Diet and fighting bladder cancer

Although the association between diet and bladder cancer has been a topic of interest for over a decade, most research has focused on the role of diet as a possible preventative for disease. Very little research has focused however on the role that diet can play once the cancer is identified. This topic is important as patients are increasingly searching for ways on how to contribute themselves to an improved prognosis in conjunction and in addition to medical care.

This student proposal is part of the efforts of the NUTRIM School of Nutrition and Translational Research in Metabolism to provide scientific evidence for cancer patients that are seeking this type of advice. Students can choose from one of the following topics:

1. Diet and Pain Medication
2. Nutrition and Chemotherapy
3. Diet and Radiation Therapy
4. Diet and Palliative Care
5. Evaluation of Existing Anti-Cancer Diets

The dissertation will be based on a combination of systematic literature review and focus group interviews. A rough outline of the manuscript will be as follows:

- A brief overview of the link between diet and chronic diseases (both influencing etiology and prognosis)
- A brief overview of the link between diet and cancer in general (both influencing etiology and prognosis)
- Introduction and explanation of one of the above topics
- In depth review on the relation of one of the above topics to cancer in general
- Systematic review on the relation of one of the above topics for bladder cancer
- Results from focus group interviews
- Concluding Guidelines, written in lay language
- Example Recipes

It is our aim that the dissertation results and related work will directly lead to improved advice to patients with bladder cancer. Students are therefore encouraged to stay involved after the manuscripts is finished for dissemination actions such as lobby within patient and health organizations.

The work has the potential to lead to a publication in the scientific literature. This will however depend on the quality of the reviews and the available evidence found. Any work towards publication would take place after the research project is finished.

More information: Prof. Maurice Zeegers (m.zeegers@maastrichtuniversity.nl)
References

- Brinkman, M.T., et al., Minerals and vitamins and the risk of bladder cancer: results from the New Hampshire...
• Zeegers, M.P., R.A. Goldbohm, and P.A. van den Brandt, Are retinol, vitamin C, vitamin E, folate and...