

Research Policy Office

Annual Report 2025

Mission

We are the expert team for the central research policy of Amsterdam UMC. Our professional and content-related expertise is **visible** and we **make a difference** and **have impact** within and outside of Amsterdam UMC.

Vision

The central policy advisors are committed to creating a **stimulating, inclusive and responsible research environment** for ground-breaking scientific research within Amsterdam UMC and its partners.

Talent

- We coordinated the **UvA Fund's Startstipendium** (up to 9 grants of €25.000), which was awarded to 7 scientists: Dr. Tom Collins, Dr. Katina Hulme, Dr. Arianne Gravensteijn, Dr. Anne van Nifterick, Dr. Kelly Herdzik, Dr. Hildo Lantermans, and Dr. Marijn Kramer.
- We coordinated the **UvA Fund Impact Call** (8 grants of €25.000, to be divided between 7 faculties) within the UvA Faculty of Medicine, which led to 2 awarded projects: Dr. Jana Runze and Dr. Marissa Harmsen.
- We coordinated the **Amsterdam UMC Fellowship** (2x €750.000 for 4-5 years), which was awarded to Dr. Nam Bui and Dr. Najim Lahrouchi.
- We coordinated the **First Generation Booster Grant** (2x €5.000) which was awarded to first generation scientists Dr. Bryn Hummel and drs. Francesca van Baarzel thanks to a personal fund at the UvA Fund.
- We coordinated the **Societal Impact Award**, in collaboration with Valentina Bravo (AGEM) and Caroline Kleine Staarman (IXA), which was awarded to Stijn Mom en Luc van Lonkhuijzen for their project 'Cervical cancer can be prevented through HPV vaccination and screening'.
- We provided advice to the deans on **nominations for academic prizes**. Many talented researchers received a sign of recognition for their contribution to science by Amsterdam UMC or external organisations.
- We coordinated the **nomination round for Principal Investigators**, leading to the appointment of 48 PIs by the board of directors. An Inspiration meeting was organized for PIs appointed in 2024.
- Through our support, the CTA advised the deans on 43 appointments of associate and full professors.
- We coordinated advice on **15 structure reports** for professorships for the Dean's offices.

Postdocs

- In September, we co-organized the **Postdoc Appreciation Week** with the research institutes and a UMCNL working group.
- Postdocs was designated as a **new ARB portfolio** with Cécile Boot and Anita Boelen as leads.
- We organized two sessions of a very popular **Grant Writing Course for postdocs** with colleagues from Research Grant Support, Research Data Management, Innovation Exchange Amsterdam, and the Medical Library.
- We organized intervision groups for postdocs to offer them peer support in challenges they encounter in their work and career.

Environmental sustainability

- We continued working on the **Amsterdam UMC position paper on sustainability in research**, together with Dr. Niek Sperna Weiland, Prof.dr. Dionne Kringos, Prof.dr. Wouter Hehenkamp, and Dr. Mitra Nekouei Shahraki, **which was released in March 2026**.
- In April, we welcomed guests from ZonMw, NWO, OCW and Susan Simon (Chief Environmental Sustainability Officer at Medical Research Council) for an **inspirational work visit** on sustainability in health research.
- We coordinated the **Seed Grant for Environmental Sustainability** (yearly budget of €90.000), which was awarded to the BEST Bottle and Green Abx projects.

Research meetings

- We regularly organize **meetings for researchers to present their work to the board of directors** and all other interested staff members.
- Topics in 2025: Future of animal experiments and animal free research, Healthy Futures, Digital Technologies in Medicine Beyond AI, and How intra- and extracellular metabolites control inflammation

In collaboration

- We actively participated in working groups with the research institutes, among others on: mentoring programme for research, diversity & inclusion, and nominations.
- We explored options for an **internal grant application management system**, to improve efficiency in the internal grant calls of RPO, research institutes, Doctoral School and others. This will continue in 2026.

Responsible research

- We worked on preparing an **awareness campaign for research integrity**, which will include an e-learning for the Research Code, 'diner pensants' for department heads and PIs, and a research integrity portal to easily find all information.
- We started working on an update of the Research Code
- We **co-organized a conference 'The Transparent Transition -The future of animal and animal-free research'** on the future of bio-medical research, with Amsterdam 4R.

Visibility and connection

- We improved our visibility and our provided information on **the Research website**.
- We participated in **VU, UvA and UMCNL meetings with policy advisors**.
- We work together with the policy advisors of the Research Institutes.
- We created our Annual Report (of 2024).

The RPO team

Tobias Bartman, Fenneke Blom, Elza van Deel, Anne-Lieke van Deijk, Katie Hanford, Raiza Hasrat, Sjoukje Lem, and Hannerieke van der Boom (head).

Would you like to know more? Please have a look at [our webpage](#), or reach out to us via rs-rpo@amsterdamumc.nl