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PhD in Medical Sciences
2019-2020

INVITATION to the Public defense of

Anne ROGIERS

To obtain the academic degree of '**DOCTOR OF MEDICAL SCIENCES**'

Health related quality of life, psycho-social outcome and neurocognitive function in metastatic melanoma survivors treated with immune checkpoint inhibitors

The defense will take place digitally on

Wednesday, 8 July 2020 at 5 p.m.

Via Zoom meeting, accessible through the following link:

https://gf.vub.ac.be/redirects/PhD_defense_Anne_Rogiers.php

Summary of the dissertation

Until now there has been scarce information regarding the health-related quality of life (HRQOL) psychosocial and neurocognitive outcome of metastatic melanoma survivors experiencing disease control following immune checkpoint blockade.

Our results revealed that metastatic melanoma survivors, defined as patients who were in remission for at least 6 months, after initiating pembrolizumab are at risk of suffering from severe emotional distress, objective neurocognitive impairment, persistent fatigue and reduced HRQOL. Our study results also revealed that many long-term metastatic melanoma survivors successfully treated with ipilimumab and in remission of disease since at least two years, continue to suffer from emotional distress and neurocognitive impairment impacting on their HRQOL. Timely detection in order to offer multidisciplinary tailored care is imperative. Special attention to the survivors who suffered from neuroendocrine and neurological immune-related adverse events seems indicated.

Curriculum Vitae

Dr Anne Rogiers obtained her MD in 1994 at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel. After obtaining her specialist degree in 2001, Dr Anne Rogiers worked as clinical psychiatrist at the St Jan Ziekenhuis in Brussels and at the Federal Agency for Health and medicinal products. In this position, Dr Rogiers was appointed as a clinical expert at several occasions for the European Medicine Agency (EMA) and member of the Efficacy Working Party of the EMA. From 2012 until now, she is appointed as head of clinic of the Neurocognitive Remediation Clinic at the department of Psychiatry of the Brugmann University Hospital and participates in the supervision and the lectures for trainees in Psychiatry. Dr Rogiers is member of several national and international scientific societies, including the EORTC Melanoma and Quality of Life Group. Since the past 10 years, Dr Rogiers has built up clinical and scientific experience in the field of psychiatry, psycho-oncology and neuro-oncology as a clinician, as well a researcher. For this work she received an award from the Brugmann Foundation in 2017.