Policy plan PSD Research Foundation

This policy plan has been established on July 14th of 2021 by the members of the PSD research foundation, Boudewijn Toorenvliet, Robert Smeenk and Christel de Raaff.

This plan is meant for the next two years to raise funding for research and has the aim to direct towards a long-term mission to improve the healthcare for patients with pilonidal sinus disease (PSD) in the Netherlands, but ultimately also abroad.

Our vision and mission

Our vision entails the awareness of a lack of scientific research regarding the optimal surgical treatment for pilonidal sinus disease. Because of the paucity of research in this field the aim of our foundation is to initiate and continue proper and high quality scientific research on PSD. This research will be performed by certified and trained research physicians under the supervision of the members of this foundation, where necessary added by other specialists in the field and colleagues such as epidemiologists, methodologists and implementation experts. The costs for this research will be paid by the foundation through raised funding. Our ultimate goal is to improve surgical healthcare for patients with pilonidal sinus in the Netherlands by performing research that improves knowledge on PSD, optimizes patient selection, and improves management and surgical treatment in the broadest manner.

Ambition

Our ambition is to raise enough funding to facilitate and/or financially support research physician(s) to initiate and continue the proposed research. The support given from our foundation should lead to (inter)national publications and a PhD for the researcher. Also these publications will be used in the national guideline for surgical treatment for pilonidal disease and to persuade Dutch surgeons to change their practice where needed.

The foundation will also organise meetings, symposia and other activities to promote awareness for pilonidal sinus disease, to raise funding and to teach (future) colleagues, but also wound nurses and other medical professions that treat this disease.

On the website of the foundation, we will report on the projects that are or have been performed and its successes. Also we will report on the amount of funding. Every 6 months there will be an update of fund raising, and the aim is to raise funding of at least 30.000 euro each year in order to finance the researcher, projects, meetings and symposia.

Strengths and shortcomings

Our strength is the experience of the members in the field of surgical treatment for pilonidal disease and scientific research on this matter. A national prospective cohort snapshot study has been implemented with success, currently several manuscripts are in preparation and different surgical techniques (minimal invasive and transposition flaps) are performed by the members.

The weakness is the lack of basic funding. Several large subsidy requests (>100.000 euro) have been done until now without success, although we did succeed in a local subsidy of 45.000 euro for a researcher that set up the national snap shot study.

Strategy

1. Fund raising by organising projects/meetings, such as a bicycle tour and writing beneficial societies (Rotary, Round Table) or benefit lotteries such as the Postcode Loterij or Staatsloterij.
2. The foundation will write several letters to possible donators or encounter them in person.
3. In case of enough funding a research physician will be hired in order to perform the intended research on pilonidal sinus disease. A temporary contract is mandatory for one year with possible lengthening to 2 years maximum.
4. The researcher will be under direct supervision of the members of the foundation. In case of a possible PhD path a promotor will be searched in the regional Academic Center Erasmus MC.
5. Every 6 months the progress will be evaluated and published. Donators will be updated every 6 months as well.
6. Symposia, training and or teaching for surgeons (in training) will be performed.
7. Results such as successful symposia and courses, but publications and PhD's as well, will be published on the website www.psdresearch.nl