

The Health, Medical and Neuropsychology Unit of the Psychology Institute at the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences is seeking a

**Full Professor 'Psychobiological determinants of healthy aging in somatic conditions' (1.0 FTE)
Vacancy number 5683**

Project description

With the rapidly increasing aging of the population and the persistent increase in the number of chronic somatic disorders worldwide, the question of how people can remain as healthy as possible as they grow older has enormous societal relevance. Throughout the life cycle, psychobiological factors continue to play an important role in aging processes and the progression of somatic disorders. Psychobiological determinants therefore play an important role in what has come to be known as 'healthy aging'.

It is known that psychobiological factors, such as physical and psychological frailty, hamper healthy aging and predict the long-term course of morbidity and the risk of mortality. In addition, these factors play a crucial role in the development and course of various age-related somatic conditions. Psychobiological factors also provide an important starting point for risk stratification, and for interventions that promote healthy aging at an individual and societal level. These interventions may focus on the prevention of chronic somatic disorders, but interventions are also of specific importance for optimizing quality of life and reducing clinical decline and age-related frailty in people with chronic somatic diseases. More insight into the psychobiological factors responsible for healthy aging, and subsequent diagnostics and treatments for people with somatic disorders (or an increased risk of such disorders) can lead to better prevention, early recognition, and treatment of chronic somatic disorders, as well as the promotion of optimal and healthy aging.

Key responsibilities

The professor's tasks in the areas of research, teaching, and administration are embedded in the Health, Medical and Neuropsychology Unit of the Psychology Institute at Leiden University.

Research. One of the central tasks of the professor is to set up, continue, and expand his or her own internationally distinctive research line within the research program Self-regulation and Health of the Health, Medical and Neuropsychology Unit of Leiden University. This includes coordinating interdisciplinary research activities, attracting research funding, supervising PhD students, developing partnerships and networks at the local, national, and international level, and reporting in peer-reviewed journals and at international conferences.

Teaching: The focus on healthy aging in somatic disorders plays a central role in the teaching of the Health, Medical and Neuropsychology Unit in the bachelor's degree program and the master's specializations in Health Psychology, Occupational Health Psychology, and Clinical Neuropsychology. The professor will design and provide part of courses in the designated field in the broadest possible sense, particularly as part of the teaching of the Health, Medical and Neuropsychology Unit in the bachelor's degree program and in the master's specializations in Health Psychology, Occupational Health Psychology, and Clinical Neuropsychology. In addition, teaching in the field of healthy aging in somatic disorders may include giving courses and supervising master theses in the regular bachelor's and master's degree programs and providing teaching for other disciplines, such as the master's programs Vitality and Aging, and Health Population Management at the LUMC Campus The Hague.

Management. Administrative duties include actively participating in administrative bodies in the Health, Medical and Neuropsychology Unit, the Psychology Institute, the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences, and Leiden University, as well as at national and international level.

Academic and societal involvement. The holder of the chair will increase the visibility of Leiden University through active participation in influential and prestigious academic organizations. In addition, the professor will have a societal role in the form of contributions to book publications, congresses, and symposiums in the relevant field. Wherever possible, the professor will contribute to information provision for the purposes of public debate and policymaking.

Selection criteria

- PhD in the field of psychology, with expertise in the area of psychobiological determinants of healthy aging in somatic conditions;
- Excellent publication record in research on psychobiological determinants of healthy aging in somatic conditions, as ascertained by peer reviewed international and national publications that meet requirements for membership of the national research school Experimental Psychopathology;
- Excellent track record in acquisition of research grants in the area of psychobiological determinants of healthy aging in somatic conditions;
- Established collaborative relations with relevant external parties; established ability to communicate research results to a broader audience;
- Excellent teaching reputation (evidenced by teaching evaluations) and experience with teaching at undergraduate, graduate and PhD levels;
- Academic management experience at a university level or interest in academic management activities;
- Proficiency in spoken and written English and Dutch or the intention to learn Dutch.

Our Faculty/institute

The Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences comprises four institutes: Education and Child Studies, Political Science, Psychology and Cultural Anthropology & Development Sociology. The Faculty also includes the Centre for Science and Technology Studies. The Faculty is home to 5,000 students and 600 members of staff. Our teaching and research programmes cover diverse topics varying from adoption to political behaviour. For more information, see <http://www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/social-behavioural-sciences>.

Terms and conditions

This is a temporary appointment for a period of five years with a view to a permanent contract depending on good performance. The appointment is in line with the collective employment agreement of Dutch universities. Salary range from €5,441 to €7,921 gross per month (pay scale H2).

Leiden University offers an attractive benefits package with additional holiday (8%) and end-of-year bonuses (8.3%), training and career development. Our individual choices model gives you some freedom to assemble your own set of terms and conditions. For international spouses we have set up a dual career programme. Candidates from outside the Netherlands may be eligible for a substantial tax break. More at <https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/working-at/job-application-procedure-and-employment-conditions>.

Leiden University requires teaching staff to obtain the University Teaching Qualification (UTQ). If the successful applicant does not already possess this qualification or its equivalent, he/ she must be willing to obtain this Qualification within two years.

Diversity

Leiden University is strongly committed to diversity within its community and especially welcomes applications from members of underrepresented groups.

Information

For more information about the post, please contact Professor Philip Spinhoven, Institute Director, email: spinhoven@fsw.leidenuniv.nl (out of office until 2 August 2018).

Applications

Please submit online your application **no later than 1 September 2018** via the blue button of [our application system](#). Applicants should submit online a letter of interest accompanied by a CV.

Enquiries from agencies are not appreciated.