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Leiden
The Netherlands

Quality assurance in surgical oncology

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Citation

Peeters, K. C. M. J. (2007, March 28). *Quality assurance in surgical oncology*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/11462>

Version: Corrected Publisher's Version

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**Quality assurance in
surgical oncology**

Koen Peeters



Cover: *David with the Head of Goliath* (1606) by Michelangelo Merisi Caravaggio (1571-1610)

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Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna, Austria

David, a shepherd from an early age, developed his courage and fighting skills by defending the flocks from the wild animals that preyed upon them. The free time that being a shepherd provided also allowed him to develop two other skills, that of music and poetry. David was a warrior, and a writer of psalms.

When the Israelites were at war with the Philistines, the two armies faced each other from opposite hills with the Valley of Elah between them. Every morning for forty days, the mighty Philistine Goliath (he may have stood over 9 feet tall) challenged the Israelites for someone to come out and fight him, but none would go out. One day, David, who was actually then too young for the army, arrived with some deliveries for his older brothers. He heard Goliath and immediately volunteered to fight him.

When David explained to King Saul that he had been fighting fierce animals all his life, he convinced the king that he could defeat the Philistine. Perhaps by then the king was willing to try anything to get out of the embarrassing situation, and even if David were not successful the Israelites could always belittle his lack of success with the excuse that David was "just a kid."

After turning down an offer of the king's own armor, which was too big for him, David went down to the creek and got five suitable stones (five, not just one, as any prudent marksman would do when facing a very formidable opponent). He killed Goliath with a single perfectly-accurate shot, perhaps with a little help from an angel – the stone didn't just rebound off the giant man's thick skull as would naturally be expected, but actually penetrated with the power of a modern high-velocity bullet. Upon seeing their hero defeated, the Philistine army made a disorderly retreat, giving the Israelites then in hot pursuit the victory.

Samuel 17:1-58

ISBN 978-90-8559-278-5

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Cover design and layout by Optima Grafische Communicatie, Rotterdam

Printed by Optima Grafische Communicatie, Rotterdam

Quality assurance in surgical oncology

Proefschrift

ter verkrijging van
de graad van Doctor aan de Universiteit Leiden,
op gezag van Rector Magnificus prof.mr. P.F. van der Heijden,
volgens besluit van het College voor Promoties
te verdedigen op woensdag 28 maart 2007
klokke 16.15 uur

door

Koen Clemens Maria Johannes Peeters

geboren te Heerlen
in 1972

PROMOTIECOMMISSIE

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The research described in this thesis was financially supported by grants from the European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer, the Dutch Cancer Society and the Dutch National Health Council

Op een dag kwam een weledelzeergeleerd en hoogstbeschaafd heer de Atheense staatsman Themistocles opzoeken met de blijde boodschap dat hij hem de finesses van de toen pas gelanceerde mnemotechniek kon bijbrengen. Themistocles vroeg hem welke boodschap hij dan aan die wetenschap kon hebben. De doctor antwoordde: 'Zij zal u in staat stellen alles te onthouden.' Waarop de staatsman zuchtte: 'Ik wou alleen maar dat u mij kon leren niet te onthouden wat ik maar al te graag zou vergeten.'

De oratore 2, 299

Marcus Tullius Cicero 106-43 v.C.

*Aan mijn ouders
Voor Suzan*



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