Internship – multidisciplinary Smell Lab

The Challenge | Approx. 250000 people in the Netherlands have a limited sense of smell or taste. For a long time, there seemed to be little to none possible to help people with “Anosmia“ regain their sense of smell. In the recent years, specialists started recommending a method that patients could do by themselves at home: “Smell training” is a method to help regenerate smell receptors that got damaged (e.g. due to a viral infection). While the statistics of positive results from international review studies look promising, the motivation for people to “smell train” for more than half a year without habit building tools is often low.

Your Assignment | Co-create a solution based on iterative prototyping and participatory positive design with patients, medical doctors and scientists. The result will ideally consist of both a mobile app, as well as of an analogue solution, enabling inclusive design. The tool will support people with anosmia in applying smell training in their everyday lives and will provide alternative meaning to the ones whose disease journey does not result in an improved ability to smell, as there is no guarantee.

Our offer | reuksmaakstoornis.nl provides an opportunity for 2-3 interns to form a lab, strengthening our patient association with a positive, pro-active entrepreneurial attitude. Supervised by an expert working in the health tech industry, you will get the chance to join a multidisciplinary team, learn about various aspects of habits and behavior change, have the option to co-write a publication later, add a healthcare project to your portfolio and a monthly allowance of € 350 based on a 32-hours work week.

Call for action for Industrial Design, Psychology, Nutrition Science or similar Master students with conversational proficiency in Dutch | Please describe your interest and relevant prior experience in empirical research or from mobile app and experience design projects you deem to be relevant shortly. Healthcare experience and behavior change know-how are a plus, not a must.

Timing | Approx. 6 months, can be spread from April-October 2018, further details tbd. Interviews will take place in April. The event Dutch Hacking Health (evening of April 20-22) could potentially yield as a good chance for a head start working together, in case you’re interested and available in joining a Hackathon. While a 4 day-week will be expected later this year, joining the kick off workshop of the project still on April 25 in the evening will be a plus, to get to know all major stakeholders from the start and to get the opportunity to help in shaping the direction of the solution jointly from day 1, even if your major time investment starts later this year. Interested? Looking forward to hearing from you!

Deadline for application: Friday 20 April 2018
Contact person: board member & project lead Ilona Owusu
Email for application & further questions: ilona@reuksmaakstoornis.nl