

Erasmus MC

Universitair Medisch Centrum Rotterdam



Education Committee Research Masters Erasmus MC
Annual report 2017-2018







Education Committee Research Masters

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Foreword

This is the annual report of the Education Committee Research Masters for the 2017-2018 academic year.

The Education Committee (EC) has undergone major changes this academic year.

The first change is the new role that the EC has been given by law in the field of employee participation and secondly by introducing the new role of Secretary. Thirdly, due to the professionalization that the EC has made with regard to its method of advising and archiving. And in the fourth place due to more intensive cooperation at the level of chairman and secretary with the EC Medicine.

This annual report describes the membership, working methods and activities of the committee. In addition, the aforementioned four points are discussed in more detail.

With this Annual Report we are accountable for our work and we hope to arouse interest in the reader for our role and activities.

April, 2019

Prof. dr. J.N.J. Philipsen, chair

Mw. P.H. (Petra) Erkens-Pijper, Secretary

With this annual report, the Program Committee aims to formally account for its activities in this academic year and thus to comply with Article 9.18, paragraph 1 of the WHW.



Membership and procedures

Student members

Molecular Medicine

B. (Bas) Peeters
A. (Ana) Carreras Mascaro

Neuroscience

E. (Emma) Raat
M.M. (Martyna) Grochowska

Health Sciences

C. (Clare) Aitken
N. (Nina) Wagemaker

Clinical Research

B. (Buket) Tas
S. (Sjoerd) Hermans

Infection and Immunity

I. (Isaac) Gabel
S. (Shweta) Mahajan

Secretary

Mw. P.H. Erkens-Pijper

Teacher members

Prof. dr. J.N.J. Philipsen (Chair)

Dr. E.J. Mientjes

Prof. dr. D. Rizopoulos

Dr. ir. H. Boersma (until March 2018)

Dr. M.K. Ikram (from April 2018)

Dr. J.P. Hays

Duties of the committee

The duties of the EC are registered in in the Dutch law: Higher Education and Scientific Research Act (WHW). The most important task is to provide asked and unasked advice to the Dean and Director of Education Course Directors on matters concerning the quality of education at the EUR Faculty of Medicine. As of 1 September 2017, the EC has been given an important task and that is the right of consent for part of the teaching and examination regulations (TER).

Selection of students

All RMs recruit students from the Erasmus MC medical curriculum. Recruitment of these students is largely based on performance during the bachelor phase, and personal motivation. In addition, external non-medical students are recruited, including international students. These students have a wide variety of backgrounds providing challenges for the course directors to select the most suitable students. Neuroscience has created a crash course for students with a non-medical background. The ECRM is keen to receive the evaluation of this experiment as it might lead the way for the other RMs to improve their student selection procedure.

Organizational issues

The professionalization of the ECRM has made steady progress during the course year 2017-2018. The current status is summarized below.

Petra Erkens-Pijper has been appointed as Secretary ('ambtelijk secretaris') of the ECRM.

A dedicated email address (educationcommitteeRM@erasmusmc.nl) has been activated and is now used for all correspondence of the ECRM. Emails will be archived annually.

A SharePoint site has been set up to make all documents relevant to the ECRM available to all ECRM members. It also serves as the archive of the ECRM. The SharePoint site is still experimental at this stage; all ECRM members will have access at the start of course year 2018-2019.

The ECRM is virtually invisible on the Erasmus MC education web pages. For course year 2018-2019 the composition of the ECRM and contact information should be easily tractable on the web page of the Erasmus MC Graduate School, and the web pages of the RMs. We will provide an overview of the main tasks of the ECRM.

Financial compensation for the ECRM activities of the 'ambtelijk secretaris' and teacher members (according to the business case 'opleidingscommissies voor de docentleden' developed by Dr. L. Blok) and student members (EUR 'profleringsfonds') has been implemented.

Composition of the student fraction of the ECRM. The student fraction used to be composed of representatives of each year of each RM. To reduce the ECRM to a workable size, the student fraction will be composed of one year 2 student of each RM, starting from course year 2018-2019. Following the example of the EC Medicine, a student chairperson will be chosen by the student fraction.

