

Evaluation and Optimization of Breast Cancer Screening Programs. Through the Lens of Europe

1. Breast cancer screening reduces breast cancer mortality, while the estimated reductions among screening attenders vary substantially across different study designs. (this thesis)
2. By further optimising screening coverage, the number of breast cancer deaths in Europe could be lowered substantially. (this thesis)
3. Differences in demographic structures, background risks and health care systems can lead to different versions of an “optimal” screening program among countries. (this thesis)
4. Public health decision makers need to be able to continuously evaluate cancer screening’s beneficial and harmful short- and long-term effects and to assess whether implemented changes achieve the expected impact. (this thesis)
5. Initiating feasible changes in breast cancer screening programs can lead to better long-term outcomes at acceptable costs. (this thesis)
6. We study health, and we deliberate upon our meats, and drink, and air, and exercises, and we hew, and we polish every stone that goes to that building; and so our health is a long and a regular work; but in a minute a cannon batters all. (Anne Boyer, *What Cancer Takes Away*, *The New Yorker* 2019)
7. Research is to see what everybody else has seen, and to think what nobody else has thought. (Albert Szent-Gyorgyi)
8. Wanneer we ooit geconfronteerd worden met een salsapandemie, ga ik met veel plezier luisteren naar wat jij als dansleraar te zeggen hebt. (Flemish virologist Marc van Ranst, 2021)
9. Children and research projects have a lot in common. Both can lead to sleepless nights, both require the mastery of specialist techniques, and people who are not parents or scientists often struggle to understand them. (Pewsey, *Elife*. 2018)
10. Openness could drive improvement, if simply through embarrassment. (Atul Gawande, *The Bell Curve*, 2004)
11. If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together. (African Proverb)