

Summary Self-evaluation CARIM (2019-2024)

This self-evaluation report presents the progress, achievements, and future strategy of CARIM - Cardiovascular Research Institute Maastricht, over 2019-2024. CARIM, part of Maastricht University's Faculty of Health, Medicine and Life Sciences (FHML), is a leading European institute in cardiovascular research, structured into three divisions: Blood, Vessels, and Heart.

Over the past six years, CARIM has strengthened its translational research model by integrating with the Heart+Vascular Center (HVC), enhancing its alignment with clinical care and patient-centred research. Strategic investments in infrastructure such as the stem cell unit SCRUM and The Maastricht Study have bolstered its capacity for personalised medicine and data-driven research. High-quality scientific output was achieved, with CARIM consistently exceeding global citation benchmarks and publishing widely in top-tier journals. CARIM also made significant advances in Open Science, diversity, and PhD training through the implementation of new coaching systems, inclusive recruitment practices, and the HS-BAFTA talent programme.

CARIM addressed recommendations from the previous review by increasing gender balance initiatives, improving grant acquisition strategies (notably ERC-focussed efforts), and expanding career development paths. Societal impact was evident in policy influence, citations in medical guidelines, and strong altmetric attention, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

For 2025-2030, CARIM's strategy includes advancing data sciences, reducing and specialising animal experiments, and launching a flagship initiative with HVC to repair hereditary cardiac arrhythmias. The institute is committed to fostering scientific excellence, societal relevance, and long-term viability by promoting inclusivity, collaboration, and innovation.