

# 2007 Award for the best article published in the Netherlands Journal of Medicine in 2006

## Editors, the Netherlands Journal of Medicine

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In 2004, the Editors of the Netherlands Journal of Medicine decided to award prizes for the best articles in the Journal.<sup>1-3</sup> It is always extremely difficult to select recipients for awards because invariably there are more worthy candidates than there are awards. It is fortunate that the burden of deciding between the many excellent nominees for the Netherlands Journal of Medicine Best Paper Award is borne collectively by the members of the jury. This year, the jury consisted of Peter W. de Leeuw, Marc J. Bonten, and Aart Mudde. In contrast to previous years when we had three prizes to be awarded, one for each type of article, this time there was only one single award. The best paper had to be creative and clinically relevant, and had to meet rigorous scientific standards. In view of these selection criteria, the jury awarded the Netherlands Journal of Medicine Best Paper Award to Nancy Keeken from Bernhoven Hospital in Oss. As a medical student she worked under the tutelage of Dr W.A. de Boer and performed a highly relevant study on a novel, cheap and accessible test for the diagnosis of *Helicobacter pylori*.<sup>4</sup> She established that the accuracy of the dry rapid urease test (GUT test) appeared to be good, and that it is a reliable alternative for the widely used Clo test in diagnosing *H. pylori* infection. In the accompanying editorial, Dr Laheij commended her and concluded that the new more rapid urease test seems a promising new diagnostic test with equal diagnostic performance but considerably lower costs and a faster availability of the test results, in comparison with other biopsy-based *H. pylori* tests.<sup>5</sup>

The article by Dr Keeken has attracted widespread attention and was downloaded 434 times from the Journal web servers.<sup>6</sup> The prize was awarded at the 2007 Convention for Internal Medicine (Internistendagen) in Maastricht, the Netherlands. The prize consists of one of the works of art that have been published on the cover page of the Journal. We think that it is safe to say that we have established a fine tradition here at the Netherlands Journal of Medicine, and we really hope that the awards will contribute towards the quality of our Journal. We encourage prospective authors to submit their work to our Journal, not only because of the best paper award but also to benefit from the open access policy of the Journal.<sup>7</sup>

## REFERENCES

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