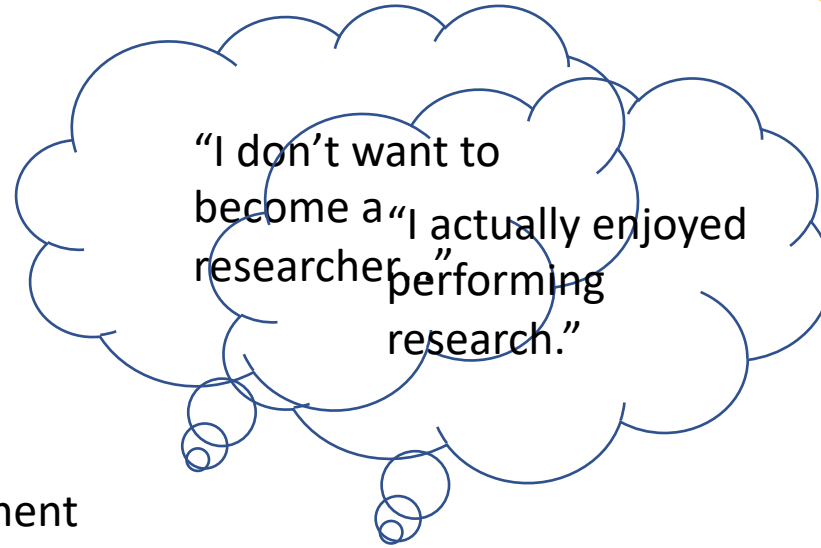


# Early career in the field of dementia (research)

Minke Kooistra, PhD

# University



- 2005 Bachelor Human Movement Sciences
- What can you do with it?
  - Bachelor thesis: in hospital environment

Got intrigued about by brain, not in specific target group.

- 2009 Master Neuropsychology
- masterthesis: brain differences in people with Schizophrenia

Broad interest:

- Brain changes
- MRI
- Working in a clinical environment
- Contact with target group

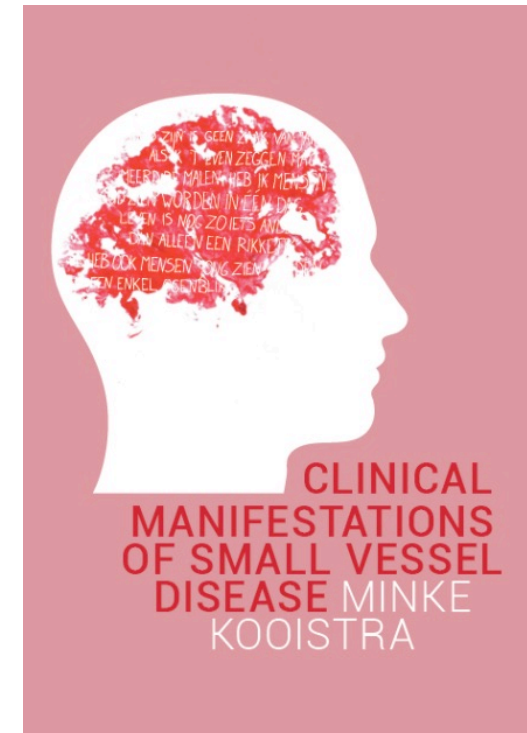
# PhD position (2011)

Vacancy in University Medical Center Utrecht (UMC Utrecht)

→ Brain changes on MRI, older population, dementia research, working with the target group.

- 3 years to obtain PhD
- Postgraduate master Clinical Epidemiology
- Struggles during first year
- Eventually succesfull → obtained PhD in October 2014

