



Education Committee Research Masters Erasmus MC
Annual report 2021-2022



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Contents

Foreword.....	6
Membership and procedures.....	9
Duties of the committee	9
Selection of students.....	9
Organizational issues	10
Meetings of the ECRM	10
Advice and letters.....	11
Teaching and Examination Regulations 2022-2023	11
Draft report Molecular Medicine	11
Letter of recognition.....	11
Holiday period for ReMa students	11
WOKE culture.....	11
Mid-term self-evaluation ReMa Neuroscience	11
Quality Assurance Cycle of the new ReMa Genomics in Society.....	11
Cooperation and communication.....	12
Cooperation.....	12
Communication	12
Concrete objectives ECRM 2021-2022.....	13



Foreword

This is the annual report of the Education Committee Research Masters (ECRM) of the Erasmus University Medical Center Rotterdam (Erasmus MC) for the 2021-2022 academic year. The COVID-19 pandemic continued to have an immense impact on ReMa teaching at Erasmus MC in this academic year and the activities of the ECRM remained online. We still believe that the ECRM has continued to surmount these pandemic-related challenges.

This annual report describes, and provides details, of the membership, working methods and activities of the ECRM in the 2021-2022 academic year.

By publishing this annual report, the ECRM provides information to the reader about the ECRM's role and activities, while promoting accountability for its role as an advisory body to the five Erasmus MC Research Master courses.

October, 2022

Dr. J. (John) Hays, Chair

J. (John) Geson Samudio BSc, Student Chair

S.B. (Schandra) Lachman, Secretary



Membership and procedures

Student members

Infection and Immunity

I. (Ilona) Tosheva

Neuroscience

J. (John) Geson Samudio

Health Sciences

J. (Jasmin) de Groot

Clinical Research

A. (Anniek) Ziedses des Plantes

Molecular Medicine

S. (Søren) Olierook

Secretary

S. B. (Schandra) Lachman

Teacher members

J. (John) Hays (Chair)

P. (Patrick) Forbes

D. (Daniel) Bos

J. (Jeremy) Labreque

R. (Robbert) Rottier

Duties of the committee

The duties of the ECRM are registered in Dutch law under the Higher Education and Scientific Research Act (WHW). The most important task of the committee is to provide solicited and unsolicited advice to the Dean, the Director of Education and the Course Directors on matters concerning the quality of education of the Research Master courses (ReMa) taught at Erasmus MC.

As of 1 September 2017, the ECRM was given the right of approval for part of the Teaching and Examination Regulations (TER). In the academic year 2018-2019, the ECRM took on a new role in the assessment of projects financed by the Higher Education Quality Agreements (HoKa). In the academic year 2019-2020 a new call for HoKa projects was initiated and the ECRM assessed the pre-applications for submission of full applications.

Selection of students

All Erasmus MC ReMa recruit students from a mixture of backgrounds. Recruitment of students from the Erasmus MC ReMa is based on personal motivation and recommendations from current ECRM student members.

With respect to the composition of the ECRM in 2021-2022, student members were recruited from the 5 ReMa at the end of the 2020-2021 academic year, with each ReMa being represented by one second year student. These five student members then appointed John Geson Samudio as Student Chair.

Organizational issues

The professionalization of the ECRM continued during the 2021-2022 academic year. The 2021-2022 status is summarized below.

Secretary

Schandra Lachman continued as permanent Secretary ('ambtelijk secretaris') of the ECRM.

Emails

A dedicated email address (educationcommitteeRM@erasmusmc.nl) has been used for all correspondence of the ECRM. Emails are archived annually.

Financial compensation

Financial compensation for the ECRM activities of the Secretary 'ambtelijk secretaris', participating ECRM teachers (according to the business case 'opleidingscommissies voor de docentleden' developed by Dr. L. Blok) and student members (via the EUR 'profileringsfonds') has been successfully implemented.

Internal Rules and Regulations

The Internal Rules and Regulations (IRR, Huishoudelijk Reglement) were written by Bernice van Aken, the 2018-2019 Student Chair, and critically evaluated by the other ECRM members. The IRR will be repeatedly renewed in the coming academic years.

Meetings of the ECRM

During the academic year 2021-2022, the ECRM held nine online (Teams) meetings. This gradual and continuous process includes fundamental changes to the interactions between the ECRM and the ReMa. For 2021-2022, the ECRM again gave its attention to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the ReMa courses and students. The main activities of the ECRM are summarized below. Organizational changes are reported separately under the heading 'Organizational issues'.

