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Unravelling the Link Between Cancer, Cognition, and Dementia: Causes, biomarkers, and methods

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Propositions

accompanying the thesis

Unravelling the Link Between Cancer, Cognition, and Dementia

Causes, biomarkers, and methods

This thesis

1. Cancers that are not confirmed by pathology should be considered in cancer statistics and cancer research.
2. Cognitive function and brain structure are not affected prior to clinical manifestation of cancer, suggesting that the impact of cancer itself on the brain is limited.
3. Studying preclinical stages of diseases can be an adequate method to reduce effects of selection bias.
4. Cancer and dementia are not inversely associated. From a biological perspective, we should further explore a positive relation between these two diseases.
5. Inflammation is an important mechanism underlying cognitive problems in non-central nervous system cancer patients and should therefore be the focus of prevention and intervention studies.

Beyond this thesis

6. A confidence interval that includes the null-value does not imply that there is no association.
7. Epidemiologists and statisticians should spend more time together.
8. As long as meat companies are partners of the American Cancer Society, we will not know the true association between meat consumption and cancer.
9. Once you stop learning you start dying – Albert Einstein.
10. On ne voit bien qu'avec le cœur. L'essentiel est invisible pour les yeux – Antoine de Saint-Exupéry in *Le Petit Prince*, 1943.
11. We girls can do anything – *Barbie*, 1985.

Kimberly Dieudonnee van der Willik, Rotterdam, February 9, 2021