**International Research Travel Award Application Statement - Sarah Wennmacker**

For the 2019 ASC two projects of our research group (besides myself consistent of a second PhD student, radiologist, pathologist, gastroenterologist, and two surgeons from Radboudumc Nijmegen, the Netherlands) are accepted for presentation. Both projects were designed to improve pre-operative work-up and diagnosis of gallbladder polyps. In the first project we aimed to retrospectively establish clinical and radiological characteristics of neoplastic gallbladder polyps. We found that only 39% of patient who underwent cholecystectomy for gallbladder polyps had a neoplastic polyp. Additionally, we showed older age to be associated with neoplasia, but most importantly that specificity for establishing polyp size and neoplasia by ultrasound was poor, resulting in overtreatment of patients with gallbladder polyps.
In the second project we prospectively evaluated sonographic characteristics of different types of gallbladder polyps and, to our knowledge, are the first to evaluate differential diagnosis of polyps on MRI. Cholesterol polyps were the only polyp type with high signal intensity on T1WI, and adenoma with foci of high grade dysplasia showed foci of low ADC value. In this project we illustrated improvement of pre-operative work-up by dedicated transabdominal ultrasound and MRI.
Both projects were conducted as part of my PhD trajectory, for which subsidy ended in January 2018. As my ambitions in research are big, most research projects were still ongoing. Currently I am finishing my PhD on a voluntary bases, without financial support. Therefore, financial assistant from the ASC Travel Award would be a great contribution, to visit and present our projects at the 2019 ASC.

Applicant information
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