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HANS LEMIJ

Firstname: Hans

Surname: Lemij

Eye Hospital: Rotterdam Eye Hospital

Country: The Netherlands

Function: Ophthalmologist, head medical faculty

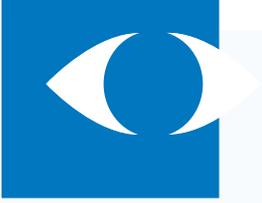


Fund raising for artificial intelligence

1. Involve your patients in fund raising
2. Put an involved action team together
3. Share a dream
4. Try all possible avenues and keep trying
5. Dare to ask for support

Summary

In The Netherlands, funding for research projects is usually acquired through grant applications to charitable trusts. Often, the requested amount of financial support greatly exceeds the granted amount. Searching for private donations is highly unusual. We wanted to embark on a large project for the early detection of glaucoma, a major cause of visual impairment and blindness in the world, to allow early treatment, thereby preventing large scale visual impairment. Artificial intelligence (AI) holds promise for the early detection of glaucoma, but not enough high quality data are available to develop adequate AI. As a first step, we therefore wanted to build such an appropriate dataset that could be used in a later stage, mostly by third parties, for the development of AI. Because the standard charitable trusts provided insufficient funding, other avenues were explored. By involving patients, putting together an executive committee, involving politicians and many others, sharing a dream with everyone, arranging a fund-raising dinner (with auction) in an appealing venue and applying for support from the usual charitable trusts, we were able to successfully secure the required € 400 K.



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Descriptive CV

Lemij is a glaucoma specialist at The Rotterdam Eye Hospital in The Netherlands. His own research activities focus primarily on glaucoma, with a special interest in structural and functional measurements. He has published over 90 papers on glaucoma in international peer-reviewed scientific journals, as well as a handful of chapters on glaucoma in various textbooks. He has given over 200 invited lectures in more than 30 countries. He is the president of the Dutch Glaucoma Group. He established the Imaging Morphometry Association for Glaucoma in Europe (IMAGE) in 2002, which had its 17th annual meeting in Barcelona earlier this year. Lemij also started a telemedicine project on glaucoma care, in which community-based optometrists play a key role. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Rotterdam Eye Hospital.