

Faculty of Health, Medicine and Life Sciences
Prof. dr. Annemie Schols
P.O. Box 616
6200 MD Maastricht

Executive Board

your reference

our reference
C26.00037-NKh

direct line
+31 634451524

Maastricht
26-02-2026

Subject: Approval research assessment report CARIM 2019-2024

Dear Prof. Schols, dear Annemie,

The Executive Board (EB) has taken note of the SEP research assessment report of CARIM drafted by the external evaluation committee and commends the quality of the report. The committee provides a critical and in depth review of the research that is conducted within CARIM and its three research divisions.

The committee findings are generally positive. They highlight the comprehensive research portfolio of CARIM, its strong research output and how it is an institute of high international standing. According to the committee, CARIM houses world leading experts that conduct visible and impactful collaborative cardiovascular research. The institute's relevance to society is also evaluated positively by the committee. They highlight in particular the synergy between CARIM and HVC and see it as a positive evolution towards the future. Other particular noteworthy examples mentioned were the Maastricht study, where CARIM engages closely with patients and the broader public.

While the research within CARIM and its impact is generally praised, there were concerns by the committee with regards to viability, specifically related to strategy and its organization. The committee mentioned that securing structural funding by increasing the number of PhD positions could lead to unwanted incentives or be detrimental to the quality of PhD supervision. For external funding, the committee believed that the support structure for personal ERC grants could be improved. Furthermore, the committee was critical of CARIM's long term succession planning for positions that are vacated by retirement, noting that CARIM could be at a disadvantage by focusing on recruitment from an internal pool of researchers. During the discussions the committee also questioned CARIM's focus in terms of achievement on quantity and metrics, and would have liked more emphasis be given to the core research achievements by CARIM. These and other concerns lead to the formulation of several recommendations by the committee.

The EB appreciates the committee's thorough assessment and therefore formally approves the report and requests that, as a follow up, the institute starts formulating a strategic action plan based the provided recommendations. This plan should be submitted to the EB before the end of September 2026.

Visiting address
Minderbroedersberg 4-6
6211 LK Maastricht

Postal address
P.O. Box 616
6200 MD Maastricht
The Netherlands

T +31 43 388 2222

Bank account: 065.76.18.705
IBAN: NL05 INGB 0657 6187 05
BIC: INGBNL2A
VAT identifier EU
NL0034.75.268.B01

www.maastrichtuniversity.nl

KvK nr.: 50169181

In addition to formulating the action plan, the EB also recommends that CARIM critically evaluates its own self-evaluation and how it would like to present itself to the review committee for the next research assessment (2031). The self-evaluation should take the form of a concise and coherent narrative adhering to SEP guidelines that accurately conveys CARIM's research vision and strategy. It should focus primarily on qualitative achievements and clearly highlight the research accomplishments of which CARIM is most proud of. The EB is of course willing to provide the necessary support in reshaping the future self-evaluation report according to the (new) SEP 2027-2033.

We want to thank you and CARIM 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 and in depth assessment.

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



Prof.dr. P. Habibovic
President