FACULTY OF PSYCHOLOGY AND EDUCATIONAL SCIENCES

Frailty in later life: a focus on the social environment and positive outcomes

Public defense to obtain the degree of
DOCTOR OF ADULT EDUCATIONAL SCIENCES

of

Mr. Daan Duppen

which will take place on

10 december 2018, 17:00
Promotiezaal (D.2.01, gebouw D, 2de verdieping)
Brussels Humanities, Sciences & Engineering Campus (Etterbeek)

How to reach the VUB: http://www.vub.ac.be/campus/brussels-humanities-sciences-engineering-campus
Pleinlaan 2 – 1050 Brussel

Please confirm your attendance before: 5/12/2018 via Daan.Duppen@vub.be

Jury:
INTERNAL:
Prof. dr. Tom Vanwing (Chair) (Vrije Universiteit Brussel, faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences)
Prof. dr. Reginald Deschepper (Vrije Universiteit Brussel, faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy)
Prof. dr. Maurice De Greef (Vrije Universiteit Brussel, faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences)

EXTERNAL:
Prof. dr. Jessie Dezutter (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences)
Dr. Leen Heylen (Thomas More university of applied sciences)

Promotors:
Prof. dr. Liesbeth De Donder (Vrije Universiteit Brussel, faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences)
Summary

This PhD research focused on two major topics concerning frailty in later life and was part of the interdisciplinary Detection, Support and Care for Older people: Prevention and Empowerment (D-SCOPE) project. The first aim of the PhD study concentrated on positive outcomes in frailty research. Research on frailty generally fixates on adverse or negative outcomes such as hospitalization, institutionalization, mortality or morbidity. This PhD aimed to develop positive outcomes such as well-being or quality of life. Results indicated that frail older adults can experience high levels of well-being despite being frail. In order to evaluate well-being in an older population, the short well-being instrument for older adults (SWIO) was developed.

The second aim of the PhD study focused on the social environment older adults live in. Environmental gerontology theory emphasizes that human ageing is too often separated from the environment, although the living environment is a vital place for older adults. The PhD demonstrated that the social environment is related to lower levels of frailty and higher levels of well-being. The social environment can also act as a catalyst for social participation for frail older adults. At last, non-care professionals who are frequently in contact with frail older adults (mailmen, pharmacists, local business owners and more) can have an antenna function in the detection of different types of frailty.

Curriculum Vitae

Daan Duppen (born 24 February 1981) graduated as a public health nurse in 2006 at Karel De Grote Hogeschool Antwerpen. After working in geriatric and psychogeriatric wards in national and international hospitals, he got a postgraduate in geriatric nursing in 2010 at VIVES Roeselare (former Katholieke Hogeschool Zuid-West Vlaanderen). While working as a teacher at CVO VSPW Gent, he obtained a Master of Science (MS), management, care and policy in gerontology at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel in 2014. During his master year, he did an internship at the New York Academy of Medicine in the Age-Friendly New York City Department. Since 2015, he works as predoctoral researcher at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel in the Belgian Ageing Studies research group and works within de D-SCOPE project. During his PhD, he was a research fellow at the University of Humanistic Studies (Utrecht).