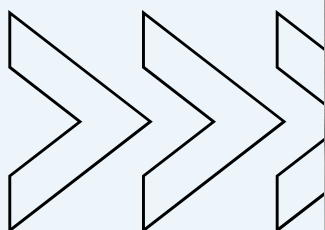


COLLOQUIUM RECAP



25 September 2024

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF THE FUTURE

During the third Healthy Start colloquium on 25 September at Sophia Children's Hospital, Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, we discussed the children's hospital of the future with a group of over 100 scientists, doctors, nurses, students, professionals, innovators,

experts innovators and robots(!) from the Netherlands, England, Austria, Belgium, Germany, Norway and the U.S. The colloquium was moderated by Healthy Start Ambition Leads Rob Taal and Saba Hinrichs.

COLLOQUIUM RECAP



Pecha Kucha Mariska Wildschut-de Heer

Mariska Wildschut-de Heer is a pediatric intensive care nurse at Erasmus MC and the first Convergence Nurse within the Healthy Start ambition 'Children's hospital of the future'. She spoke about her ambition to give nurses a greater degree of ownership and participation in the practice of their profession.

Today, we have a shortage of 18.000 nurses in the Netherlands, which is expected to increase up to 26.000 in 2030. The children's hospital of the future needs to be an attractive working environment for nurses. When we talk about 'future-proof healthcare' we often talk about how we can make healthcare more efficient, how we can do more with less personnel, but we tend to forget that healthcare is a system of people.

With Healthy Start we will initiate a large research project within the Sophia Children's Hospital. We are setting up a cohort with a diverse group of nurses and caretakers, from those who are still in training to those with 20-30 years of working experience. By means of an annual questionnaire we will learn more about what triggers happiness at work,

how they experience work and what they need. In addition, health watches will help us map data on physical capacities in relation to irregular working shifts, by measuring vital parameters such as heart rate and blood pressure, complemented by a daily, short questionnaire via an app. Everyone in the audience was invited to contribute: encourage nurses and caretakers to participate in our research and show them that their happiness at work matters to you too.

COLLOQUIUM RECAP



Keynote Jennifer Fang

Dr. Jennifer Fang is a neonatologist and associate professor of pediatrics at the Mayo Clinic Children's Center in Rochester Minnesota, U.S., and medical director of the Teleneonatology program. She shared her experiences with developing a multicenter telemedicine program: bringing innovative technologies from idea, to pilot, to upscaling.

High-risk neonates born at hospitals with lower levels of newborn care are at an increased risk of mortality and morbidity. 40% of newborns in the U.S. are delivered in hospitals without neonatologists or NCIUs. So, the current system allows for an outcome disparity based on birth location. The question was: can we close this gap using telemedicine? With telemedicine, a neonatologist could guide a colleague in a smaller hospital with a newborn who needs assistance by means of real-time audio and (very detailed) video. Her approach: Think Big. Start Small. Move Fast.

The goal was to make neonatal expertise available to newborns everywhere, regardless of the location of their birth. They started using

telemedicine in simulation with 46 study participants and found that the participants who had the neonatologist there, performed a lot better. From there they moved forward with a small pilot and once the program was performing consistently, they moved fast – but with a sustainable cadence. She also elaborated on the importance of stakeholder engagement, measuring and communicating about value.

Today, over 30 hospitals have opened to enrollment. Her final note was on the importance of being mindful with innovation: always make sure you enhance equity, not create more inequities.

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Pecha Kucha Josephine Wagenaar

Josephine Wagenaar is a pediatric resident at Erasmus MC and Healthy Start PhD candidate within the Healthy Start ambition 'Children's hospital of the future'. She asked us: could telemedicine – bringing expertise closer from a distance – be the solution for the big capacity problem in healthcare in the Netherlands? And could it improve the quality of healthcare?

She teamed up with the Amphia hospital to pilot with telemedicine. During the last nine months they scheduled 80 consults with 40 patients. She shared with us her experiences with designing this implementation pilot, the results and her lessons learned. Firstly: it is very important to involve the stakeholders, also before you start. During the first half year, they mainly invested in involving and informing everyone and agreeing on clear working arrangements. Why? The impact of your innovation strongly depends on how well your colleagues will eventually use it.

Secondly, qualitative research was essential to get insight into the experiences of both parents and

healthcare providers. Of course, validated questionnaires were also part of the methodology, but it was conversations and interviews that especially showed the added value of the use of telemedicine for alleviating parents' stress and nurses' work pressure.

Lastly, she emphasized the importance of being open to new opportunities and possibilities for improvement. This means that even during implementation you keep testing, evaluating and improving continuously.

Would you like more information about our ambitions or are you interested in collaborating with us?

Contact: healthystart@convergence.nl

More about 'Children's hospital of the future'

