



Welcome to the newest edition of the CAPHRI newsletter. This month, we're delighted to showcase a diverse array of accomplishments, innovations, and opportunities from our dynamic research community. Here's what you can look forward to in this issue:

- Celebrating Postdoc Appreciation Week
- New Living Lab Dedicated to Future-Proof General Practice in Southeast Netherlands
- Science Story Video on Early and reliable asthma diagnosis in young children
- Access to sexual health care among young ethnic minorities in the Netherlands
- PrEP Enhancement Training: A Global Partnership for Health
- Enhancing Research Infrastructure: A Liaison for Animal Policy and CPV Renovation
- Make your Literature Review Easier with Covidence
- GDPR and AVG FHML Team
- Run or Walk for the Ronald McDonald House Maastricht
- ZorgSamen Call: Funding Opportunity for Regional Collaboration
- Changes to Eligibility Criteria to the 2027 ERC Work Programmes
- Upcoming courses, events, inaugural lectures, and PhD defences

Join us as we celebrate these accomplishments and explore the cutting-edge research shaping the future of care and public health. Happy reading!



Celebrating Postdoc Appreciation Week

[CAPHRI news](#)

From 15 to 19 September, Postdoc Appreciation Week (PAW-NL) was celebrated. This international initiative highlights the essential role postdoctoral researchers play in academia and society. At CAPHRI, we took this opportunity to extend our gratitude and bring colleagues together at a

dedicated event.

On Monday 15 September, postdocs gathered at Bar Bistro SAAM for the CAPHRI PAW Get-Together: an informal moment to connect, exchange experiences, and celebrate their vital role in advancing public health and primary care research.

This week also gave us the chance to spotlight some of the impressive work being done by postdocs. One example is Robin Peeters, who chose an unconventional path after her medical studies. As a postdoctoral researcher at CAPHRI, she is exploring a critical question: '[Is collaboration truly the holy grail of healthcare?](#)'. Her work challenges the assumption that teamwork automatically leads to better care. Instead of treating individual patients, she seeks to strengthen the healthcare system as a whole.

We are proud of Robin's journey, and of all our postdocs, whose dedication and creativity make a meaningful impact on society.



New Living Lab Dedicated to Future-Proof General Practice in Southeast Netherlands

[CAPHRI news](#)

A pivotal step towards strengthening primary care was taken today with the official kick-off of the Living Lab for General Practice in Southeast Netherlands, 'Horizon'. This initiative, a collaboration with nine regional care groups, aims to integrate practice, education, training, and research to enhance general practice services. Horizon is one of seven regional Living Labs supported by ZonMw, reflecting a national commitment to address increasing healthcare demands and pressure on general practice.

Operational since January 2025 from Maastricht and Eindhoven, Horizon held its official launch with partners. The lab acts as a vital link between general practice and academia, focusing on two key objectives: improving regional population health and resolving staffing challenges within

general practice. Two general practitioners serve as "linking pins," gathering practice-oriented knowledge questions which then inform Horizon's core themes: 'Practice-Oriented Research, Education and Training', 'Stronger Together in the Region', and 'Smarter Care with Data'. The needs of both patients and healthcare professionals are central to all activities.

The nine collaborating care groups represent approximately 950 affiliated general practitioners and 243 active GP trainers overseeing 205 training places. Additionally, Horizon has access to medical data from 150,000 patients, facilitating population-wide analyses and targeted improvement projects.

"Everything we do starts with what the general practitioner or patient needs," says Prof. Dr. Loes van Bokhoven, chair of the Department of General Practice. "We translate knowledge questions from practice into education, training, and research, and bring new insights back to the consultation room, working collaboratively with all stakeholders. Our 'linking pins' ensure a direct connection between practice and academia, providing valuable insights for patient care, education, and GP training."

[More about Living Lab Horizon](#)

Science stories

Edward Dompeling

Early and reliable asthma diagnosis
in young children



Early and reliable asthma diagnosis in young children

[CAPHRI news](#)

In young children, asthma is sometimes not recognised in time and therefore not treated properly. The problem is that there is no reliable test to determine whether a child has asthma or not.

That is why Edward Dompeling (OPC) and his team developed a breath test. They collect children's breath in a balloon and examine the chemical substances which are present in the exhaled air. This way, they can reliably determine whether a child has asthma or not. In this video, Edward explains how this works.

Watch the video to learn more
about the great test developed by
Edward Dompeling and team

PrEP Enhancement Training: A Global Partnership for Health

CAPHRI news



Last month, Dr Rik Crutzen (PHPC) was in Cape Town to visit the South African Medical Research Council. The purpose of the trip was to facilitate an intensive training programme aimed at improving PrEP and related HIV prevention services. Dr Crutzen's visit marked the kick-off of a major new project. This initiative is being led by former CAPHRI PhD candidate Kim Jonas, who has returned to her native South Africa, and is supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).



Make your Literature Review Easier with Covidence

UM news

Will you be working on a literature review this year? If so, it is good to know that Covidence is now available to the entire UM community.

What is Covidence?

