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Depressive symptoms at old age : proactive management in general practice

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CURRICULUM VITAE

Gerda van der Weele was born on June 1st, 1958 in The Hague, The Netherlands. After graduating from 'Het Goese Lyceum' (gymnasium β) in 1976, she studied Medicine at the University of Utrecht. She obtained her medical degree in 1983. This was followed by a 2-year residency in surgery at the 'Diaconessen'-hospital in Breda.

In 1986-1987 she received vocational training at the Department of General Practice of the University of Utrecht and in the practice of H.J.Ubbink in Voorthuizen. From 1987 until 1995 she worked as a general practitioner in the 'Wijkwelzijnscentrum Korte Akkeren' in Gouda.

In 1995 she started to study at the Netherlands School of Public Health in Utrecht and passed her Master of Public Health exam in 1997. After this she worked for several organisations: from 1997 until 2000 at the Dutch Board of Health Insurances (CVZ) as an author of the Diagnostic Compass; in 2000-2001 at the Netherlands organisation for health research and development (ZonMw) as a Secretary of one of the Prevention Research Programmes; from 2001 until 2007 at the Dutch College of General Practitioners (NHG) as staff member in the department of guideline development. In the period 2002-2005 she participated in the MATRA project in Romania, in which 5 guidelines by and for Romanian GPs were developed.

In 2006 she started as a PhD student at the department of Public Health and Primary Care of the Leiden University Medical Center. From 2009 onwards she also works again at the Dutch College of General Practitioners (NHG) as staff member in the department of guideline development. At the end of 2010 she continued the study of depression in the elderly with a new qualitative research project about the perceptions of older people on depression at the department of Public Health and Primary Care of the Leiden University Medical Center.

Gerda is married with Kees Vos. They have two daughters, Laura (1989) and Lette (1992). Gerda enjoys long distance running; between 2004 and 2009 she completed 7 marathons.

