Dear dr. Sopany Saing, dr. Sebastian Rachuba and prof. dr. Erik Koffijberg,

My name is Varvara Lazarenko, and I would like to express my interest in applying for a PhD position in the value assessment of innovations in end-stage organ failure at the University of Twente.

When I came across this PhD position, I felt that is exactly what I want to proceed with after I graduate from Radboud university this summer. First of all, I am genuinely interested in the societal and economic aspects of healthcare innovations. I strongly feel that a sustainable healthcare innovation should address the needs of both patients and medical professionals, reducing the workload of the latter, as well as reduce overall healthcare costs. By conducting a master research project/internship on the added value of telemonitoring technology, I wanted to gain more insight into the impact such a technology has on patients, professionals, and healthcare expenditures. In this ongoing project, I am performing a version of a health technology assessment (HTA) aligned with a quadruple aim, which I believe aligns with this PhD research well. Considering I am closely familiar with many techniques used for such research, namely 1) extensive literature review, 2) surveys and interviews for patients and medical personnel, 3) modelling of the changes in the pathway a patient is going through, 4) cost-efficiency analysis, I am well equipped to successfully perform a broader HTA, which will create insights into the added value of innovations in the end-stage heart failure.

Secondly, owing to my diverse and thorough background, I am perfectly equipped with the knowledge necessary for this position. Having received a background in natural sciences (bachelor's in Biology and the first year of the master's program in Medical biology), I gained the relevant knowledge more than sufficient to understand the mechanisms of end-stage heart failure. My bachelor's research in arterial tone regulation (2019-2020) and my working experience (as a Junior Research Assistant at the Faculty of Biology, 2020-2021) with the physiology of circulation will also come in handy considering the topic of heart transplants since it provided a better understanding of the cardiovascular mechanisms of a living creature. As a part of my master's degree, I studied a societal and business specialisation in Science, management and Innovation (SMI). I gained invaluable knowledge on digital healthcare, market research, and health economics after completing the SMI courses such as Future of Health, Methods of Societal research, Sustainable Innovation management, How health systems work.

To sum up, due to 1) my extensive education both at the bachelor's and master's level, 2) my diverse working experience, 3) my experience with added value research, and 4) my clear motivation to continue research in this field, I believe that this PhD position will bring me closer to my final academic and career goals – towards my future in becoming an expert in connecting science and society. That is why I hope all the above-mentioned make me a worthy candidate for the PhD position in the value assessment of innovations in end-stage organ failure.

Thank you for considering my application and, in case any questions arise, do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Varvara Lazarenko