



Founded in 2016 by a team of directors, management and program leaders (with equal representation of clinicians and laboratory-based scientists), Amsterdam Neuroscience is an interdisciplinary collaboration of the Amsterdam UMC and the science faculties of the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and University of Amsterdam (UvA). As one of Amsterdam UMC's eight research institutes, Amsterdam Neuroscience has close to 800 participants and encompasses a diverse array of expertise, strengthens scientific excellence and clinical translation, and forms one of the largest neuroscience communities in Europe.

Connecting the people, the science and the brain.

Evaluation period
2016 - 2021

+ 800 researchers

523 PhD Candidates

Amsterdam Neuroscience's overall mission is to broaden the fundamental knowledge base around the brain and (central) nervous system, and to translate this into effective therapies and treatments for the individual patient. Our work is organized along nine translational research programs, each around a specific brain and nervous system disease, disease mechanism or technology innovation. With a focus on both fundamental and Translational Neuroscience, we work on aspects of understanding the primary function of the brain and its underlying cellular and molecular mechanisms. Furthermore, we also identify relevant biomarkers and drug targets, and explore avenues for targeted interventions for brain disorders. We do all this by employing a spectrum of technologies and disciplines and encompassing almost all research methods used nowadays in neuroscience.

Our clinical trials on patients focus on the prevention of brain and nerve disorders or the recovery thereof, and enable us to validate new diagnostic tests, therapies and interventions. Our research is carried out both by investigator-initiated studies and through collaborations with external parties such as biotech or pharma companies. Cooperation with industrial partners can, in turn, help accelerate clinical development and the validation of new methods and interventions. And all while putting the interests of the patient first.

As well as initiating new research strategies and proof-of-concept studies for new approaches in the understanding, diagnosis and treatment of brain diseases, Amsterdam Neuroscience also provides the optimal breeding ground for future neuroscientists, neurologists and psychiatrists. This is done by enabling interactions between all generations of investigators from (under-)graduate trainees up to full professors working in teams, and has resulted in an excellent graduate training environment. In the period 2016-2021, a total of 523 PhD candidates were embedded in Amsterdam Neuroscience and successfully graduated during that time.

> €346 million
research funding

7,995 peer-reviewed
papers

Empowering
Community
Communication

Mission:
entrepreneurial
'future-proof' institute

Team science and communication are important core values that make Amsterdam Neuroscience the connecting research institute, with an infrastructure that hosts Amsterdam Neuroscience-private partnerships, suitable financing and valorization opportunities. Providing common ground for clinicians and basic scientists in the neuroscience field in the Amsterdam area, Amsterdam Neuroscience helps to support excellent and outstanding neuroscience research and showcases the research outcome and societal impact.

In the six years under review in our 2016-2021 self-evaluation report, researchers of the Amsterdam Neuroscience community of investigators published approximately 7,995 peer-reviewed papers and acquired more than €346 million in research funding. This has led to groundbreaking translational research and clinical trials all within the field of neuroscience. Furthermore, we contributed to major, world-leading innovations within our nine research programs.

When it comes to communication, we also unite our community of neuroscientists via monthly webinars, the publication of news items, and through our annual magazines, reports and Annual Meetings.

With a successful six years behind us, we look forward to a future that is just as fruitful. But, far from resting on our laurels, we are determined to continue our efforts and become an entrepreneurial 'future-proof' institute, with the aim of providing a healthy and fertile academic world for the neuroscientists of today and tomorrow. Our path to this will see us performing precision medicine by incorporating multilevel data-driven research; bringing results of fundamental research to the clinic; leading in global research in the form of team science; and optimizing valorization through public-private partnerships.

There may be challenges ahead, but we are ready to take them on and create a network organization in Amsterdam where young talents can flourish, with sustainable research programs and projects, and where collaborations are formed to improve our understanding of the human brain and nervous system in health and disease.