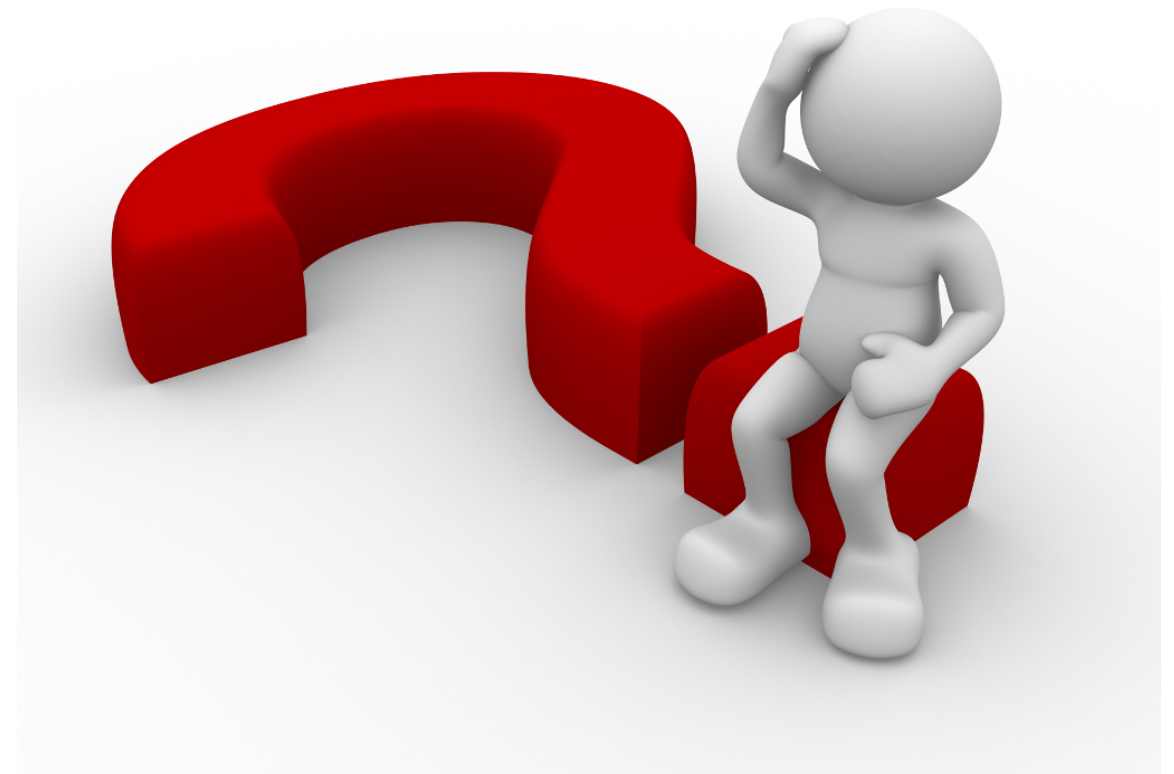
"This fits my  
interests perfectly."



# And then ...

“Do I want to  
continue a career in  
science?”

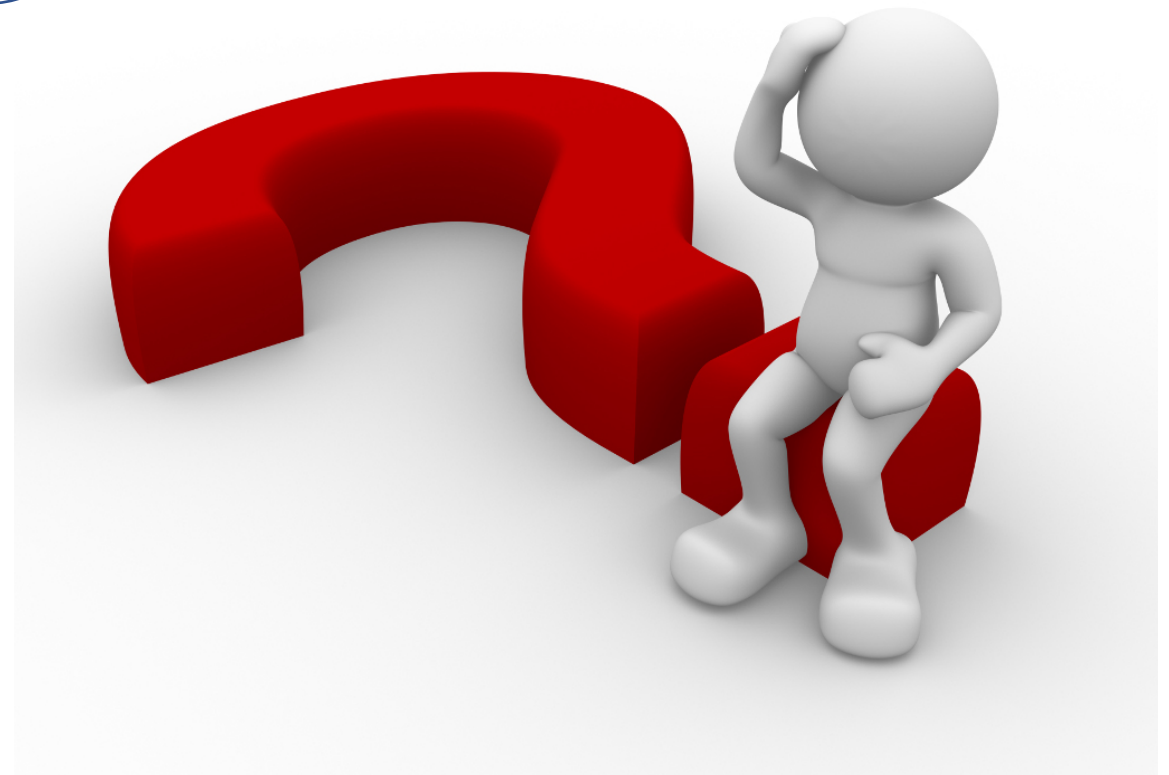
- Do I want a scientific career?
  - Constantly applying for grants?
  - Unsecure future?
  - Academic world → high competition?
  - Do I want to go abroad?
- Am I a good researcher?
  - Will I make it in the scientific world?
  - Will I be able to work my way up?
- Do I want to stay in the field of dementia research?
  - What are other possibilities?



