

Faculty of Health, Medicine and Life Sciences
Prof. dr. Annemie Schols
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Executive Board

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Maastricht
04-06-2024

Subject: Research assessment report CAPHRI 2017-2022 approval

Dear Prof. Schols, dear Annemie,

CAPHRI, as one of the largest institutes within FHML, conducts important and impactful research with substantial social importance and public interest. Given CAPHRI's research profile and its public focus, it is understandable that the external accountability towards society is greater than usual, making a thorough research assessment particularly crucial. The Executive Board is therefore pleased to note that the institute has once again been comprehensively assessed by an external review committee, chaired by prof. Nieboer. The Executive Board has reviewed the outcomes and recommendations provided in the research assessment report by the committee and found that it adheres to the guidelines that are outlined in the Strategy Evaluation Protocol (SEP) 2021-2027.

The external review committee's report generally provides a positive assessment of the research quality, relevance to society and viability of CAPHRI. The committee highlights CAPHRI's ability to tackle diverse care and public health challenges through multidisciplinary projects, employing a breadth of methodological and theoretical expertise. Additionally, the committee recognizes the improvement of CAPRHI's financial position and commends the institute for reducing their reliance on contract research by focusing efforts on increasing income from research funding. The committee is particularly impressed by the living labs, where CAPHRI collaborates with public health and healthcare institutes, citizen representatives and care organisations in research projects that focuses on health and wellbeing of citizens in the region. These living labs exemplify excellent translational research and public engagement, furthering UM's strategic ambition to create public value and improve the wellbeing of citizens within our region as a socially responsible university.

The committee has also provided a comprehensive array of actionable recommendations, aimed at enhancing the quality and focus of the research conducted at CAPHRI. The recommendations relate primarily to strategy and governance, and the need for clearer communication on the mission and strengths, improvements in governance structure and a better integration between academic departments and research lines. The committee shows a good understanding of the structure of the institute and the disciplinary domains in which it operates. It is noteworthy that the assessment committee has also provided an example model for one of their recommendations, namely to

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illustrate CAPHRI's activities and to help people better understand the institute and improve interdisciplinary coherence. The other recommendations are all well-formulated and provide plenty of material for CAPHRI to reflect on and follow up in the future. Some of the recommendations also pertain to central and faculty policies, such as those on Open Science and Research Data Management. We hope CAPHRI will properly align their efforts and future actions with these policies in terms of their own strategy.

The Executive Board acknowledges the outcomes of the assessment and formally approves the assessment report. As a follow up, we kindly request you to start formulating a strategic action plan based on the recommendations provided by the committee and submit it to us before the end of December 2024.

We want to thank you and CAPHRI for your dedication to continuously improve the high quality of research at the institute and look forward to the submission of your action plan. Additionally, we want to thank the committee for their comprehensive assessment and hereby formally discharge them from their assignment.

Yours sincerely,
on behalf of the Executive Board
of Maastricht University,



Prof.dr. P. Habibovic
Rector Magnificus