Meetings of the ECRM

The ECRM had one e-meeting and three face-to-face meetings. See Appendix B for meeting agendas and minutes. We note that the ECRM is undergoing a transition to perform its tasks in line with current legislation. This transition includes further professionalization of the organization and operational procedures, including development of a systematic cross-year review of the RM programmes. Since this requires changes at the ECRM and at the RM courses, this will be a gradual and continuous process. The main activities of the ECRM are summarized below. Organizational changes are reported separately under the heading 'Organizational issues'.

Advices

Teaching and Examination Regulations 2018-2019

The Teaching and Examination Regulations 2018-2019 were largely based on those for course year 2017-2018. The ECRM would like to congratulate Dr. L. Blok for his very successful efforts to condense and streamline the 2018-2019 version.

On instigation of the Examination Committee, the ECRM advised on a maximum percentage of exemptions. After discussion with the course directors, the guideline for exemptions was set at a maximum of 20%.

Exceptions are possible at the discretion of the Examination Committee.

The ECRM advised positively on the revision of the Teaching and Examination Regulations for 2018-2019.

The Teaching and Examination Regulations were discussed by the 'Gezamenlijke Vergadering' (GV) on 19th of April and 2018, and approved on 7th of May 2018.

Plagiarism

The ECRM noted that plagiarism scans are used at various points in the Medical curriculum, and for PhD theses of the Erasmus MC Graduate School. There appears to be a hiatus for the RMSc theses. Three out of five RM (NS, HS and CR) are using the program Turn-it-in to scan MSc theses for plagiarism. Turn-it-in is available via the Medical Library. The ECRM strongly advocates the use of Turn-it-in by all five RMs, and will prepare and advise for Molecular Medicine and I & I to start using it. This would consistent with current practice of the Medicine curriculum and the PhD programme. The ECRM will investigate caveats of Turn-it-in as part of the advice.

In addition, the ECRM is developing a proposal for a joint lecture on scientific integrity, research ethics and fraud for all 1st year RM students.

The ECRM strongly advocates the use of a plagiarism checker for all five RMs, but explicitly not necessarily Turn-it-in as their terms and conditions have caused widespread controversy of claiming highly unrestricted intellectual property rights on all material that is uploaded to their system

Mid-term reviews of the RMs

The internal mid-term reviews of the RMs have started with the Neuroscience RM. The ECRM provided constructive comments on the critical self-reflection provided by the RM.

The visitation committee scored Standard 3 – assessment (toetsing) as insufficient. This is a concern for reaccreditation of the RM. The ECRM has received a concept action plan (Concept Plan van Aanpak 2017-2020 Research Master Neuroscience). The ECRM will use the final version to monitor progress.

All documents were written in Dutch. The ECRM has asked the RMs to provide versions in English from now on.

The critical self-reflection of the Molecular Medicine was received by the ECRM just on time to serve for preparation of the site visit by the visitation committee on the 4th of July 2018. The ECRM was reviewed by the visitation committee. The ECRM awaits the report of the visitation committee.

In course year 2018-2019, the remaining three RMs will undergo the internal mid-term review procedure. The schedule for the site visits by the visitation committees will be integrated in the yearly planning of ECRM activities.

Evaluation of RM modules

Student evaluations of RM modules and teachers are an essential tool for the ECRM to monitor points of improvement in the RM curricula. Based on the information provided, the ECRM asks the program directors to improve/update the content of courses and the level of the teachers. The ECRM has noted that the RMs use a variety of evaluation mechanisms. The current practice prevents the ECRM from performing its central task adequately. The ECRM started to develop and advice that all RMs use the implementation of the EvaSys system by Neuroscience. This is available via the Quality Assurance Programme of the Erasmus MC Graduate School (ms. Frouke de Vries).

Qualifications of teachers

A survey revealed that ~50% of RM teachers have obtained the basic teaching qualification (BKO). The ECRM will keep monitoring progress in this area; the aim is that nearly all RM teachers will have BKO (or higher qualification) at the start of course year 2020-2021. This is feasible since many teachers are currently in the process of acquiring BKO status. The ECRM recognizes that there will always be teachers without BKO status active in the RM courses, such as very young, very experienced or external teachers.



