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FACULTEIT GENEESKUNDE EN FARMACIE

Doctoraat in de Medische Wetenschappen
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UITNODIGING

Voor de openbare verdediging van het doctoraatsproefschrift van

Marie Beatrice D'HOOGHE

dinsdag 17 april 2012

U wordt vriendelijk uitgenodigd op de openbare verdediging van het proefschrift van

Marie Beatrice D'HOOGHE

'Factors associated with disability progression in multiple sclerosis'

Op **dinsdag 17 april 2012** om **17 uur** in auditorium **R. Vanden Driessche** van de Faculteit Geneeskunde & Farmacie Laarbeeklaan 103, 1090 Brussel

Situering van het proefschrift

The mechanisms underlying clinical heterogeneity in multiple sclerosis (MS) are poorly understood. Evidence suggests that modifiable factors can influence relapses and disability in MS. We studied associations of several explanatory variables in relation to the progression of disability in MS. We used the time to EDSS 6 as measure of disability progression. This step, requiring a cane or support to walk a distance of 100 m, is considered to be a milestone in the progression of MS. In a cohort of women with predominantly relapsing onset MS, having children after MS onset was associated with a reduced risk to reach EDSS 6 compared to not having children after MS onset. In participants, registered by the Flemish MS society, stratifying the analysis according to relapsing onset and progressive onset MS resulted in different patterns of associations for reproductive events, sun exposure, consumption patterns and health promotion behaviour.
The design of the studies does not allow to establish a causal relationship. However, the difference in assocations between relapsing onset and progressive onset MS lends support to the hypothesis that different mechanisms are underlying progression of disability.

Curriculum Vitae

Marie Beatrice D'hooghe was born on May 11th, 1959 in Bruges, Belgium. After completing primary school in the atheneum in Grimbergen and secondary school in the Maria Assumptalyceum in Brussels, she started to study medicine at the University of Leuven. She graduated magna cum laude as « Doctor in de Genees-, Heel- en Verloskunde » in June 1984. Prof. R. Van den Bergh and subsequently prof. H. Carton, head of the department neurology at the University Hospital of Leuven, supervised her training in neurology from 1984 until 1988. She had the opportunity to be temporarily involved in multiple sclerosis research activities in the MS Clinic of prof. G. Ebers at the University Hospital of London Ontario, Canada and then completed her education in the University Center in Kortenberg. In January 1990, she starts working as clinical neurologist in the National MS Center, Melsbroek. She is involved in multidisciplinary patient care and has participated in several clinical trials with immunomodulatory and symptomatic medications. Since November 2011, she is consultant neurology in UZ Brussel.
She is a member of the general assemblee of the MS Society, Flanders and the medical advisory board of the National MS Society in Belgium.
She is married to Jan De Meue since 1984. They have 3 children, Elisabeth, Sebastiaan and Heleen.