

Report of the developmental part of the visitation of the RM Genes in Behaviour and Health

February 7 2023, Location: VU Amsterdam, 14.15 – 16.15 hours.

Attendants from visitation panel: Prof. dr. Harold Snieder, Prof. dr. Karin Verweij, Prof. dr. Cathy Fernandes, Jeanne Arnold, Bsc., Dr. Linda te Marvelde (secretary)

Attendants from programme: Prof. dr. Meike Bartels (all topics), Dr. Dennis van 't Ent (topic1), Dr. Wonu Akingbuwa (topic 1), Dr. Bruno Sauce (topic 1), Floris Huider, MSc. (topic 1), Dr. Jenny van Dongen (topic 2), Dr. Lianne de Vries (topic 2), Susanne Bruins, MSc. (topic 2), Prof. dr. Dorret Boomsma (topic 3), Dr. Dirk Pelt (topic 3), Dr. Kirsten Bijker (minutes)

Discussion topic 1: Student numbers and recruitment

The program would like to grow to an influx of 25 students and strives for a diverse background. The programme is advised to create strong and formal relationships with bachelor programmes in the Netherlands and abroad, possibly via an advisory board. In doing so, it is important to get in contact with undergraduate or bachelors coordinators, because they are in close contact to Bachelor's students who might be interested in the RM GBH. This not only helps to increase student numbers but can also lead to internship possibilities. What also might work is to let GBH students, who do an internship elsewhere, present their results to the local students. Organizing special things, like a scholarship, might also be a good idea.

Discussion topic 2: Alumni tracking

The programme would like to keep the alumni close to their heart. The panel advises the programme director to organize alumni/social events that alumni value. It might be a good idea to let RM students be in charge. Another idea is to ask the current students via a survey what they wish on this point: what would you expect, how many times do you want to be contacted etc. It is also important to keep the LinkedIn page alive, maybe also by posts of RM students.

Discussion topic 3: How to handle less successful internships?

Fortunately, so far it has only happened once that a student has encountered problems within an internship, but the programme expects it to become more common in the coming years. If students lose their speed during first internship, they get in trouble finishing the programme in time. The programme does want to keep the quality at the right level. The panel agrees with the programme that being strict at the beginning of the internships is the best thing to do. The programme already has a go-no go moment and there should always be a plan B within the internship. The programme discusses this with the whole staff. It is also important that the system is fair: each student should get the same amount of supervision.