Advice and letters

The main points relating to advice and letters given by the ECRM are shown below. A more extensive description of this advice is available on the ECRM website [here](#).

Teaching and Examination Regulations 2022-2023

The Teaching and Examination Regulations (TER) adopted for the 2022-2023 academic year were largely based on those already in place during the 2021-2022 academic year. In this respect, the ECRM advised positively on the revision of the TER for 2022-2023. Finally, we noted that a professional English translation of the TER is still lacking and we therefore advised to opt for a professional translator.

Draft report Molecular Medicine

The ECRM advised about some factual errors in the report.

Letter of recognition

At the beginning of the academic year the ECRM send a letter to all the program director to let them know that the ECRM would like to be more pro-active in obtaining requests and providing advice to Erasmus MC ReMa programmes.

Holiday period for ReMa students

The ECRM provided advice on the holiday period for ReMa students. the ECRM advises that a collective decision (GV, student council, graduate school, program directors) be quickly made regarding the amount of compulsory consecutive holiday weeks available to ReMa students.

WOKE culture

The ECRM asked the pro-dean and the program directors for information about the WOKE culture from teachers or students that have been affected by, or experienced, 'WOKE' or 'Cancel' culture during their ReMa education (i.e., related to their study environment and not their home environment). And the ECRM asked the pro-dean and program directors for their opinion on including some form of 'Diversity' education in the curriculum of Master students, as is currently offered by Erasmus MC to teachers.

Mid-term self-evaluation ReMa Neuroscience

The ECRM provided advice on the mid-term self-evaluation of the ReMa Neuroscience, including the alignment of student expectations and the use of student feedback.

Quality Assurance Cycle of the new ReMa Genomics in Society.

The ECRM provided advice on the quality assurance cycle of the new ReMa 'Genomics in Society'. Comments included monitoring staff composition and the provision of feedback moments for individual teachers.

Cooperation and communication

Cooperation

- The 'check' and 'act' part of ReMa PCDA cycles requires further communication between the ECRM and ReMa program directors. In 2021-2022, implementation of this request was largely put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic and will be a point for attention in future years.
- E-learning, electronic exams, student evaluations.
Attention was again paid to e-learning and electronic exams, including proctoring, due to the measures taken to ensure continuation of education during the COVID-19 pandemic, including a meeting with a representative of the Examination Committee.
- A presentation was given to the ECRM regarding the 'Accelerated Action Plan for Online Education and Assessment'.
- A joint workshop was organized for members of the Education Committees Medicine and ECRM. This workshop was given by Mrs. Titia Verdenius on 29 September 2021. The topics of this training event were proposed by the Chairs of the EC Medicine and ECRM, in consultation with Mrs. Verdenius. A broad range of topics was discussed, including annual planning, advisory versus participatory roles, how (EC) activities relate to those of the exam committee, should ECs advice at content or process level?
- Finally, the ECRM collaborated with the GV on the ReMa TER.

Communication

Efficient communication between the ECRM and its stakeholders is very important if the ECRM is to function effectively in its role as an advisory body. Therefore, information of the activities of the ECRM is provided via this annual report and via the ECRM website, including details of the composition of the ECRM, its activities, annual reports and contact details.

The new ECRM website is under development and is expected to be ready before the start of academic year 2022-2023. This ECRM website can be found [here](#).

The ECRM, in collaboration with OBA, developed and distributed dedicated questionnaires for ReMa students and teachers investigating the '*Effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on Research Master programs at the Erasmus University Medical Center*'. Results are expected to be available in 2022-2023.



Concrete objectives ECRM 2021-2022

Looking forward to the academic year 2022-2023, the ECRM will continue in its configuration of 5 teacher members and 5 second year student members. The ECRM will again further professionalize with regards to the topics and implementation of the ECRM annual agenda for the planning of its activities. The ECRM will continue with its proactive role in the evaluation of ongoing HoKa projects. The ECRM will continue to communicate the results of the COVID questionnaire *'Effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on Research Master programs at the Erasmus University Medical Center - a cross-sectional questionnaire study'*. Secretarial support for the ECRM was replaced by the regular contribution of an Education Quality Advisor and support of the secretariat of the Erasmus MC 'Teaching Policy and Advice' department. Finally, the ECRM looked forward to providing advice for the new ReMa 'Genomics in Society'.