Covidence is a web-based software platform that streamlines the process of systematic and scoping literature reviews. It supports:

- Title and abstract screening
- Full-text screening
- Risk of bias or quality assessment
- Data extraction

[Read more about Covidence and how to access the tool on the UM license](#)

Unsure if Covidence is right for you?

If you are not certain whether Covidence is the right tool for your needs, or if you would like to discuss other steps in the review process, our [Systematic Literature Review Support Team](#) is happy to help you! You can choose from:

- Self-study resources: online training material (e.g. on [screening](#))
- Workshops
- Personal support: walk-in support hours (students and staff) or 1-to-1 support meetings (staff only)



GDPR and AVG FHML Team

UM news

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) – better known as “AVG” in Dutch- is the European privacy law that determines how organizations must handle the processing of personal data responsibly. Within UM, it is crucial that medical-scientific research complies with these regulations. Researchers often work with sensitive medical data, which is subject to strict requirements concerning consent, security, and the purpose of processing. The AVG Team FHML provides advice on drafting contracts, implementing technical and organizational measures, and supports researchers in applying the correct GDPR guidelines and protecting participants’ personal data used in research. This ensures that medical-scientific research can be conducted responsibly.

Privacy

Researchers can turn to the AVG FHML Team for advice and support on the legal aspects of privacy in their research. This includes assistance with drafting or reviewing data processing agreements, conducting a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) and checking informed consent forms (IC) or participant information forms (PIF). The team also provides legal advice on questions regarding the appropriate legal basis for data processing, data sharing with external parties, or whether research data is sufficiently anonymized.

Researchers are encouraged to contact the team early in their project or drop by—this way we can ensure together that your research complies with GDPR and the corresponding ethical and legal frameworks.

Security

Medical-scientific research often involves the use of sensitive personal data. Good information security is therefore essential to safeguard the integrity, confidentiality, and availability of research data. This is not only a technical issue but also a requirement under the GDPR. The university sets high standards for the secure processing, storage, and sharing of data to protect both participants and researchers.

For questions about security measures in collaboration with external parties, you can also contact the AVG FHML team. Since information security often goes hand in hand with privacy legislation, the GDPR Team provides integrated advice. Involving information security early in the research process ensures that your study complies with all requirements set by both UM and the GDPR.

[Contact the AVG FHML team](#)



CAPHRI Funding

Streamlined access to research funding opportunities

Researchers can access an extensive overview of national and European fellowships, health funds, and mobility grants on UMPLOYEE. For tailored searches, Research Connect is available through individual UM/MUMC+ accounts. To stay up to date with calls, deadlines, and training opportunities, join the [FHML/MUMC+ Research Funding Support group](#) on UMPLOYEE. This group provides weekly updates, ensuring you never miss relevant funding news.

[Visit the Umployee Funding Page](#)



ZorgSamen Call: Funding Opportunity for Regional Collaboration

Funding

The newly launched ZorgSamen subsidy call aims to foster scientific collaboration between researchers at Maastricht UMC+ (MUMC+) and Zuyderland. This strategic funding initiative supports projects that build on existing collaborations or ignite new partnerships to strengthen the shared regional research network.

The call targets projects in strategic topic areas: medical spearheads (cardiovascular diseases, mobility and movement, systemic diseases, oncology), the integration of artificial intelligence and digital health within these fields, and nursing science. Research teams must include at least one applicant from MUMC+ (FHML and/or azM) and one from Zuyderland (CARE, CURE, or GGZ). Individual applications are not eligible.

A total of €750,000 is available, with funding of up to €125,000 per project. Projects require a minimum 50% co-funding and may last from one to four years. Funding can be used for staff and direct research costs.

Intent letters are required by Thursday, 30 October 2025 (12:00). Complete proposals are due by Monday, 15 December 2025 (12:00).

[View full details and application documents](#)



Changes to Eligibility Criteria to the 2027 ERC Work Programmes

Funding

In 2027, the European Research Council (ERC) will extend eligibility for Starting and Consolidator Grants, allowing applicants to apply immediately

after defending their PhD and within ten years thereafter.

Key Changes to Eligibility Criteria for 2027

Starting Grants

Researchers will be eligible to apply for a Starting Grant immediately after defending their PhD. They can apply at any time within the subsequent ten years. This is a change from the current requirement, which mandates that applicants have between 2 to 7 years of experience post-PhD.

Consolidator Grants

For Consolidator Grants, the eligibility window will be expanded to allow applications between 5 to 15 years after the PhD defense, replacing the previous requirement of 7 to 12 years.

Special Circumstances

The ERC will also consider extensions to the eligibility period for applicants who have experienced gender-based violence or other significant life events, including parental leave.

For more news and funding opportunities please [follow the FHML/MUMC+ Research Funding Support Group](#) on Umployee



Enhancing Research Infrastructure: A Liaison for Animal Policy and CPV Renovation

UM news

Associate Professor Ludwig Dubois has been formally appointed as the linking pin for all questions related to MUMC+'s animal testing policy and the upcoming renovation of the Central Animal Facility (CPV).