# And then ...

“What happens if I  
decide not to  
continue to work in  
science?”

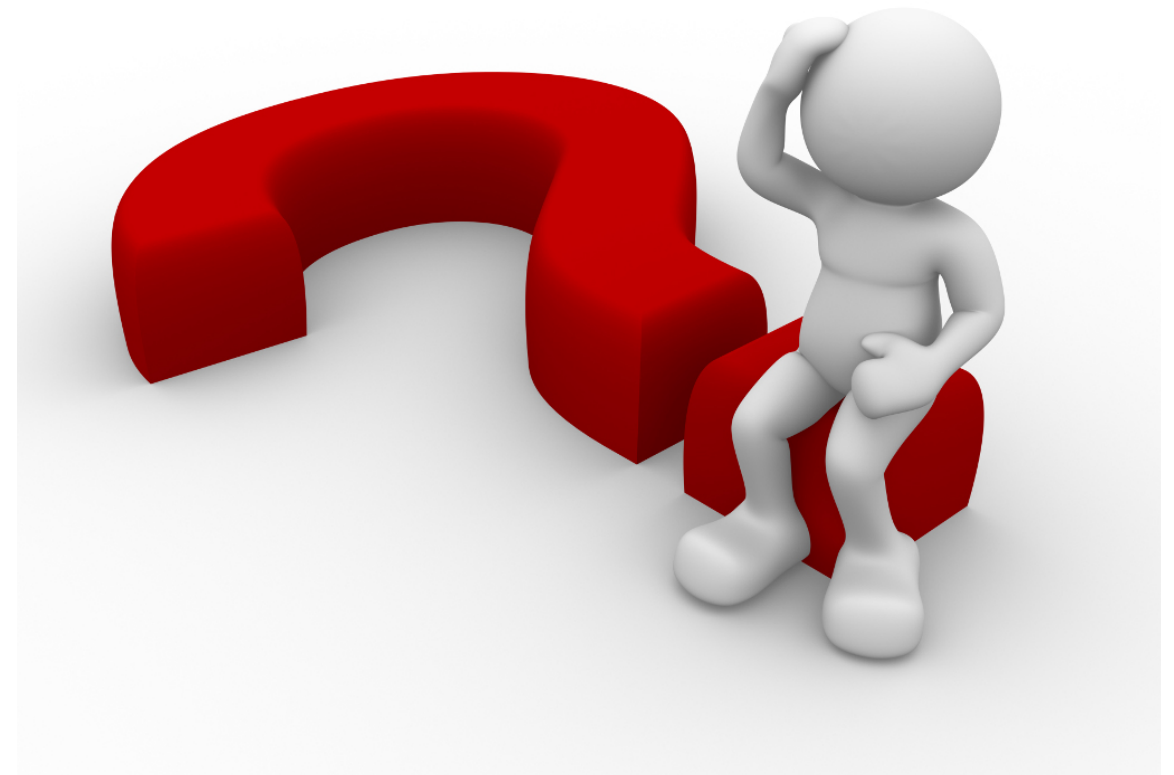
- If I quit working as scientific researcher, can I ever come back?
- If I quit now, do I waste my chances?



# And then ...

“What are other possibilities?”

- Do I want to become a teacher? Or combine research with teaching?
- Do I want to become a researcher in another area?
- Do I want another position in university or hospital setting?
- What are other options?



# Research related skills

Organize

Deal with lots of data

All research related skills that  
can also be used in jobs outside  
the field of scientific research

Plan

Analyze

Deal with / handle  
different opinions

Project work

# Currently: advisor scientific research @ Alzheimer Nederland

- Give advise to researchers about grants, collaboration, and increasing impact.
- Give advise to the organization on problems encountered by researchers.
- I am in close contact with researchers to learn about their needs and try to adjust our research policy accordingly.



# Thanks!

Contact:

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