Cooperation and communication

Collaboration with the Medicine EC

On instigation of the Dean, the EC Medicine and ECRM have joined forces. A plan for collaboration was presented to the Dean on 29-03-2018

We expect that the ECs will benefit from collaboration, for instance:

- Development and implementation of regulations for ECs.
- Introduction/use of the PDCA (plan-do-check-act) cycle as part of quality assurance.
- E-learning, electronic exams, student evaluations.
- Bi-annual meetings with the Dean.
- Standard format for EC advices to course directors.
- Annual reports.

Communication

Communication with the supporters is important for the role as a participation body. Information is provided via this annual report and via the website. On the website you will find the current composition of the committee, the EC's annual program, the annual reports and the contact details.

Website: <https://www6.erasmusmc.nl/graduateschool/organization/committees/>

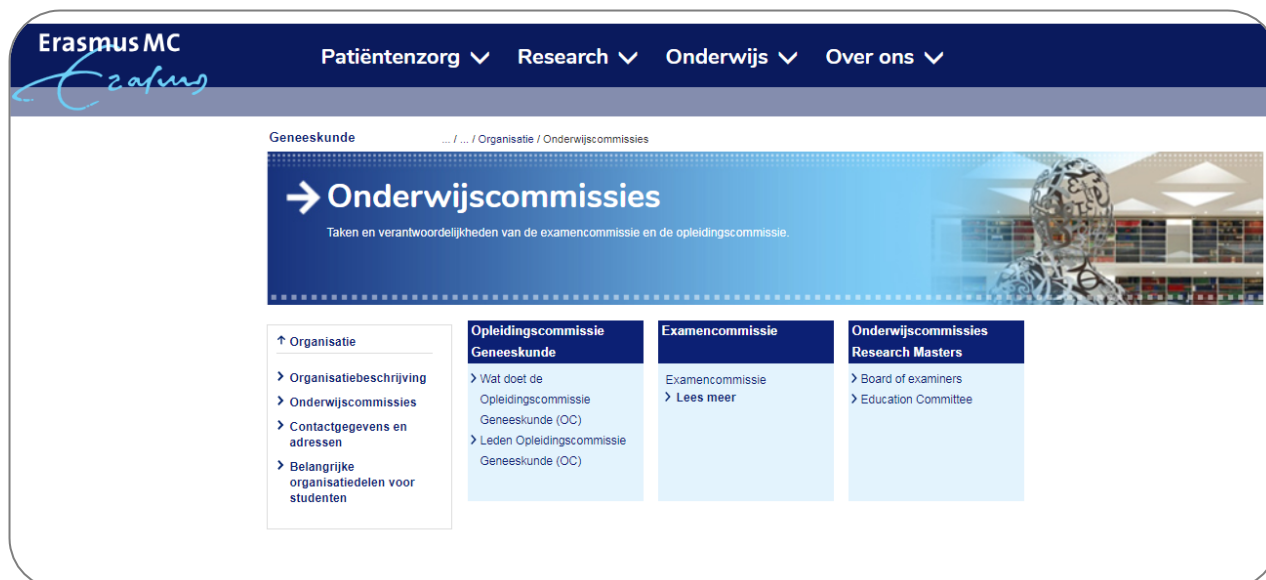


Figure 1 Webpage Education Committees Erasmus MC

Concrete objectives EC 2018-2019

For 2018-2019, the ECRM will start in its new configuration of 5 teacher members and 5 student members. A student chair will be selected. The ECRM will further professionalize with regards to implementation of an agenda for planning of annual activities, adoption of the PDCA cycle, and use of standard formats for the advices to the course directors. The ECRM will take a proactive role in the assessment of HOKa projects, and take part in the evaluation of the application procedure for HOKa projects. This will be done as part of the cooperative activities of the ECRM with the EC medicine. To improve the workflow and allow more in-depth discussion on specific topics, the frequency of ECRM meetings will be increased to 8.