

### ● About the Marijke Foundation

The Marijke Foundation (Dutch: Stichting Marijke MHKO Fonds) has been initiated on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May 2003 and founded on the 30<sup>th</sup> of July 2003 by Han Kruyswijk after his wife Marijke, aged 58, died of Multiple Giant Cell Arteriitis (Arteriitis Temporalis), an illness scarcely known as the more severe and deadly multiple variant of Giant Cell Arteriitis. The illness not only causes narrowness in the arteries of the temples but also in those in the brain and the neck, resulting from rheumatic inflammation of the arteries.

Both illnesses are specific outbreaks of a complex of diseases and medical complaints: Polymyalgia Rheumatica.

Multiple Giant Cell Arteriitis (MGCA), Giant Cell Arteriitis (GCA) and Polymyalgia Rheumatica (PMR) are often considered to be auto-immune diseases and three of the six to eight thousand Rare Diseases, internationally also referred to as Orphan Diseases.

### ● Status

The Marijke Foundation is not representing patients. On the contrary. The foundation represents the diseases themselves, in particular Early Diagnoses. There is only an indirect relation with patients that suffered from MGCA, GCA and PMR. So, the Marijke Foundation has no patient-members.

The Marijke Foundation is fully independent, has no profit motive and there are no other financial sources than donations and interest. The Marijke Foundation is recognized by and registered with the Dutch authorities as a charitable organisation.

### ● Aims and activities in order of priority:

#### 1. Early Diagnoses

The Marijke Foundation has developed a dedicated tool for Early Diagnosis, the Symptomatrix<sup>®</sup>. The Symptomatrix is a practical tool that lists scientifically known symptoms of GCA and PMR. By tick-marking the matrix of complaints potential patients in the first place, but also family doctors and medical specialists are enabled to recognize the upcoming illnesses in an earlier stage than is the case up to now. This may result in earlier diagnosis, earlier treatment, less suffering from diseases and medication, and faster recovery. But above all Early Diagnosis with the help of the Symptomatrix may prevent GCA from progressing into the fatal condition of MGCA.

The Symptomatrix is understandable and accessible for everyone. It has been published in 2008 on the website of the Marijke Foundation (keywords: odd complaints) in the English, German and Dutch languages. Versions in French and Spanish are to be published. The Symptomatrix is available in print as well.

Ongoing development and fine tuning of the Symptomatrix is also based on medical-scientific (epidemiological) research<sup>1</sup>.

#### 2. Publicity

The Marijke Foundation attempts to generate more national and international public and media attention for the issue of Early Diagnosis of the diseases MGCA, GCA and PMR with the help of the Symptomatrix. In this respect the Marijke Foundation has already been (and will be) interviewed by radio/television stations and newspapers.

#### 3. Fundraising

The Marijke Foundation raises funds to be donated to further development and fine tuning of the Symptomatrix, as well as to medical-scientific research on the issues of cause, cure and treatment of the diseases MGCA, GCA and PMR.

### ● Board

Chairman	Eric W. Gerritsen (63), retired; former Secretary to the Board of Achmea, a large Dutch company in insurance and banking
Treasurer	Rob G. Berkhof (57), Certified Public Accountant, Registered Master ICT; Managing Director Finance and ICT with De Stromen Opmaat Group, active in health and related care
Secretary	Han Kruyswijk (65); Managing Director of Cint MMedia, a small publishing company; former publisher new and multi media with Elsevier Science Publishers (now Reed Elsevier)
Science	Ron Voorbij MD PhD (50), Clinical pathologist; Project Director Medical Diagnostic Center of the Groene Hart Hospital and also advisor of the Dutch Heart Foundation.

### ● Chartered Accountant

Horlings at Amsterdam i.c. Rob A. van Kessel, Certified Public Accountant.

### ● Contacts in The Netherlands and Europe

The Marijke Foundation maintains close contacts with [The Netherlands:] ZonMW - governmental organisation, Orphan Drugs Foundation, Rare Diseases Fund; [Europe:] Orphanet, Eurordis and other professional organisations in The Netherlands and elsewhere in Europe that are involved in Rare/Orphan Diseases.

### ● International Cooperation

Aiming at further development and fine tuning of the Symptomatrix the Marijke Foundation cooperates with organisations and specialists abroad, among them PMR-GCA UK i.c. Professor B. Dasgupta of the Southend Hospital and Support Groups.

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<sup>1</sup> In future the Symptomatrix<sup>®</sup> may prove to be useful as well for earlier diagnosis of other rare diseases / auto-immune diseases.

Please let everyone know:

Odd Complaints ?

## Early Diagnosis

is essential !

The

## Symptomatrix

may be of help.

Visit

<http://www.marijke-foundation.eu>

and click on 'diagnostic tool'.