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Summary

After leaving the playing field with Paul Fockens

Egle Dieninyte - Misiune

Podcast Episode

October 23, 2026

Past UEG president Professor Paul Hawkins reflects on transitioning from chief of Amsterdam UMC to clinical work in New Zealand and back, discussing different healthcare models, work-life balance, and career transitions in gastroenterology.

KEY POINTS

- The guest contrasts New Zealand's healthcare approach—30-minute consultations, longer waiting lists, less stressed work culture—with European high-volume models that schedule many more patients per day.
- The speakers discuss challenges facing healthcare systems including aging populations, physician retirement, and increasing preference for part-time work among doctors.
- The guest argues that department chairs should leave before their final day to enable smooth transitions and that advanced endoscopic procedures should be taught through team-based supervision rather than leaving trainees alone.
- The guest describes his post-retirement roles including fundraising for Amsterdam UMC Foundation and teaching, emphasizing the importance of gradual career transitions rather than abrupt endings.
- Listeners interested in career transitions, international gastroenterology practice models, and leadership succession in academic medicine will find this discussion relevant.

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