



Erasmus MC

Universitair Medisch Centrum Rotterdam



Education Committee Research Masters Erasmus MC
Annual Report 2022-2023



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Erasmus MC, Erasmus University Rotterdam
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Foreword

This is the annual report of the Education Committee Research Masters (ECRM) of the Erasmus University Medical Center Rotterdam (Erasmus MC) for the 2022-2023 academic year. This annual report describes, and provides details, of the membership, working methods and activities of the ECRM in the 2022-2023 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.

September, 2023

Dr. J. (John) Hays, Chair

E. (Esmée) Dragt, BSc , Student Chair

A. (Alexandra) Joon, Secretary



Membership and Procedures

Student members

Infection and Immunity

S. (Sophie) Shyfrin

Neuroscience

E. (Esmée) Dragt (Student Chair)

Health Sciences

K. (Kirsty) Huininga

Clinical Research

H. (Helena) Volarevic

Molecular Medicine

C. (Caroline) Scherer

Genomics in Society

K. (Kamel) Mohamed Kamel

Secretary

A. (Alexandra) Joon

Teacher members

J. (John) Hays (Chair)

M. (Mario) Negrello

D. (Daniel) Bos

J. (Jeremy) Labreque

R. (Robbert) Rottier

E. (Elizabeth) Loehrer

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). The ECRM continued to assess ReMa-related HoKa projects during the academic year 2021-2022.

Selection of ECRM members

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 2022-2023, five 2nd year student members were recruited from the respective ReMa, except for the newly started Genomics in Society ReMa, where only 1st year students were available. These six student members (5 x 2nd year and 1 x 1st year) appointed Esmée Dragt (Neuroscience) as Student Chair.

In parallel to ECRM student members, one experienced teacher is chosen to represent each ReMa during the academic year, though the academic term of teacher members of the ECRM may be longer than that of the single academic term offered to ReMa student ECRM members. The maximum term of teacher members is

described in the ECRM Internal Rules and Regulations document. In this respect, new teacher members Mario Negrello (Neuroscience) and Elizabeth Loehrer (Genomics in Society) joined the ECRM. The academic year 2022-2023 was also the final year of service for ECRM teacher John Hays (Infection and immunity) who has been a member of the ECRM (as teacher and later chair) for more than 5 years. A replacement teacher for the ReMa Infection & Immunity has been nominated.

Organizational issues

The professionalization of the ECRM continued during the 2022-2023 academic year. The 2022-2023 status is summarized below.

Secretary

Alexandra Joon was appointed as the 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.

Microsoft Teams

Microsoft Teams was established as the official archive of ECRM documents and business, replacing Sharepoint.

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 'profleringsfonds') 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 was reviewed and updated in the academic year 2022-2023.

Meetings of the ECRM

During the academic year 2022-2023, the ECRM held ten physical (preferred) monthly meetings, although some members did occasionally join the meetings via Teams. 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 provided by the ECRM are shown below. A more extensive description of this advice is available on the [ECRM website](#).

Teaching and Examination Regulations 2023-2024

The Teaching and Examination Regulations (TER) adopted for the 2023-2024 academic year were largely based on those already in place during the 2022-2023 academic year. In this respect, the ECRM advised positively on the revision of the TER for 2023-2024. As well as suggesting several changes to the English language text, the ECRM provided advice on the dates for Christmas/Summer holidays, timelines, hardship clause.

Mid-term self-evaluation ReMa Neuroscience

In September 2022 the ECRM received a reply regarding the Midterm Review for the ReMA Neuroscience. Based on the advice of the ECRM several changes were made to the Self Evaluation Report, which was approved by the ECRM.

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. The ECRM approved the Quality Assurance Cycle in November 2022.

HoKa Planetary Health

The ECRM noted in November 2022 that the new HoKa project 'Planetary Health' was important in providing medical students with information about global sustainable health. The ECRM noted that there may be possibilities to involve ReMa students at a later time as the project matures.

New Program Director ReMa Infection & Immunity

The ECRM asked the Pro-Dean for information regarding the qualifications required for the appointment of a new program director. These qualifications were received, and a new Program Director was appointed for the academic year 2023-2024.

