

Research Policy Office

Annual Report 2024

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 Amsterdam University Fund's (AUF) **Startstipendium** (9x €25.000), which was awarded to 9 scientists: Dr. Anne van der Spek, Dr. Daphne Naessens, Dr. Elza van Deel, Dr. Machteld Boonstra, Dr. Margot Morssinkhof, Dr. Mariano Molina, Dr. Niels Waterval, Dr. Stephanie Popping, and Dr. Wendy Dankers
- We coordinated the **AUF Impact Call** within the faculty of Medicine, which was awarded to Dr. Bernadette de Bakker.
- We coordinated the **Amsterdam UMC Fellowship** (2x €750.000), which was awarded to Dr. Danai Riga and Dr. Aysu Okbay. The grant criteria were updated to only include applicants up to 6 years after their PhD.
- We coordinated the **Societal Impact Award**, which was awarded to Prof. dr. Judith Huirne for her work on women's healthcare.
- We provided advice to the deans on many nominations. Many talented researchers received a sign of recognition for their contribution to science by Amsterdam UMC or external organisations.
- The **KNAW Early Career Award** was awarded to Prof. dr. Kak Khee Yeung and Dr. Suzanne Fustolo-Gunnink.
- The **Amsterdam Young Academy** welcomed 3 of our researchers: Dr. Callista Mulder, Dr. Elena Rampanelli and Dr. Dirk Jan Stenvers.
- The **KNAW** welcomed Prof. dr. Carla Hollak as a member.
- We coordinated the **nomination round for Principal Investigators**, leading to the appointment of 70 PIs by the board of directors. An Inspiration meeting was organized for PIs appointed in 2023.
- The CTA advised the deans on 70 appointments of associate and full professors, is making talent policies more visible online and is updating the Qualification Portfolio used for assessments.
- The CTA has drawn up criteria for assistant, associate and full professor for the career profiles Research, Education, Clinical, Valorization and Leadership.
- We participated in the **NFU Recognition & Rewards Platform** and coordinated the National Culture Barometer Recognition & Rewards
- We advised on the Open Science - R&R awarded project proposal of Ethics, Law & Humanities.
- We organized advice on **23 concept descriptions of professorships** for the Dean's offices.

Research integrity

- The **Research Code** went live in a web-based format, allowing for real-time updates and ease of use.
- The whole Research Code and the chapter 'Dealing with the media' were featured on Tulpintranet

In collaboration with research institutes

- In monthly meetings between all 8 research institute's policy advisors, we facilitate connections between them and work together on research-related topics.
- We started a process of reviewing the **task separation between central and research institute policy advisors**, leading to specific tasks being reorganised.
- We co-organised a workshop for all research institute policy advisors and RPO on **diversity and inclusion**, with the expertise of ECHO.
- We actively participated in working groups, among others on: mentoring programme for research, diversity & inclusion, and nominations.

Patient involvement in research

- On this topic, we collaborated with other research institute policy advisors and Research Grant Support.
- A **research meeting** with the board of directors was organised, to highlight ongoing practices of involving patients in research.
- A webpage was launched to provide advice and information to researchers.
- Researchers' further needs in terms of resources and support were mapped through a **survey**.

Brilliant mistake

Not everything goes well on the first try, but wonderful lessons may turn what seemed a mistake, in improvements that otherwise wouldn't be - making it a brilliant mistake.

This year, we had to put our awareness campaign for the Research Code on hold when we found out that some of the information was outdated. Instead, we channeled our energy into organising a protocol for yearly review of the content of the Research Code which will be implemented in 2025.

Environmental sustainability

- With the Centre for Sustainable Healthcare, we met with all research institute directors to start developing sustainable research policy.
- We started working on the **Amsterdam UMC position paper on sustainability in research, together with Dr. Niek Sperna Weiland, Prof. dr. Dionne Kringos, and Prof. dr. Wouter Hehenkamp**
- In October, we organised a Lunch & Learn on sustainability in research with Research Grant Support and the Centre for Sustainable Healthcare, where researchers connected with each other and external moderators on different topics.

Visibility and connection

- We improved our visibility and our provided information on the Research website.
- We continued our **meet & greets** with other domains and teams (incl. Medical Library, Doctoral School, and UvA Academic Affairs).
- We participated in regular **VU and UvA faculty meetings**.
- We participated in Research Support 'speed dates'.
- We hosted the NFU meeting of research policy advisors.
- We contributed to the farewell symposium of former vice-dean Research Mat Daemen.
- We created our first Annual Report (of 2023).

Research meetings

- We regularly organize **meetings for researchers to present their work to the board of directors**.
- Topics in 2024: AI in medical applications, the critical role of patient participation in research and care, Induced Pluripotent Stem Cell technology, and sustainability in healthcare research.

The RPO team

Tobias Bartman, Fenneke Blom, Elza van Deel, Raiza Hasrat and Sjoukje Lem. Team leader: Hannerieke van der Boom.

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