

Award

Jury report RIHS PhD Award 2016

True to tradition, a PhD award will be awarded to the best thesis of 2016 within the Radboud Institute for Health Sciences (RIHS).

According to the set procedure, all RIHS researchers received a request to nominate outstanding PhD graduates for the PhD award 2016. In total, 7 out of 85 theses from 2016 were nominated.

These nominated theses were judged by the jury, consisting of Dr Teun Bousema (chair), Prof. Peter Siersema and Dr Chris Verhaak, according to the following criteria:

- Originality / innovative character of research
- Scientific quality
- Relevance of the research within the RIHS' field of knowledge, societal impact and clinical relevance

Based on the summaries, the three best were selected. Subsequently, these three best theses were read and consequently ranked according to the abovementioned criteria.

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

In **second place**, the jury selected the thesis by **Ingrid Sturkenboom**, entitled '**Occupational therapy for people with Parkinson's disease: towards evidence-informed care**'. The thesis is built on best practice guidelines and develops and tests efficacy and economic value of a complex occupational therapy intervention, followed by a rigorous process evaluation to inform further implementation. The intervention was first tested in a feasibility study to find and test outcome variables which would be responsive to the innovative personalized approach of patients and caregivers. Ingrid published this first RCT of occupational therapy in Parkinson's disease in the top journal Lancet Neurology. Other papers were also published in high ranking journals, which is exceptional for an occupational therapist. Ingrid received a *cum laude* award for her thesis. According to the jury the research has a large clinical relevance and the practical applicability is evident. Her study will certainly have a positive impact on the care of Parkinson's patients.

Dr Teun Bousema (chair)

Prof. Peter Siersema

Dr Chris Verhaak