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About the author
Petra Cecilia Siemonsma was born in 1967 in Leeuwarden in the Netherlands. She completed high school in Meppel. She graduated from physical therapy in Enschede in 1989 and worked as a physiotherapist in Germany. From 1991 until 1994 she studied human movement science at the RijksUniversiteit Groningen. The subject of her master thesis was a comparative analysis of two stroke rehabilitation methods. She taught philosophy of science and ethics at the Academie voor Fysiotherapy in Groningen in 1994 and 1995.

She was a research fellow (Stoke Association bursary) from 1996-1997 at the stroke research unit in Nottingham in the United Kingdom, and a senior research physiotherapist at the University Medical Centre Utrecht from 1997-1999. From 1999–2010 she was a research coordinator and head of the Clinimetric Laboratory in the Reade Centre for Rehabilitation and Rheumatology (formerly Jan van Breemen Institute) in Amsterdam. In 2002 she was awarded funding from ZonMw and started the research which resulted in the thesis. In 2005 she finished her training as a researcher in rehabilitation medicine (VRA-SGO wetenschappelijke opleiding voor revalidatieartsen).

Petra Siemonsma is currently working at TNO in Leiden where she is researcher and project manager of several studies involving care and care-related prevention in elderly and chronically ill people.


