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PhD in Social Health Sciences
2020-2021

INVITATION to the Public defence of

Rose MIRANDA

To obtain the academic degree of

DOCTOR OF SOCIAL HEALTH SCIENCES

Palliative care for older people with dementia in nursing homes and at home: multi-country descriptive and interventional research

The defence will take place on

Wednesday, **1 September 2021 at 4 p.m.**

and will be organised **online**, accessible through the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85798368703>

Meeting ID: 857 9836 8703

Passcode: 826547

Summary of the dissertation

Dementia is a progressive, incurable condition, and a fast-growing number of older people affected by this condition experience multi-faceted care needs until the end of life. However, these care needs often remain unmet, and thus many of them still live with distressing symptoms and problems and die with discomfort. A palliative care approach has been advocated widely for older people with dementia, as it can comprehensively address their care needs with the hopes to alleviate suffering and distress and to ultimately improve their quality of life and comfort at the end of life. Yet, there remains a paucity of high-quality evidence on palliative care for this population, especially for those living in nursing homes and at home where the majority of them live, receive care and die. To address this critical knowledge gap, we conducted a multi-country descriptive and interventional research. First, we described how many people with dementia die in nursing homes, how these residents die in relation to their palliative care service use and comfort in the last week of life, and if there were changes over time, as well as evaluated whether a generalist palliative care programme for nursing homes affects comfort at the end of life and quality of care and dying of residents with dementia. Second, focused on older people with dementia living at home, we described the current quality of primary palliative care and the current evidence on palliative home care interventions, as well as evaluated the effects of palliative home care support on quality and costs of end of life care in Belgium. Finally, based on the crucial findings that were also published in international high-impact journals, we offer several critical implications for practice, future research and policy for older people with dementia living in nursing homes and at home.

Curriculum Vitae

Rose Miranda (°1986) has a Bachelor's degree in Nursing from the Philippines. She also has an Honour's Bachelor in Health Science and a Research Master in Global Health degrees from VU University Amsterdam, the Netherlands. While studying in Amsterdam, she also worked as a nursing aid for older people, including older people with dementia, who were living in the community. After completing her Research Master's degree, she started as an Early Stage Researcher within the Interdisciplinary Network for Dementia Using Current Technology (INDUCT), a prestigious and highly-competitive European Union-funded Marie-Skłodowska Curie Actions Innovative Training Network. As a part of INDUCT, Rose joined the End-of-Life Care Research Group (VUB-UGhent) in 2016 as a PhD researcher, working on several national and international research projects that include older people with dementia. During her PhD, Rose also completed a six-month research secondment at the University of Hertfordshire in the United Kingdom. Rose was supervised by Prof. Dr. Tinne Smets, Prof. Dr. Nele Van Den Noortgate, and Prof. Dr. Lieve Van den Block. All findings reported and discussed in her dissertation were published in international high-impact journals and presented in renowned national and international conferences, primarily in the domains of palliative care and dementia.