregiver Jack noticed the inconvenience among families who were confronted with a request for donation. This motivated him to start with his PhD research on how requests for postmortal organ donation are experienced. He investigated how requests are made of families whose permission is sought to extract the organs of their loved ones: eligible brain-dead donors. The primary focus was on careful decision making and satisfaction on the part of the relatives with the decision. According to the jury the product is highly relevant, innovative and patient-centred. The jury liked the connection that was made with society and with the actual political debate about organ donation; Jack was frequently asked by politicians to give his vision. Furthermore, they liked the fact that the methods that are described in the thesis can be used for moral counselling in other areas than organ donation. Training modules were already developed for this purpose. According to the jury we can be proud of this Dutch initiative!

Dr Carla van Herpen (chair)

Prof. Nicole Blijlevens

Prof. Rob Baltussen