As an internal member and Vice-Chair of the Animal Experiments Committee (DEC-UM), and Chair of the Laboratory Animal Policy Committee (CPB), Dr. Dubois's role is crucial for improving communication among animal users, the board, and research institutes. This new formal position aims to provide a clear point of contact for all stakeholders. The ongoing CPV renovation, which recently received a green light from MUMC+, will

significantly upgrade facilities, including new equipment for non-invasive imaging (PET, SPECT, CT, MRI) and top-notch operating rooms.

Read the full interview with Dr. Dubois to learn more about his role and the CPV renovation.



Run or Walk for the Ronald McDonald House Maastricht

[UM news](#)

Want to improve your health and support a good cause? Join us on October 9, 2025, for the third edition of the Campusrun Maastricht! This fun run takes place on the Brightlands Maastricht Health Campus, with a scenic route through and around the buildings of Maastricht University, MECC Maastricht, Medtronic, Maastricht UMC+, Ronald McDonald House, Brightlands Maastricht Health Campus, and more.

New this year is a 10-kilometer route for avid runners looking for an extra challenge. The popular 5-kilometer fun run features three waves, with the third wave being a light wave: participants are encouraged to decorate themselves with lights and reflective accessories for a festive and atmospheric run.

Will you join us?

[Save the Date and Register](#)

Events and Courses

Spine Research in Motion - Heerlen

October 3, 2025

- [Click to explore the details](#)

CPE Scientific Webinar - Online

October 7, 2025

- [Click to explore the details](#)

Pélerin symposium - Maastricht

October 22, 2025

- [Click to explore the details](#)



Public Health Strategy I Seminar - Salzburg

October 26 - November 1, 2025

- [Click to explore the details](#)

CPE Pre-Conference Workshop | EPH Conference 2025 - Helsinki

November 11, 2025

- [Click to explore the details](#)

Economic Evaluation in Healthcare Seminar April 2026 - Salzburg

April 26 - May 2, 2026

Application Deadline: October 31, 2025

- [Click to explore the details](#)

Public Health Strategy Seminar October June 2026 - Salzburg

June 28 - July 4, 2026

Application Deadline: January 31, 2026

- [Click to explore the details](#)

CAPHRI Research Day 2026 - Maastricht

June 10, 2026

[Save the Date and Register](#)

Inaugural Lectures and Farewells

Farewell symposium Prof. dr. Guido de Wert - Maastricht

3 oktober 2025

Inaugural Lecture Prof. dr. Jeroen Hendriks - Maastricht

4 december 2025

Farewell symposium Prof. dr. Klasien Horstman - Maastricht

27 februari 2026

Farewell symposium Prof. dr. Stefan Wilm - Düsseldorf

6 maart 2026

Inaugural Lecture Prof. dr. Mickael Hiligsmann - Maastricht

2 October 2026

PhD Ceremonies

September and October 2025

Sarah Anne Cassidy-Seyoum | HISP

04-09-2025 | 09:45 (CET)

"Implementing Safe and Effective Treatment for Plasmodium vivax Malaria in Pre-Elimination Endemic Settings: A Case Study of Cambodia"

Yamuna Ana | OPC

04-09-2025 | 13:00 (CET)

"The association between sedentary behavior and obesity, during pregnancy and early childhood: Physical activity and Health"

Joris Hermus | FPR

05-09-2025 | 10:00 (CET)

"The pathway to optimal ankle replacement surgery: The pursuit of solutions"

Joseph Piscopo | VHC

15-09-2025 | 16:00 (CET)

"Health expenditures, outcomes, and efficiency in the EU"

Christian Preissner | PHPC

16-09-2025 | 10:00 (CET)

"Rethinking mindfulness in health promotion: from trait to targeting eating"

Olabayo A.R. Ojeleke | VHC

30-09-2025 | 13:00 (CET)

"Health outcomes and health service use during armed conflicts A comparison of conflict and non-conflict areas in Northern Nigeria"

Dennis Cornelissen | VHC/FPR

08-10-2025 | 13:00 (CET)

"Improving osteoporosis care and fracture prevention with emphasis on adherence. One size does not fit all"

Lianne Zondag | PHPC

09-10-2025

"The midwife as influencing factor in clinical decision-making: Exploration of the relationship between personal and professional factors and midwives' clinical decisions about childbirth interventions"

Jeffrey Chan | HISP

16-10-2025 | 13:00 (CET)

"The Impact of Neighborhood Environments on Lifestyle, Socioeconomic Health Disparities, and Cardiovascular Disease"

Laura Damen | VHC



*Good luck and congratulations
to the CAPHRI PhD's*

27-10-2025 | 13:00 (CET)

"Organising the right care in the right place: Exploring healthcare relocation in the Netherlands from multiple perspectives"

Communication

Your project, publication or event in this newsletter?

Have you recently contributed to a podcast, given an interview, or presented at a conference? Reached a significant milestone in your research? Perhaps you're organizing an event or have an exciting project in the pipeline?

Contact us to explore opportunities for featuring your work on our social media channels and in our newsletter. Let's collaborate to amplify your voice and celebrate your successes within our international academic community

Please note: you cannot reply to this email. For questions, newsletter topics, ideas, announcements, feedback and more please email info-caphri@maastrichtuniversity.nl.



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