Cum Laude Grade

In January 2023, the ECRM provided advice to the ReMa Program directors regarding the awarding of *Cum Laude* degree to ReMa students. The advice indicated that each ReMA is different and may have its own perspective on this issue. Therefore, the ECRM advised that the balance between summative and formative assessment and awarding of the *Cum Laude* degree is a decision for the individual program directors themselves, remembering that formative assessments may provide feedback that helps students better understand and perform in summative learning assignments. Further, careful monitoring and recording of student feedback is required so that students are able to present detailed information regarding the ReMa learning progress and the types of skills acquired to future employers.

A Safe Learning Environment

In July 2023, the ECRM offered advice regarding the establishment and maintenance of a 'safe learning environment'. The ECRM reminded program directors to pay attention to the following topics: 1) Supposition and prejudice 2) Abuse of power: 3) Bullying/harassment: 4) The availability of transparent information (e.g., via FAQs) and 5) Accessible support services, including religious support.

Student applications

Student applications were the topic of a memo sent to Program Directors by the ECRM in January 2023. We advised that: 1) Information regarding student applications is kept up-to-date, with explicit instructions regarding the type/number of documents required by ReMa applicants; 2) Ideally, ReMa websites should provide information on whether students can obtain a cum laude grade in their ReMa program or not, 3) Minimum standards for English language proficiency be upheld for all ReMa programs and 4) It is important to keep a record of how many students drop out of ReMa programs and what reasons students give when dropping out of their ReMa program. This information may be useful when assessing the suitability and motivation of future student applicants for individual ReMa programs.

Document Revisions

Working procedure ECRM

A new 'ECRM Working procedure' document and instructions was adapted from that currently used by the Erasmus MC Gezamenlijke Vergadering (GV). The ECRM has been revising its Working Procedure and will look to implement this in the upcoming academic year 2023-2024.

Internal Rules and Regulations

The ECRM has been revising its Internal Rules and Regulations and will look to implement these in the upcoming academic year 2023-2024.

Annual Plan

The ECRM generated a 2022-2023 Annual Plan and discussed the following topics during ECRM meetings in the academic year 2022-2023. If considered necessary, the results of the discussions were formulated into unsolicited advice and distributed to ReMa Program Directors for information and/or comment.

- Entry Requirements ReMa
- Testing and Examination
- Internationalisation
- Safe Learning Environment
- HoKa Grants

Cooperation and Communication

Cooperation

The ECRM was pleased to start receiving the 6-weekly meeting notes of ReMa Program Directors, which provide up-to-date information relating to potential developments in ReMA courses. The notes also provide potential discussion points for the ECRM. The notes will continue to be received in 2023-2024.

The attendance of a representative of the Examination Committee allowed questions to be asked on the examination process (formative versus summative) and on the potential advantages and disadvantages of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to ReMA education.

A presentation was given to the ECRM regarding the 'Accelerated Action Plan for Online Education and Assessment'.

A representative of the Erasmus MC International office gave a presentation regarding the vision for internationalisation in the Erasmus MC, which was based on ECRM Annual Plan discussions.

An introductory workshop was organized for members of the ECRM in September 2022.

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.

Concrete Objectives ECRM 2023-2024

Looking forward to the academic year 2023-2024, the ECRM will continue in its configuration of 6 teacher members and 6 student members, including the successful integration of teacher and student members of the new ReMa 'Genomics in Society'.

The ECRM further professionalized with regards to revision and updates of its Working Procedure, as well as its Internal Rules and Regulations.

The ECRM will continue with its proactive role in the evaluation of ongoing ReMa-based education funding opportunities, including potential future HoKa projects.

The ReMA Clinical Research was merged into the ReMa Health Sciences. The ECRM expects no change in the quality of education provided by the ReMa Health Sciences, but will remain vigilant for any potential issues arising from the merger.

The ECRM will continue to monitor the effect of the termination of the *Cum Laude* grade on respective ReMa.

The ECRM will monitor the effect of Artificial Intelligence (e.g., ChatGPT) on ReMa education.