

## HOPE STUDY TOUR

FOR HOSPITAL AND HEALTHCARE DIRECTORS AND MANAGERS

### INTEGRATED HEALTH SERVICES, CROSS-BORDER CARE SOLUTIONS AND INNOVATION

20 and 21 March 2014

TERNEUZEN (the Netherlands) and LEUVEN (Belgium)

The Belgian and Dutch Hospital Associations, **Zorgnet Vlaanderen** and **Nederlandse Vereniging van Ziekenhuizen**, are proud to announce their first cross-border study tour. This study tour will show participants important developments in Belgian and Dutch curative care: the development of an integrated supply of healthcare services in rural regions and some examples of worldwide pioneering innovations.

**ZorgSaam Zeeuws Vlaanderen** is the organisation providing a broad range of healthcare services to the people of Zeeuws Vlaanderen, a region in the South-West of the Netherlands. This region is experiencing demographic changes that have led to an increase in the average age of its population and an accompanying change in demand for healthcare. At the same time Dutch governmental policies have led to increasing pressure on the costs of providing public services, with healthcare taking the bulk of recent cuts in government spending. In response to those trends, ZorgSaam Zeeuws Vlaanderen has developed an integrated approach to healthcare in this region. The organisation combines curative care, ambulance care, homecare and elderly care within one organisation. Moreover, the organisation has engaged actively in cooperating with Belgian (academic) hospitals across the border for the provision of high complex treatments and high complex emergency care. In doing so ZorgSaam Zeeuws Vlaanderen is able to continue offering the people of this rural region a full package of high quality healthcare services in the proximity of their homes.

Participants on the HOPE Study Tour will be shown the rationale behind the organisation of integrated care by ZorgSaam Zeeuws Vlaanderen. We will look into the financial arrangements of providing integrated care, the organisational structures enabling those services and innovative ways of delivering care that result from the integrated approach.

The **University Hospital of Leuven** is one of the largest hospitals of Belgium. It is widely known for its highly specialised care and it is one of Europe's leading research and innovative centres.

Participants on the HOPE Study Tour will discover two of its pioneering innovations.

One of the world's most complex track systems for laboratory analysis of blood or other samples (Prof.Dr. Johan Van Eldere). Using barcodes and colours, a computer leads the way for samples through the system. Robots and a conveyer replace human resources. Therefore the lab operates during 7 days per week and 24 hours a day. "Tracking" systems in laboratories are not new but this laboratory is one of the most complex worldwide for its diversity of samples and tests. The hospital laboratory of the University Hospital of Leuven is one of the biggest laboratories in Europe, performing over 30.000 tests a day on an average quantity of 8.000 samples.

Ex-vivo perfusion for preserving, assessing and reconditioning of donor lungs (Prof.Dr. G. Verleden & Prof.Dr. D. Van Raemdonck). When other medical or surgical treatments cannot improve their life quality or life expectation, lung transplantation is the ultimate treatment for patients with advanced respiratory illness. The availability of lung transplant treatment however is limited due to the limited availability of donor lungs (in Belgium  $\pm 25\%$  of  $\pm 300$  deceased donors per year). Therefore, since many years, researchers of the University Hospital of Leuven seek for possibilities to increase the amount of donor lungs. Throughout the years, they have become very well experienced in the "ex-vivo perfusion technique". By this technique, lungs can be preserved outside the human body. Recently, the University Hospital of Leuven started to use a lung machine (OCS™ Lung, Transmedics, Andover, MA, USA) through which this new technique becomes available for clinical practice in lung transplants. Due to participation in an international trial (Inspire), the researchers have become very experienced in the preserving technique. Next to *preserving*, the ex-vivo perfusion technique can also be used for *assessing* lungs (whereof the quality is not secure) before transplanting them.

In addition, using the ex-vivo perfusion technique might be useful also for *reconditioning* lungs that have been initially rejected due to its lower quality caused by inflammations. This has already proved to be successful in the case of two patients. The "ex-vivo perfusion technique" is therefore not only expected to generate more donor lungs but also to improve their quality.

(Van Raemdonck DEM, Verleden GM, Coosemans W, et al. Increasing the donor pool. *Eur Respir Mon* 2009; 45: 104.

Van Raemdonck D. Thoracic organs : current preservation technology and future prospects ; part 1 : lung. *Curr Opin Organ Transplant* 2010; 15 :150.

Van Raemdonck, Rega F, Neyrinck A. Ex vivo management of lungs. In: WT Vigneswaran, ER Garrity, eds. Lung Transplantation. New York, Informa Health Care, 2010:160-167.)

## Provisional programme

### 20 MARCH

#### ZORGSAAAM ZEEUWS VLAANDEREN, TERNEUZEN (THE NETHERLANDS)

- 08.30 Departure from Crowne Hotel Antwerp (Belgium)
- 09.30 Arrival at Hospital 'De Honte' in Terneuzen
- 10.00 Welcome by Paul Rademacher, President of the Board at ZorgSaam Zeeuws Vlaanderen and presentation
- Organisational structure of ZorgSaam Zeeuws Vlaanderen
  - Financing of homecare, long term care and curative care in the Netherlands
  - Cooperation with other hospitals in the region
- 10.45 Presentation by Joep Paulides, Member of the Board at ZorgSaam Zeeuws Vlaanderen
- Working at three locations
  - Experience oriented services
  - Obstetric healthcare network
  - IFMS
- 11.15 Presentation by Francis Colardyn, Member of the Board of Control of the University Hospital Gent (Belgium)
- Differences in financial arrangement between Belgium and the Netherlands and how to overcome them
- 11.45 Tour of the hospital
- Obstetric care
  - Emergency care
- 12.45 Lunch and discussion
- 13.45 Departure for location Antonius in Oostburg (the Netherlands)
- 15.00 Tour of the location
- 'Low cure'
  - Centre for sleep disorder
  - Cataract 'street'
- 16.00 Drinks and discussion
- 17.00 Departure for Antwerp (Crowne Plaza Hotel)

## 21 MARCH

### UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL OF LEUVEN (BELGIUM)

08.30 Departure from Crowne Hotel Antwerp (Belgium)

09.15 Arrival at University Hospital of Leuven

09.30 Visit, including guided tour

- The track system of the laboratory (Prof.Dr. Johan Van Eldere)
- The lung perfusion system (Prof.Dr. G. Verleden & Prof.Dr. D. Van Raemdonck)

12.30 Lunch

**For further information regarding the programme at ZorgSaam Zeeuws Vlaanderen in the Netherlands (Terneuzen) please contact:**

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## Costs

The costs for participating in the study tour are €300, including hotel accommodation on Thursday 20 March 2014 in a four star hotel in Antwerp, transportation from the hotel to ZorgSaam Zeeuws Vlaanderen and to University Hospital of Leuven, evening dinner on Thursday 20 March and lunches on Thursday 20 March and Friday 21 March.

## Application

The applicants are kindly requested to complete the attached application form in English and to send it by e-mail to [colberte@hope.be](mailto:colberte@hope.be). **The deadline for application is Friday 21 February 2014.**