**International research travel awards application statement.**

Dear Sir/Madam,

The aim of this research project is to improve the prospects of gallbladder cancer patients through epidemiological, clinical and translational research.

The paper which will be presented concerns a national, population-based cohort study on the treatment and survival of gallbladder cancer. Little to no data is available regarding treatment and survival of gallbladder cancer patients in Western populations and prognosis remains extremely poor. Population-based data are essential in order to be able to better inform patients about their prognosis and identify opportunities for improvement and future research. This paper provides unique data on trends in incidence, treatment and survival of 2500 patients with gallbladder patients throughout a 15 year study period in a low-incidence area.

The research project is a collaborative effort by members of the department of Surgery and Pathology of the Radboudumc hospital. The research of the department of Pathology aims to identify the molecular mechanisms involved in the development of gallbladder cancer by Whole Exome Sequencing (WES) in order to identify targets for personalised medicine. However, WES is expensive and our current funding is already insufficient to cover these costs. Attending the ASC, although a wonderful opportunity, would mean a further cut in the budget for molecular research and is therefore impossible without additional external funding such as the Travel Grant.

I hereby express my gratitude for your consideration and sincerely hope that you accept my application.

Sincerely,

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