INVITATION to the Public defence of

Mathijs GOOSSENS

To obtain the academic degree of 'DOCTOR IN MEDICAL SCIENCES'

Breast cancer risk and population-based cancer screening programmes.

Wednesday 21 June 2017
Auditorium P. Brouwer, 17:00
Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy, Laarbeeklaan 103, 1090 Brussel

How to reach the campus Jette:
http://www.vub.ac.be/english/infoabout/campuses
Summary of the dissertation

Breast cancer is an important health problem, globally it is one of the cancers with the highest mortality and it is the leading cause of cancer death in females in many Western countries. In the European Union alone, the estimated incidence and mortality for breast cancer in 2012 was 358,967 cases of breast cancer and 90,665 deaths attributable to breast cancer. Mammographic Breast Cancer Screening (MBCS) is the only breast cancer screening test with a proven capacity to reduce breast cancer mortality. However, MBCS is not perfect: besides the advantage on mortality it also has disadvantages such as overdiagnosis (and incurring overtreatment) and false-positive recall.

Flanders has an organised government sponsored MBCS programme. This PhD was written to answer questions brought forward in discussions with experts working in the MBCS programme.

In the first paper, we addressed the need for accurate cancer risk estimates appropriate for inclusion in informed decision making. In the second paper, we investigated the reasons for drop-out by quantifying independent risk factors for failing to rescreen and built a model to predict how rescreening rates change if these risk factors would be modified. In the third paper, we showed that the women who are most likely to drop out, those with a false-positive screening result, are also women who are at an increased risk for breast cancer.

Curriculum Vitae

Education:
Universiteit Antwerpen
Master of Science in Epidemiology 2012 – 2014
Summa cum laude
Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Bachelor & Master of Science in Medicine 1997 – 2006
Magna cum laude

Career:
Programme manager of mammographic screening, Flanders Centre for Cancer Detection - University Hospital Brussels. Jul 2016 – Present
Branch manager of mammographic screening programme, Flanders Centre for Cancer Detection - University Hospital Brussels. Feb 2015 – Jun 2016
Scientific collaborator in mammographic screening program, Flanders Centre for Cancer Detection - University Hospital Brussels. Aug 2006 – Feb 2010