**Application for the International Research Travel Awards for the 2019 Academic Surgical Congress Practice variation in gallbladder and inguinal hernia surgery**

Dear sir/madam,

I am delighted to be invited to present my work on practice variation in gallbladder and inguinal hernia surgery at the Academic Surgical Congress. In our study including approximately 90,000 patients, the difference in operation rate ranged between centers ranged from 44.7% to 97.7% for patients with gallstones and from 22.1% to 96.5% for inguinal hernia patients. But the adjusted factor score of respectively 1.3 and 1.4 illustrates a low practice variation. I would like to present this work in Texas and explain the audience of your congress the potential causes of this relatively low practice variation compared to the US figures published by the Dartmouth Atlas of Healthcare.

We performed this research in a collaboration of a surgeon (P.R. de Reuver MD PhD), a PhD candidate ( S.Z. Wennmacker MD), a methodologist/epidemiologist (F. Atsma PhD), a health scientist (S. Groenewoud PhD) and a data scientists (M. Noordenbos PhD). I, Carmen Latenstein, am a medical student, combing my Master of Science with a PhD project. As this project was not well funded and compensation for my work was only available for a duration of two years, I am in need for financial support for my travel expenses . Hopefully the International Research Travel Award makes it possible for me to present the two oral presentations at the 2019 Academic Surgical Congress.

Yours sincerely,

Carmen

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