

Workplace intervention to improve  
work functioning for patients  
with rheumatoid arthritis

Myrthe van Vilsteren

The study presented in this thesis was conducted at the EMGO<sup>+</sup> Institute for Health and Care Research, Department of Public and Occupational Health of the VU University Medical Center. The EMGO<sup>+</sup> Institute participates in the Netherlands School of Primary Care Research (CaRe), which was acknowledged in 2005 by the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW). The study described in this thesis originated from Body@Work, Research Center on Physical Activity, Work, and Health, which is a joint initiative of the VU University Medical Center (Department of Public and Occupational Health, EMGO<sup>+</sup> Institute for Health and Care Research), VU University Amsterdam, and the Netherlands Organisation of Applied Scientific Research (TNO).

The study presented in this thesis is part of the research program 'Arbeid en Zorg', which is financed by Instituut GAK.

Financial support for the printing of this thesis has kindly been provided by Body@Work, Research Center on Physical Activity, Work, and Health, and the Dutch Arthritis foundation (Reumafonds).

English title: Workplace intervention to improve work functioning for patients with rheumatoid arthritis

Nederlandse titel: Werkplekinterventie ter verbetering van functioneren op het werk voor patiënten met reumatoïde artritis

Layout and cover design: Esther Ris, [www.proefschriftomslag.nl](http://www.proefschriftomslag.nl)

Printed by: Ridderprint – Ridderkerk, the Netherlands

ISBN: 978-94-6299-284-9

© Copyright 2016, Myrthe van Vilsteren

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored or transmitted in any form or by any means without permission of the referenced journals or the author.

VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT

Workplace intervention to improve work functioning for patients  
with rheumatoid arthritis

ACADEMISCH PROEFSCHRIFT

ter verkrijging van de graad Doctor aan  
de Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam,  
op gezag van de rector magnificus  
prof.dr. V. Subramaniam,  
in het openbaar te verdedigen  
ten overstaan van de promotiecommissie  
van de Faculteit der Geneeskunde  
op dinsdag 29 maart 2016 om 11.45 uur  
in de aula van de universiteit,  
De Boelelaan 1105

door

Myrthe van Vilsteren

geboren te Zwolle

promotor: prof.dr. J.R. Anema

copromotoren: dr. C.R.L. Boot  
dr. R. Steenbeek  
prof.dr. D. van Schaardenburg