

## **Research Internship (3 months): Patient Journey Mapping for Cancer Patients with limited Health Literacy**

### Background

Patients with limited health literacy often have more difficulty participating in conversations about their treatment options. From literature we know that this patient group more often chooses for invasive treatment and have more regret about their treatment decision afterwards. However, it is still unknown what strategies they use in decision-making and what other factors influence their decision. We are currently investigating the decision-making process of patients with limited health literacy in order to identify opportunities to enhance communication methods. In this project, we follow the care trajectories of esophageal and gastric cancer patients who have limited health literacy. The project, funded by the Dutch Cancer Foundation KWF, is a joint project of Amsterdam UMC and TU Delft.

### Assignment

Based on the data we collected so far, we would like to create a patient journey to better understand the decision-making process of esophageal and gastric cancer patients who have limited health literacy and identify interesting design opportunities to enhance communication methods. This patient journey will be used as input for follow-up co-creation sessions in which we will either improve the current or create new communication methods for patients with limited health literacy.

Furthermore, we offer the opportunity to collect and analyze your own data. The patient journey can be discussed with the involved clinicians at Amsterdam UMC (oncologists, radiotherapists, surgeons, nurses, etc.) and elaborated with their perspectives.

The research project will be completed with a paper.

### Who are we looking for?

We are looking for a student who is curious to explore healthcare settings and fluent in Dutch, as most collected research data is in Dutch. And of course, you love doing research and academic writing.

### Where do you work?

We offer a comfortable workplace at Amsterdam UMC, at the department Public and Occupational Health (location VUmc). Within the department, you will be part of the RISC research group and involved in the meetings with the RISC group.

Researchers involved in your project are dr. Marijke Melles (TU Delft), dr. Olga Damman (Amsterdam UMC), and drs. Merel van Eick (Amsterdam UMC). You will have regular meetings with the team.

Start date: September 2024

### Interested?

For inquiries or to apply, please contact Merel van Eick at [m.vaneick@amsterdamumc.nl](mailto:m.vaneick@amsterdamumc.nl).