



To everyone who is so kind to read this.

Dear (unknown),

We were all justly proud of our national hero Maarten van der Weijden, when he won a huge amount for cancer research through his impressive Eleven Cities swimming tour. Once, when he had acute leukemia, it was unthinkable that he would put down such an enormous Olympic performance, would almost complete the Eleven Cities swim and make another attempt to swim the journey all the way to the end. This has all become possible thanks to a successful stem cell transplant.

Many fellow sufferers of Maarten also owe it to a stem cell transplant that they are still alive. This treatment is successfully performed in the Netherlands for patients with leukemia, lymph node cancer and multiple myeloma (Kahler's disease).

I myself have "only" chronic leukemia (CML). In the past, the only remedy for this was a bone marrow or stem cell transplant. Since the beginning of this century there have been other treatment methods, so that the disease usually remains manageable. But if the need is met, CML people, like other patients with blood cancer, can also receive a stem cell transplant in the Netherlands. Hospitals or insurance do not bother about this.

Thanks to my volunteer work at the Hematon Foundation, I have had a lot of contact with people for whom stem cell transplantation has offered a solution. But through that volunteer work, I also learned that other categories of patients could also benefit from such treatment. A group of MS patients in particular is eligible for this. But unfortunately the stem cell transplant in the Netherlands is not (yet) offered to them. MS success has achieved good success abroad and it is likely that this will happen in the Netherlands in the near future. But for some MS patients it is too late. They are still dependent on abroad, where the treatment is not reimbursed by the insurance. We try to draw attention to this case through all kinds of channels to help ensure that the Netherlands quickly joins the list of countries where MS patients can be treated. Unfortunately it is not that far yet.

A few weeks ago this case became very personal. The daughter of a good friend of mine, Marianne Tan Weenink, has MS. Marianne accepts her physical defects, but at all costs wants to prevent her mental capacities from being affected, which inevitably happens if no action is taken. After preliminary research it appears that a stem cell transplant in a specialized hospital in Moscow has more than 90% chance of success. Marianne wants to seize this opportunity with both hands. But, as said, she has to scrape together the money that is needed for this. She already has an amount of money, but that is not nearly enough. She was short of € 45,000 last week ...

Everyone who has read the above will understand that I want to help Marianne as much as possible; it is so unfair that in our country blood cancer patients can and MS patients cannot (yet) be helped. Time is running out and asking large funds makes little sense, as award procedures usually take a few months there.

Marianne therefore has its own promotion. More about that can be read on <https://www.geef.nl/nl/actie/mariannes-overwinning-op-ms/donateurs>

I don't like begging letters at all. But in this case I think I can inform my friends and ask them to distribute this letter through their network. I do not ask for a large amount. The intended goal can be achieved faster if this letter is further distributed. If too much money comes in, it goes to the MS

Foundation and the Op De Been Foundation, with which patients like Marianne can be helped in the future. But it is not nearly there yet, please help us first to reach the set goal!

I do not ask for a large amount. If 4000 people contribute € 10, the goal is quickly achieved. Can I therefore ask for that small amount for this promotion (more is of course always possible) and also ask urgently to share this letter further in my own network?

If you want to know more or have tips for sponsoring, you can of course email me!

With many thanks, of course also on behalf of Marianne,

Rien Jonkers